

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 16 March 2021

Dear Member

COUNCIL

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough.

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 24th March, 2021

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. Minutes- Council - 13 January 2021 and 24 February 2021

5 – 16

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).

6. Change to the Executive Scheme of Delegation

The Mayor has made the following change to his Executive Scheme of Delegation:

Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy has been moved from the portfolio of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance to the portfolio of the Executive Member for Communities and Education.

In accordance with the Constitution, the change is required to be reported to Council.

7.	Mayor's Statement and Report	
8.	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member reports	17 – 60
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10.	Urgent Items	
	To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any).	
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14.	Notice of Motions	
15.	Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)	
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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 TS1 9FX

Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 13 January 2021.

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

OFFICERS: B Carr, C Benjamin, Farrow, R Horniman, A Humble, T Parkinson, A Perriman, T Whitehead, K Whitmore, A Wilson and I Wright

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors B Hubbard and R Sands

20/57 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hubbard and Sands

20/58 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

20/59 **MINUTES- COUNCIL - 16 DECEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 December 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/60 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no formal announcements for this meeting.

20/61 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

The Chair advised that a question from a member of the public had been received, details of which were included at Agenda Item 5.

The Chair invited the member of the public who had submitted Question 3/2020 to put his question to the Executive Member for Communities and Education.

The Executive Member advised that the issues raised fell within two Executive Member portfolios and departments and she advised that the work to promote Black literature and media would be ongoing.

The Executive Member advised that with reference to Point 1 of the Notice of Motion, the Council had been involved in a number of initiatives to ensure that Black literature and media were represented in Middlesbrough Libraries and cultural spaces and to deliver promotion of these materials within Council settings. These included the following:

- The Council was actively purchasing books by black authors and books about black history for its libraries
- The Council promoted black literature during Black History Month in 2020 via its social media platforms, as acknowledged on the Council's weekly bulletin and it purchased new books especially for the promotion, both for children and adults.
- The Council aimed to introduce regular reader recommended titles via its social media platforms, and it would ensure that black literature was represented.
- The Council planned to produce themed children's book lists in 2021, and these lists would be diverse and include black literature.
- The Council would be promoting Black Literature during Black History month 2021

and regular reader recommended titles would be introduced which would include black literature.

In terms of cultural venues, the Council was working with a group called Culture CIC. The Council worked with them to produce an annual event called "Taste of Africa". The Council was working with Culture CIC to submit a bid for funding to the Arts Council to expand the Taste of Africa event to include African influence music and dance. They also hoped to develop a schools programme.

In terms of the part of the motion in relation to training, Democratic Services were working on developing a training programme for all members.

With reference to Point 2 of the Notice of Motion - A request for a commitment from the Council to support Black-led businesses and organisations in Middlesbrough, the Executive Member advised that this part of the Motion fell within the remit of the Executive Member for Regeneration, and he would respond to this part of the Motion in due course. .

The Executive Member urged the member of the public to get in touch if he wished to discuss the issue further.

20/62

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

The Mayor provided an update in respect of the following:-

The Mayor acknowledged that the previous year had presented many challenges but he paid tribute to the resilience of the members of the public, council staff and community groups for the way in which they had worked together to address the many challenges that the town had faced.

Covid-19

In relation to Covid-19. Infection rates had continued to fall but the number of people requiring hospitalisation had increased. Infection rates had peaked at 600 per 100,000 but this had fallen to 400.

The Mayor advised that the figures were encouraging but he emphasised the requirement to protect the NHS and to protect life. He stated that the vast number of people were following the rules.

Holocaust Memorial Day Event

The Mayor reminded members with regard to an on-line Holocaust Memorial Day event hosted by the Council which was due to be held on 27 January 2021. He urged members to join in with the event.

Group Meetings

The Mayor suggested that Group Leaders or those members who were not in a group should get together with him to share ideas and provide feedback on issues relating to the Council and the community. He stated that he wanted to be questioned, challenged or just to listen to any ideas that members wished to put forward. He urged members to get in touch.

Vaccinations

Members were advised that over 8000 residents had received the Covid-19 vaccination so far which was above the national average. Residents would be contacted by their GP practice to advise when their vaccination would be available.

The Mayor stated that he hoped things would get back to some sense of normality after February in order to protect jobs and mental health and create the futures that young people needed.

Councillors

The Mayor commented on the work and conduct of a councillor.

Homelessness

The Mayor stated that the Council had received funding which enabled them to provide accommodation for homeless people to prevent them sleeping on the streets. He congratulated council staff for their work with the homeless, which was ongoing.

Government Jobs – Levelling up Agenda

The Mayor advised that his fear was that Government jobs would not come to Teesside. He urged people to write to their MP, the TVCA and the Prime Minister, urging them to relocate Government offices to the Tees Valley area. The Mayor was also concerned that the offices would be located at Teesside Airport. He emphasised that the jobs needed to be located in the centre of town in order to boost the economy.

Gap between the affluent and the deprived

The Mayor stated that he was concerned about the gap between the affluent children and the deprived, particularly in relation to education. Schools could help rebalance this and it was important that children could get back to school and to ensure that children had the appropriate hardware and connectivity to enable them to catch up on lost schooling.

The Mayor advised that the future did look promising. The spring and summer of 2021 would be better and there would be many announcements.

Councillor McTigue acknowledged the comments by the Mayor about her work as a councillor, but challenged the Mayor on comments regarding the use of the Council's one-stop system and issues that she had raised with him previously. The Mayor advised that he was willing to meet with and work with Councillor McTigue.

Councillor Cooke also commented on the use of the Council's one-stop system. With regard to homelessness, Councillor Cooke advised that he attended the official count. He had attended at 4am in the morning and found many homeless people sleeping in the rain. He stated that he was disappointed that Councillor Storey's Notice of Motion on the subject of homelessness had been rejected. He advised that he was concerned about the fact that as the homeless were not registered with a GP they could be prevented from receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

Councillor Cooke stated that he would be willing to help tackle poverty. He stated that he had experienced this situation as a child and he emphasised that it was important to challenge the issues of poverty and education.

The Mayor acknowledged the work that Councillor Cooke had been carrying out as a Councillor, particularly in relation to homelessness

Councillor Uddin queried whether the Mayor was liaising with the Combined Authority and other local authorities.

The Mayor advised that he attended regular scheduled meetings between the leaders and Chief Executives together with having regular telephone conversations between other leaders and there was a Whats App Group. It was important to balance between working as a group and working for your own authority.

Councillor Cooper highlighted the fact that the Council offered assistance and specialised services to staff and members who were struggling with issues.

The Mayor advised that people should try and recognise signs and talk to them

Councillor Furness commented with regard to child poverty and the provision of free school meals and he queried whether the Council was going to assist?

The Mayor advised that he had been involved in a number of phone calls to schools about the provision of free school meals. The Council was providing hampers and although the schools were receiving the money, the Council was involved in the provision of the hampers.

The Executive Member for Communities and Education advised that it was a decision between the Government and each individual school whether they issued vouchers or distributed hampers however the hampers produced by Middlesbrough Council were of a decent standard.

Councillor M Storey stated that it was right to say that the Council could be relatively confident with regard to the vaccination programme. He advised that he had met with some NHS representatives and they had advised that GPs were already visiting care homes to give the vaccination to residents and care staff. Over two thirds of the staff at JCUH and over 2000 care home staff had been vaccinated. TUVE the Mental Health Trust and NEAS, the Ambulance and paramedic service staff were also due to receive the vaccination. He stated that the government needed to be careful about relaxing the rules too quickly as those who had been vaccinated could still transmit the disease.

He stated that he and the MP for Middlesbrough had written to the Chancellor with regard to bringing jobs to Middlesbrough. There were new offices available in Middlesbrough to accommodate the government service.

Councillor M Storey stated that the Holocaust Memorial day service was very important. He commented that future generations needed to remember and educate themselves about it. He stated that he welcomed the Mayor's invitation to meet with groups and he looked forward to the invitation.

Councillor Higgins stated that she agreed with Councillor Cooke regarding disappointment about the fact that the Notice of Motion on homelessness had been rejected and she stated that the Council needed to look after those who could not look after themselves. She also agreed with Councillor Cooke's sentiments about children going hungry.

Councillor J Walker stated that she agreed with much of what the Mayor had said about infection rates falling and the Council's work with disadvantaged children and she acknowledged the work of community and voluntary groups throughout the pandemic. Councillor Walker stated that it was unfair to criticise members and make derogatory remarks when members were working hard at all times of the day and enforcing the rules set by the government.

The Mayor stated that his comments had not been a criticism of Councillor Walker or any political group. There had been criticism aimed at a member who had been stuck outside the country and the Mayor stated that as long as the member was working hard it did not matter where they were located.

Councillor Coupe stated that he agreed with the Mayor's comments regarding the Holocaust and he agreed with Councillor M Storey about the fact that it should never be forgotten. He stated that he was pleased that the number of Covid-19 cases was falling.

20/63

DEPUTY MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

The Chair invited Members to raise items for general discussion arising from the Information Booklet of Executive Member reports which detailed activities carried out within the respective Executive Member portfolios (Section 1), Executive decisions taken (Section 2) or to be taken where known, prior to and following the meeting (Sections 3 and 4).

Questions/Comments on Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Social Care report

Comment from Councillor Hellaoui regarding Children's Services – Leadership and Management

Councillor Hellaoui stated that as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, she wished to draw attention to the Middlesbrough Children Matter website. The purpose of the website was to provide information which would enable members and all involved in the wellbeing of children

to connect with children. The Corporate Parenting Strategy had recently been revised to ensure that the foundations of Corporate Parenting were strong and fit for purpose. The guiding principles of the strategy were co-designed with young people and other partner agencies. Blogs, interviews and videos were also available.

Councillor High stated that the Council was working strategically to bring about life long changes to the services that the Council provided using a cross party approach to improve the lives of children. He encouraged all Councillors to take a proactive approach. Councillor High urged members to highlight any areas of improvement or any areas that might need including in the website. Councillor High stated that he was pleased with the progress to date.

Question from Councillor Wright regarding Children's Services – Performance

Councillor Wright referred to a recent workforce census which indicated that Social Workers handled 16.9 cases however Middlesbrough Council's social workers were currently handling 22 cases each. Councillor Wright queried with regard to how the Council proposed to reduce Social Worker's case loads whilst ensuring that the Council was safeguarding vulnerable children.

Councillor High acknowledged that Middlesbrough had one of the highest numbers of children in care. The average number of cases was usually 15-20 but Middlesbrough Council Social Workers were currently handling just above 22. The Council could not reduce the number of children in care. The Council needed to make sure that it provided the appropriate interventions to make children safe, The Council was making progress. In July the number of children in care was around 700 but this had been reduced to just over 600.

The Council was ensuring that permanence was a proactive approach. The Executive Member had held discussions with the staff involved. The Council was working hard to reduce the number of children in care and would continue to do so ensuring that children in Middlesbrough remained safe.

Questions/Comments on Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health report

Comment from Councillor Arundale regarding the Middlesbrough Handypersons Service

Councillor Arundale stated that he wished to congratulate the Handypersons Service for receiving the Handyperson Service of the Year award.

The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health advised that the Handypersons Service were doing an amazing job throughout the town. They had worked throughout the Covid pandemic. They had received 1230 inquiries and completed 1070 jobs. The Executive Member advised that she would pass the congratulations on to members of the Handyperson Service.

Question from Councillor Cooke regarding Performance - Covid-19 vaccination

Councillor Cooke queried with regard to how the Council could ensure that the homeless did not become victims of Covid-19 if they could not receive the vaccination.

The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health advised that the Council had been working hard with homeless people but some refused to take up the offer of accommodation. The Council did however suggest to homeless people that they register with a GP. GP contracts had changed to enable homeless people to register so they could receive the vaccination.

Questions/Comments on Executive Member for Communities and Education report

Comment from Councillor Thompson regarding Culture & Events

Councillor Thompson commented that she had received many positive comments on the reopening of Newham Grange Farm and the Christmas Trail that had taken place at the farm. Councillor Thompson also advised that she had also received positive comments on the Christmas lights throughout the town.

The Executive Member for Communities and Education thanked Councillor Thompson for her comments and advised that she had received excellent feedback about the farm. The farm had welcomed 6000 people on the Christmas Trail.

The Executive Member for Communities and Education advised that the Executive Member for Environment had worked on bringing the Christmas lights throughout the town and it was hoped that next year's lights would be bigger and better.

Questions/Comments on Executive Member for Environment

Question/Comment from Councillor Furness regarding the Pothole Initiative

Councillor Furness congratulated the Executive Member for Environment on the recent pothole initiative but queried who had been leading on the initiative as it was in both the Executive Member for Environment's report and the Deputy Mayor's report.

The Executive Member for Environment advised that it was a joint initiative. Phase 2 of the initiative was underway and this involved major refurbishment of potholes.

Questions/Comments on Executive Member for Regeneration

Question/Comment from Councillor J Walker regarding Hemlington Grange/Stainton Way Crossing

Councillor Walker queried with regard to when the Hemlington Grange/Stainton Way crossing would be put in place.

The Executive Member advised that a report relating to the issue was due to be submitted to the March Executive meeting.

Question/Comment from Councillor D Branson regarding Tees Valley Freeport Bid

Councillor Branson queried with regard to whether the Council could foresee any detrimental effects on business rates as a consequence of the new Freeport on land owned by South Tees Development Corporation.

The Executive Member advised that the Middlesbrough port was included in the bid and there would be beneficial consequences for the town as a result of the Freeport.

20/64

CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2021/2022

The Director of Finance and the Executive Member for Finance and Governance submitted a report, the purpose of which was to set the council tax base for the financial year 2021/2022 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2021.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance presented the report.

The Council had a legal obligation to calculate a council tax base each financial year. The calculation of the council tax base was 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.

ORDERED as follows:

That the Council note the contents of the report.

That the Council approve the council tax base for 2021/2022 as **34,484**.

That the Council approve **2,157** and **1,088** as the council tax bases for the parishes of Nunthorpe and Stainton & Thornton respectively for 2021/2022.

That the Council agree to notify the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority and the Parish Councils of the 2021/2022 council tax base.

20/65 **REPORT OF THE 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.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board provided Members with an update in respect of the 3 Call-ins received by the Board.

Members were advised that the meeting of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 10 December 2020, which was adjourned in accordance with regulation 13 of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392, because of difficulties in live-streaming the meeting, had been held on 7 January 2021.

20/66 **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no Urgent items submitted for this meeting

20/67 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The Chair announced that there were two questions from Members of the Council. The details of the specific questions were included at Agenda Item 11.

Question 11/20 - Councillor Wright to Councillor Smiles regarding addressing the digital divide in education, in particular with regard to the number of laptops distributed to Middlesbrough children.

Councillor Wright thanked the Executive Member for the work that she had carried out so far in relation to addressing the digital divide in education. He queried with regard to how many laptops had been distributed to children in Middlesbrough, in particular how many Looked After Children had been provided with laptops.

Councillor Smiles advised the digital divide was a huge issue. The schools in Middlesbrough had really stepped up to the challenge of digital learning. Some schools had initiated virtual learning the day after school closures had been announced. In order to access virtual learning every child needed access to a laptop. Over the last year, some schools and academies that were financially able to, had invested in digital technology and some had purchased ipads for their students. The Department for Education had promised that each school would receive their 100% allocation of laptops however the Executive Member advised that she would be closely monitoring the situation and she had asked Head Teachers to advise when the laptops had been delivered or if there was any shortfall.

Prior to Christmas, the Council had devised a loan scheme had been devised with schools prior to the lockdown and the Council was looking to expand the scheme and the Executive Member advised that she would update in the near future. 946 laptops had been delivered to Looked After Children, Children in need and those with Child Protection Plans.

Question 12/20 – Councillor Wright to Councillor Smiles regarding the average attendance of primary and secondary school children in Middlesbrough by December 2020?

Councillor Smiles endorsed Councillor Wright's comments about the hard work of teachers and school staff.

Councillor Smiles advised that the average attendance for the period of September to December of primary school children in Middlesbrough was 95.6% and secondary children 92.3%.

The national average attendance was 90% for primary school children and 82% for secondary school children over the same period.

20/68 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

20/69

NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)

There were no Urgent Motions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 24 February 2021.

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

OFFICERS: B Carr, C Benjamin, Farrow, G Field, R Horniman, A Humble, T Parkinson, T Whitehead, A Wilson and I Wright

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors J Goodchild, D Jones, C McIntyre and J Thompson

20/70 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Goodchild, Jones, McIntyre and Thompson.

20/71 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor Nugent	Non-Pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 – Related to staff member
Councillor Uddin	Non-Pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 – Related to staff member
Councillor Wright	Non-Pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 – Related to staff member

20/72 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no formal announcements for this meeting.

20/73 **STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-24**

The Elected Mayor and the Chief Executive submitted a report for Council's consideration. The report sought Council's approval of the proposed revised Strategic Plan for the period 2021-24.

The Mayor presented the Strategic Plan for the period 2021-24.

The Mayor advised that Members have been briefed on the approach to the Strategic Plan and the document was endorsed by Executive on 16 February.

At the Executive's next meeting on 16 March, a work plan to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan would be considered. This would include activity developed in response to the outcome of the recent public consultation.

Members would receive a quarterly briefing on progress in delivering the plan, in addition to the formal reports received by Executive and OSB.

The Mayor outlined some of the achievements by the Council.

Members commented on issues with the overall content and balance of the plan, the fact that the results of the consultation process had not been included, the low response to the consultation, the lack of milestones and

measurements in the plan and the impact of the Freeport on business rates in the town.

Following a vote it was:

ORDERED that the revised Strategic Plan for the period 2021-24 be approved.

20/74

REVENUE BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/22

The Mayor presented a report which set out the proposed Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy for 2021/22.

Members commented on the overall budget and thanked the Council officers for their hard work in pulling the budget together.

It was highlighted that the proposed increase in Council Tax was below the increase recommended by the Government.

It was commented that the government needed to agree the Public Health Grant and that the Local Government Settlement Grant should be based on deprivation to allow the Council to provide the necessary services to local people.

In accordance with statutory regulations a recorded vote was taken by roll call of those Members present at that time, the results of which were as follows:-

Votes For: (42)

The Mayor (A Preston), Councillors Arundale, Bell, Branson, Cooke, Cooper, Coupe, Davison, Dean, Dodds, Furness, Garvey, Hellaoui, Higgins, High, Hill, C Hobson, J Hobson, Hubbard, Hussain, Lewis, Mason, Mawston, McCabe, McTigue, Nugent, Platt, Polano, Purvis, Rooney, Rostron, Sands, Saunders, Smiles, M Storey, P Storey, , Uddin, J Walker, S Walker, Waters, Wilson, Wright

Against (0)

Abstentions (0)

ORDERED as follows:

That the Council approves the proposed budget strategy for 2021/22 as set out in paragraphs 35 to 70, and approves the proposed budget efficiency savings for 2021/22 (Appendices 1).

That the Council approves the budget requirement for 2021/22 to be set at £116,492,035 as detailed in Appendix 2.

Having taken into account the matters set out in Section 32 of the Local Government Act 1992 and the items set out within the report that the Council approves that the basic amount of Council Tax (Band D) for 2021/22 be £1,757.67 being a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and an annual precept of 0.76% for Adult Social Care which has been continued by the Government to contribute towards the shortfall of funding for adult social care.

In total this represents an increase of 2.75% in the basic amount of Council Tax for the whole of the Borough.

That the Council approves the actual amount of Council Tax (Band D) for areas without parish precepts (excluding Fire and Police) be set at £1,757.11.

That the Council approves the actual amount of Council Tax (Band D) for areas with parish precepts (excluding Fire and Police) be set at :-

Nunthorpe Parish £1,761.41

Stainton and Thornton Parish £1,766.42

That the Council approves the amounts of Council Tax for each category of dwelling be set in accordance with table 4 of Appendix 4 within the report.

That the Council notes the refreshed Medium-Term Financial Plan position for 2021- 24 set out in this report in paragraphs 90 to 119.

That the Council approves the updated Investment Strategy for the period to 2023/24 as outlined in paragraphs 120 to 124 and detailed in Appendix 5.

That the Council approves the Capital Strategy Report (Prudential indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision) 2021/22 as outlined in paragraphs 125 to 136 and detailed in Appendix 6, and approves the Authorised Limit for external borrowing of £315 million for the Council for 2021/22 as set out in paragraph 135.

****The Chair announced that as the budget had been approved, the meeting scheduled for 5 March 2021, would now be cancelled.**

20/75

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2021/2022

The Executive Member for Finance & Governance presented a report, the purpose of which was to approve the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for 2021/2022.

Following a Vote it was:

ORDERED that the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for 2021/2022 be approved.

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

Council Meeting: 24 March 2021

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **24 March 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 Modern Gov system.

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

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

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

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

Contact details

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

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 24 MARCH 2021

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SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<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 5 January 2021.

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 24th March 2021**

STRATEGIC

Early Help Strategy

1. The Early Help Strategy is currently undergoing a refresh, to ensure that the priorities are up to date and it is reflective of the early help offer across the partnership. This will be reviewed by the members of the Partnership and Prevention Board which includes a wide range of early help partner services including; Health Visiting and School Nursing, Schools, Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations, Police, DWP, Headstart, Drug and Alcohol Services, Domestic Abuse Services, Troubled Families and the Youth Offending Service. All organisations will be contributing to the Early Help Strategy so that we have a comprehensive, partnership-led approach to early help and prevention and the new Youth Service will be integrated within the strategy.

Partner in Practice

2. Our 'Partner in Practice' North Yorkshire Children's Services has already worked in close partnership with us to develop the 'edge of care' Futures for Families service and are now reaching the midpoint of their review of Middlesbrough's Fostering Service. We are already aware that the report is highly likely to recommend additional management capacity so acting up arrangements are being put in place to 'manage the gap' before the review reports in full.
3. The Local Government Association has identified seven enablers for improvement in Children's Service and one of them is 'Engaging and Supporting the Workforce'. A Children's Workforce Development Strategy (2021-24) is being developed within a highly structured programme management framework with implementation planned for April 2021. The three themes at the core of our Workforce Development Strategy provide a clear strategic framework for driving improvement, innovation and impact for children; they are understanding our workforce needs, recruiting and retaining our workforce and developing and growing our workforce. In parallel with the development of the strategy, a Workforce Development Programme is overseeing the delivery of our current workforce development priorities supporting the delivery of Middlesbrough's new strategic plan and the improvement plan. The programme board is chaired by Rachel Farnham Director of Children's Care, with significant input from corporate colleagues.

Middlesbrough Youth Service

4. The Youth Service tender process has now concluded and the successful providers; The Linx, The Junction and MFC Foundation have commenced their mobilisation process to be up and running ready to deliver services from 1st April 2021. An initial mobilisation meeting has been held separately with each of the three providers for updates on their progress, to answer any queries, check whether they need additional support from MBC and to confirm that they are all on track to meet the target date to

start delivery. All providers have confirmed during the meetings that they will be ready to deliver on time and are currently recruiting staff if required and planning for delivery.

5. Rachel Farnham and I will be meeting all three providers in the coming weeks and a press release has been prepared. The successful providers are collaborating with each other to coordinate delivery plans and referral criteria to ensure there is no duplication of services and that the youth offer is comprehensive. A key activity moving forwards is to map the full youth service offer across Middlesbrough and for this to be available and publicised on the Middlesbrough Children Matter website for young people to access.

PERFORMANCE

Practice Standards

6. The Director of Children's Care, Rachel Farnham and Principal Social Worker Siobhan Davies, have launched with staff the co-production of Middlesbrough's Practice Standards. Ten workshops took place throughout February to design the Practice Standards which provided staff and managers with clarity about what is expected at each point of the child's journey from early help to permanence and become a measure for our quality assurance process going forward. The practice standards will be firmly embedded in our Practice Model 'Children and Relationships First' and linked closely to the Council's vision and values.
7. Our Practice Standards was launched during Practice Week, 8th March 2021. This was an exciting time with workshops delivered in-house and by partner agencies such as CAFCASS, Adoption Tees Valley, and Cleveland Police.
8. At the time of writing the average caseload with the usual caveats stands at 19.5 which is a reduction from the figure of 21 noted in my last report. It is well worth noting the current number of Children Looked After which stands at 609. This is an overall reduction of 93 since the all-time high of 702 in August 2020.
9. Isabelle Trowler, England's Chief Social Worker visited Middlesbrough – virtually of course – earlier this month. She spoke to a cross section of staff from Children's Services about her career which she labelled as 'From Anarchist to Whitehall' and her current role. Isabelle believes that her remit is to advise and challenge ministers whilst remaining practice focussed rather than being 'out and about'; she clearly does not see herself as the voice of social work. Isabelle's visit was well received with many attendees describing it as inspirational.

Care Leaver Lockdown Support

10. £80,080.00 has been allocated to Children's Services from the winter grant specifically to support care leavers through lockdown and any further restrictions for the next six months. Nominally each care leaver will have approximately £520 but the exact amount and what it will be spent on will be decided between the Care Leaver and their Personal Assistant in line with individual needs. As corporate parents, we need to ask ourselves 'is this good enough for my child' when compared with the additional support parents are offering their own children to ease their way through the pandemic and reduce feelings of isolation.

Digital Legacy

11. It is crucial that children and young people of school age have the equipment they need to access remote learning. Rob Brown, the Director of Education and Partnerships has led a project to identify children who are in between children from lower income families who have already received IT equipment and children from more affluent families who are more likely to have been provided with equipment by their own family. These may be families where for example parents have recently been made redundant or where sibling groups have only one piece of equipment between them. Schools identified the needs of their pupils, these were costed and the relevant finances been allocated by the council to schools to meet these needs. A total of £350,000 is available. Schools are purchasing the equipment themselves and will have ownership of it thus supporting the provision of a lasting digital legacy for Middlesbrough's children.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Changing Futures

12. Middlesbrough Council is part of a South Tees partnership that is bidding for Changing Futures funding (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changing-futures-changing-systems-for-adults-experiencing-multiple-disadvantage>). This is a new scheme to help adults across England facing multiple disadvantages like homelessness, domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health issues. Its aim is to provide dedicated money that will enable joined-up support for better outcomes. The good news is that we've been notified that our Expression of Interest has been shortlisted by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), who are leading the programme. South Tees is one of 21 areas to have been successful at this stage with up to 15 being selected for the funding. We are the only area in the wider Tees Valley to have been shortlisted and one of two in the NE region.
13. We need to develop and submit a formal bid before the end of April. This will largely consist of a proposed delivery plan, meeting the core principles of Changing Futures. To assist with this process, a development grant of £15,000 has been offered, which we intend to utilise for dedicated co-ordination capacity on behalf of our South Tees partnership and enable us to meet the timescales. Thanks to all involved in getting us to this stage and fingers crossed that we are successful!

Vulnerable Persons Model

14. On 1st April 2021 the new integrated vulnerable person model will commence its first phase of delivery. This service brings together the provision of domestic abuse, homelessness and substance misuse services and comprises in in house core team and commissioned specialist service providers. The aim of this new approach is to ensure that service users can 'live the best lives they can', via easy access to services that can support them from crisis through to recovery. The services will draw upon individuals' (and their families') strengths - promoting both independence and resilience, rather than creating a dependency on receiving support. This model is viewed as the first phase in the move towards wider integration. Given the scale of the issues faced by our local, vulnerable people, the ambition is to collaborate with key partner organisations to integrate a wider range of important services. These will include developing partnership proposals with mental health, criminal justice, NHS (primary and secondary care) and third sector organisations. Given the complex nature of the people that the model serves, services will offer trauma-informed

practice, whereby they realise the widespread impact of trauma and understand potential paths for recovery. The service will be supported by a new integrated IT system which will assist effective collaboration across the services for the benefit of those who use it.

Project Adder

15. The Home Office (HO) in conjunction with Public Health England (PHE) and other government departments are piloting an intensive, whole system approach to tackling drug misuse. Middlesbrough has been selected as a pilot area, with the potential to access approx. £5m of funding across partners over three financial years, starting in late 2020/21 through to 31/3/22. Project ADDER aims to involve co-ordinated law enforcement activity, alongside expanded diversionary activity and treatment/recovery provision in the chosen pilot areas. This will be complemented by HO and National Crime Agency activity across the country to tackle middle market drugs and firearms supply. The project will build on existing work and look to expand multi-agency partnership working in the local areas to drive sustained, positive health and crime related outcomes. The project is underpinned by an evaluation and monitoring framework which will help to inform the evidence base for future Government intervention and national investment in this field. Over a period of two and a half years, the project will aim to deliver reductions in the:

- Rate of drug-related deaths
- Drug-related offending
- Prevalence of drug use.

16. Interventions will include a mixture of specialist posts, the majority of which will be employed by Middlesbrough Council, and aligned with the integrated service model for domestic abuse, homelessness/housing support and substance misuse; and delivery interventions. In summary, they will provide dedicated capacity to deliver:

- Local Project ADDER Leadership and Management
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Enhanced, targeted outreach and harm reduction services
- Improved pathways and integration with health and social care services
- Bespoke, local recovery enhancement regarding housing, training/employment and social/community aspects
- Diversion from crime/criminal justice settings
- Enforcement activity
- Research, monitoring

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
24 MARCH 2021**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

PERFORMANCE

1. Middlesbrough Council is a statutory member of the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB). As part of assurance arrangements an annual Quality Assurance Report (QAF) is provided and independently evaluated by other TSAB members. The headline standards are:
 - The organisation has a Safeguarding Adults Policy / Strategy in place and a senior staff member that has the responsibility to 'champion' safeguarding.
 - Safeguarding Practice is safe, effective and person centred.
 - Your organisation has a focus on the need for preventing abuse and neglect.
 - Your organisation has written guidance & procedures for handling complaints and allegations against staff which is clearly accessible to all staff.
 - Your organisation can assure the Board that the learning, recommendations and key findings from SARs and Other Reviews are effectively implemented within your organisation and disseminated to the appropriate staff.
 - The organisation's staff supervision policy and reflective practice supports effective safeguarding. It recognises that skilled and knowledgeable supervisions focused on outcomes for adults is critical in safeguarding work and enable staff to work confidently and competently with difficult and sensitive situations.
 - All staff and elected members (where appropriate) working within the organisation should receive appropriate training and work within an environment to enable them to competently respond to safeguarding concerns and meet the needs of adults at risk.
2. The Department of Adult Social Care submitted its QAF findings and evidence in November 2020 and feedback was provided by the TSAB evaluation group last month. The headline feedback was as follows:
3. **Overall, the evaluation group were impressed with the submission received from Middlesbrough Council as it was complemented with some good supporting evidence for each of the standards.**
4. **Based on the evidence supplied the most appropriate overall RAG rating for your organisation was Green, as some very good evidence was supplied and provided assurance to the evaluation group around the organisations safeguarding practice and procedures.**
5. There are associated action plans as part of the feedback which the Department works on as part of continual improvement plans

Members Attended Dementia Friends Awareness Information Sessions

6. In March this year, Dementia Friends Information sessions were delivered to a total of 24 elected Members, demonstrating their commitment to Middlesbrough being a Dementia Friendly Town.
7. Dementia Friends Information Sessions are part of the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme. It is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia and aims to transform the way the nation thinks, acts and talks about the condition.
8. Sessions currently delivered virtually, are run by trained Dementia Friends Champions. Once completed a Dementia Friend will receive a badge that the public and people living with dementia will recognise.
9. To date a total of 166 Businesses have signed up to the Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough Project, which is commissioned by Public Health and Led by Cleveland Alzheimer's Residential Centre. Businesses need to demonstrate a commitment to working towards becoming dementia friendly, which includes ensuring all Staff attend a dementia friend's information session.
10. To date a total of 723 sessions have been delivered in Middlesbrough, making 11055 dementia friends across the Town.
11. The Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough working Group is meeting in March to discuss roll out of virtual Dementia Friends Information Sessions to all Local Authority Staff and a series of dates will be included on the Staff Intranet.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Middlesbrough's Local Test and Trace Service

12. Middlesbrough has become one of the first local authorities to launch the local Test and Trace Service known as Local0, as part of a national pilot. From 1st March all cases of COVID-19 in Middlesbrough are now being contacted by a locally recruited team of contact tracing officers located in the Public Protection Service. Cases of COVID-19 in Middlesbrough now receive their first contact by telephone within hours of them getting their positive result. The contact officers ask a series of standard questions, identify contacts and use their local knowledge to better understand the information provided by the case. Advice on isolation is provided on a more individual and local basis. Support needs are also identified for those in isolation and arrangements can be put in place quickly to provide assistance. For example those cases requiring support with food are getting food parcels delivered within a short period of time. Several attempts are made to contact cases over a 24 hour period. If a case does not respond after 24 hours, they then receive a socially distanced visit to offer support and to ask them to respond to the calls. To date the Local Test and Trace Service is achieving contact with 94% of cases of COVID-19 and providing isolation advice and offering support to them.

Community LFD Testing Update

13. Testing for covid-19 is one of the key tools we have to contain the spread of coronavirus while the vaccine programme is rolled out nationally. To support this we have opened three asymptomatic lateral flow device (LFD) community testing sites across Middlesbrough:

Venue	Postcode	Days	Appointment Times
Middlesbrough Sports Village	TS4 3AE	Wed-Sun	08:00-14:45
Newport Community Hub	TS1 4EE	Tue-Sat	11:00-17:45
North Ormesby Community Hub	TS3 6JN	Mon-Fri	09:30-16:15

14. In addition to this a growing number of high risk businesses (where staff are unable to work from home) have also been set up as self-serve LFD test sites.
15. To date over 2800 tests have been completed with 26 positive cases detected - who would otherwise have been unknowingly spreading the virus.

Vaccination Centre

16. A mass vaccination centre operated by the NHS is due to open at the Riverside Stadium in late March. At the time of preparing this report final preparations were being made, including arrangements for public transport links to the stadium. It is expected that over-50s will be eligible for their vaccine by the time the site opens.

Community Champions

17. Following an expression of interest The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has awarded funding to support those communities in Middlesbrough who have been shown to suffer disproportionately from Covid-19 through a new scheme called 'Community Champions'. The Community Champions scheme will provide targeted help to those areas and communities facing the greatest challenges. This provides the opportunity to build on existing community led work in Middlesbrough as part of the Covid-19 response, such as; Locality Working, our citizen led approach to Covid-19 communications; our nascent Covid community champions network; our embedded community research programme into the manifestation of Covid related harm locally; and our community grants programme to support sustainability of the organisations supporting those most impacted by Covid-19.

The Staying Put Agency unite with charities to help older people through the winter

18. A unique collaborative partnership was formed just before winter to create the new Warm and Well Winter Support Project. Set up by the Staying Put Agency, Ageing Better Middlesbrough and The Teesside Family Foundation the projects aim is to support Middlesbrough residents across the difficult winter period. Through pooling resources and knowledge we have been able to provide older residents who have been hit particularly hard hit by the pandemic with essential supplies to stay safe warm and active across the winter months. We have even been able to deliver items straight to their doors.
19. The project continues to support towards the Middlesbrough Affordable Warmth Strategies aims and objectives. To date Warm and Well has assisted over 80 individual households with winter related support, this has included 16 boiler services and 240 items of winter warmth equipment, all supplied by the Staying Put Agency. In addition 200 wellbeing items, which includes books, puzzles, and crosswords have been supplied by our VCS partners. The Staying Put Agency have also supported additional households with 87 winter related jobs through there wider Winter Warmth Programme.

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

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
24TH MARCH 2021

EDUCATION

1. The signs are that the return of all pupils to school on March 8 has gone very well across the town and I would like to thank all pupils, teachers, parents and carers for playing their part in this. We are working closely with headteachers to support the national educational catch up programme and will keep you updated as more details on this become available.
2. Middlesbrough Council is receiving £1.047m from the Government's Holiday Activities Fund meaning hot meals and holiday clubs will be made available to disadvantaged children in the town.

The cash will fund food, enrichment and education activities for more than 8,000 children and young people on free school meals and who have special educational needs in the school breaks. Depending on the take up, the council may also have the option of extending activities to those not in receipt of free school meals.

3. The Inclusion and Specialist Support Service continues to retain our 90% completion rate of an Education Health and Care Plan during COVID 19, which ensures that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are assessed within the required timeframe. Alongside this, we are now seeing an increase in requests for assessment, which we continue to monitor closely.
4. The new temporary building which will house Outwood Riverside Academy at Russell Street is almost ready. We anticipate the children will be able to move into the new building soon, probably after Easter.
5. Middlesbrough has jointly (with R&C) commissioned a new service provider to provide advice and guidance to parents and children if they feel their SEND requirements are not being adequately addressed by either their school or the local authority.
6. The Learning Middlesbrough website is under redevelopment but a brand new Remote Learning area has been launched offering schools, parents and the wider community opportunity to access on-line learning resources. The page also supports schools with remote access and the sharing of best practice on a range of curriculum areas including mental health and PE.
[Remote Learning and Support for Schools and Parents - Learning in Middlesbrough \(learningmiddlesbrough.co.uk\)](http://learningmiddlesbrough.co.uk)
7. The Youth Offending Service continues to be operational throughout the Covid pandemic, providing services to children and young people in court, custody, the police station and community.

A variety of methods are being utilised to engage with young people and their families including the use of 'Whatsapp' and walk and talk sessions. Recent audit activity shows there has been no deterioration in practice quality during this time and feedback from young people remains positive.

COMMUNITIES

8. Since starting in November 2020, the Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager has continued to work with partners and develop relationships in relation to community development and engagement.

This includes the relaunch of the Middlesbrough Interfaith Network (MIN), which has members from almost all faith organisations in the Middlesbrough area, and the Migration Multi-Agency Meeting (MMAM). Both meetings have proved invaluable in the past, in relation to information sharing and working with community activators and organisations.

9. The LAASLO (asylum support officer) has continued to offer support to newly granted refugees, ensuring that they are properly supported into independence. He has also offered extensive support to refugees who have already been in Middlesbrough for some time and who have had changes of circumstances, such as housing needs and employment.
10. Some other key areas of focus and success have been;
 - Delivering care packs to asylum seeker mothers and children, in partnership with Streets Ahead's Feast of Fun through Councillor Chris Cooke.
 - Working with the North Ormesby and Newport locality teams to identify areas of improvement for community cohesion.
 - Providing updates to the Local Resilience Forum's death management group around faith issues relating to Covid and funeral management.
 - Considering options around uptake of the EU Settlement Scheme by our new and emerging communities.
11. Following the Parsons Green terrorist attack, revised changes to the National Channel Guidance was introduced in November 2020. The guidance places more scrutiny and compliance on Local Authorities.

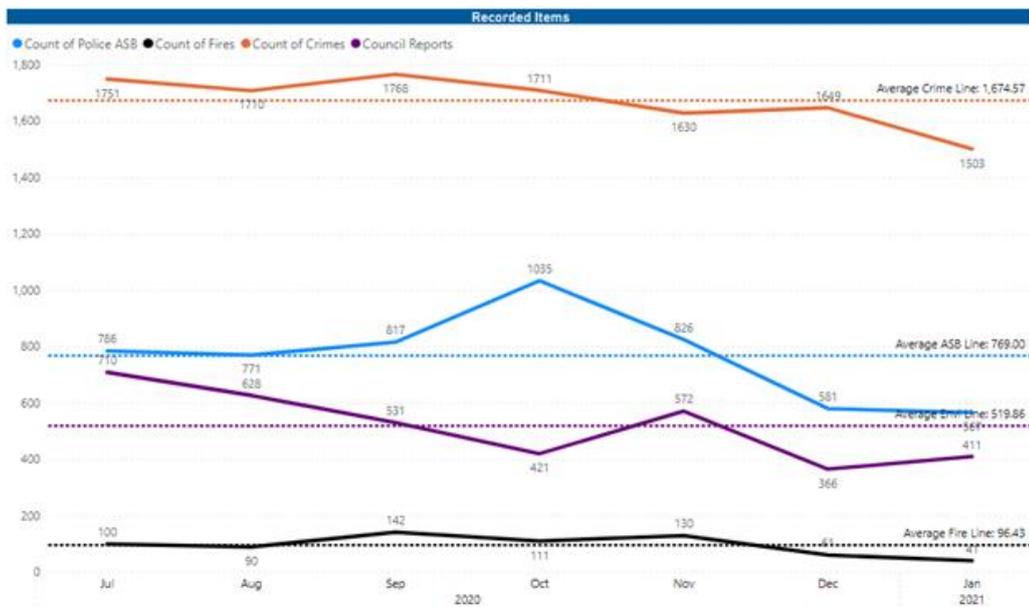
In addition to this, it also seeks to ensure a more statutory involvement from internal partners in understanding their shared joint responsibility for attendance, involvement and management of individuals at risk.

Therefore work has been completed on a variety of areas including embedding the PREVENT and CHANNEL roles within the LA Constitution and ensure departments are aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding individuals at risk of radicalisation.

12. The Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) process commenced in August 2020 and consists of a partnership of key agencies who meet on a fortnightly basis to review analytical data from a wide range of sources.

Mapped data highlights clusters of problematic areas in terms of crime, ASB, fly tipping and deliberate fires across the town. Services then utilise this data to deploy and/or co-ordinate resources within geographical areas of Middlesbrough addressing the problems identified.

13. The charts below illustrate a continuing downward trend in all four key measures; police crime, ASB, fires and environmental council data. There has been a marginal upturn for environmental reports in January but these figures are still below the average value for the last six months.



Below is just a small sample of some of the actions initiated via AIM since the process commenced;

- Developed joint patrols with police in response to Covid
- Enhanced data sharing between police, council and fire analysts
- Coordinated approach to address fly-tipping including increased enforcement, pending use of Community Protection Notices (CPNs), introduced use of stickers, North Ormesby wheelie bin pilot and additional containers within communal bins
- Four dispersal orders implemented in town centre, Trimdon Shops, Thorntree Park and North Ormesby
- Priority alleys identified re fly-tipping/installation of rapid CCTV cameras
- Drug dealing in Newport and North Ormesby – executed warrants, several house closures.

14. The graph below relates to youth related anti-social behaviour also showing a steady decline since October, however Covid/lockdown should also be considered as a factor for the reduction of incidents.



15. The Community Safety Plan 2020 has now been finalised and is awaiting executive approval. The strategic priorities which are linked to Mayor’s Vision consist the following;

- Perceptions and feeling safe
- Tackling the root causes

- Locality working (including town centre)

A secondary Community Safety Delivery Plan is currently being drafted, which will feed into the overarching strategic priorities and will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership on a quarterly basis.

16. The Office of the Police and Crime Commission has agreed to continue to fund the Targeted Youth Outreach service for 2021/22. During 2019/20 the Targeted Youth Service activities operating across all four Local Authority areas made over 9000 contacts with young people in targeted areas. Engagement with local policing teams in 2020 has reaffirmed the support for continuing the service which forms a key strand of multi-agency problem solving activity regarding antisocial behaviour.

In Middlesbrough the service will continue to be delivered by Safer Communities (previously known as Safe in Tees Valley). The service will be intelligence led by the AIM process, providing short term interventions in hotspot locations identified by partnership analysis.

To ensure co-ordination, work is ongoing to link in with the new youth service contracts, which will have three different aspects;

- Universal Youth Work – delivered by Linx
- Targeted Youth Service – The Junction
- Transitions Youth Support – MFC

CULTURE AND EVENTS

17. The culture team has received the maximum amount of support from Historic England for the Heritage Action Zone Cultural Programme – this is around £120,000 which is in addition to the circa £1m investment from Historic England for the capital improvements of the area.
18. The culture team has submitted a bid to Arts Council England's next round of culture recovery funding for our venues. This follows last year's successful bid on behalf of the Town Hall in which we were awarded £200,000.
19. Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership's website is up and running: www.boroculture.co.uk
20. The Culture team has continued to be active in supporting the emergency response to Covid with redeployments of staffing to various different areas of the authority. The Town hall has also continued to deliver the Nightingale court and provide space for Teesside University to delivery face to face training not possible on campus.
21. The Government road map has identified June 21 as the earliest point museums may be able to open without social distancing measures in place. Middlesbrough museums will open as follows:
- The Dorman Memorial Museum July 1 – operating Thursday – Sunday weekly.
 - The Captain Cook Birth place Museum July 15 - operating Thursday – Sunday weekly.
22. The education and curatorial team have continued to develop their series of digital exhibitions reaching audiences of over 100,000 this year alone. Some of the highlights from this year's program include
- The origin of the Captain Cook Birth Place Museum which has reached 8,838 so far.
 - The story of the Linthorpe Pottery collection donated by the Metcalf Family has reached 8,256 so far
23. At the Town Hall and Theatre, although audiences will be smaller as social distancing measures are phased out, we have a summer of fun programmed including, Comedy In the

Courtyard, Red Box Market Place, Classical Café, AIR Live, Folk Lines, Summer Sessions, wrestling and family cinema.

24. Building on the success of last year's outdoor theatre season we kick off this year's season on Wednesday July 28 with David Walliams's Mr Stink followed in August by The Great Gatsby, Romeo and Juliet and Pride and Prejudice
25. The Autumn season sees a return of some old favorite to the Town Hall Main stage including: Sarah Millican, Katherine Ryan, Jimmy Carr and Jason Manford for Comedy Fans and The Stylistics, Boyzlife, Paul Weller, Jo Whiley and Martin Kemp for music fans. And for those after something a little bit different we have An Audience with Sir Michael Parkinson and Sir Ranulph Fiennes.
26. Newham Grange Farm has been closed since December 30 2020 and in line with the roadmap dates we should expect to be open for the April 12.

The instalment of the interactive heritage centre for the linear build for Newham Grange Farm is almost complete and open for the busy summer. A new sponsorship scheme is also being launched this month with the opportunities for people to sponsor animal families on the farm.
27. The new events organisers' portal is now available for event organisers to submit their events which take place on Middlesbrough Council land. This process replaces the old procedure to create a more efficient process. www.middlesbrough-events.co.uk
28. Middlesbrough Mela planning has begun with an Arts Council bid submitted and project plans in line with Covid been devised.
29. Christmas planning is underway with a programme including the culmination of the light switch on and parade, Christmas markets, Christmas window, Christmas Orange Pip and a range number of other exciting elements proposed.
30. NightFall planning is underway for a successful illumination event, which will take place in Stewart Park in December.

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Councillor Dennis McCabe

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 24th March 2021**

STRATEGIC

The Tree City Status (Tree Cities of the World Recognition)

1. World Tree City status recognises Middlesbrough as one of only 120 cities in the world and 11 in the UK, to hold the accolade, and as such it is a recognition of a commitment to ensuring urban woods and trees are properly maintained and sustainably managed. Tree Cities of the world is a programme of the United Nations Food and Agriculture division and the Arbour day foundation.



2. It celebrates the Council and communities passion about trees and demonstrates that we are committing to creating a healthier environment for the residents of Middlesbrough to generate and instil a level of pride and to be able to feel good about their own local space and become involved in tree care and planting schemes.
3. By the end of March the Council and its communities will have planted over 15,000 new trees in the last 18 months.

Middlesbrough Food Partnership

4. The Middlesbrough Food Partnership is developing a comprehensive healthy, sustainable and affordable food system and is recognised nationally for their achievements. Middlesbrough became the first location to progress from the Sustainable Food Places Bronze award to the highly prestigious Silver Award and is now bidding to become a Gold Award holder. Key areas of focus for Middlesbrough's 2022 Gold plan include tackling food poverty and food insecurity and embedding sustainable food in policies and strategies.
5. The work of the Food Partnership delivered through the Food Action Plan 2020-22 is central to Middlesbrough being at the forefront of tackling the climate emergency through food and the Partnership is leading on the Sustainable Food theme of Middlesbrough's Green Strategy.
6. The Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration brings together an international coalition of organisations to speak with a united voice about their commitment to develop sustainable food policies, and Mayor Andy Preston and Middlesbrough became one of the first cities in the world to sign this declaration. This provides the springboard to make important changes that will benefit Middlesbrough now and in the future.

7. The Middlesbrough Food Power Alliance (a sub-group of the Food Partnership) has developed a comprehensive response to the food challenges caused by COVID. Key to this are Eco Shops – an asset based resilient model of pop-up social supermarkets providing access to affordable food (10 items of good quality surplus food for £2). Middlesbrough has 16 Eco Shops redistributing over 1.5 tonnes of surplus food a week. To bridge the gap by the temporary closure of Eco Shops, MEC developed the Virtual Eco Shop that delivers 10 items to the doorstep, all for £2. The Food Partnership are working in with FareShare NE to establish a surplus food redistribution hub in Middlesbrough and have secured funding to do this. This will open by May 2021, increasing greater access to affordable food for the people of the Tees Valley.

Street Lighting

8. The LED installations are scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2021. Following completion of the LED installations, the planned column replacement works will resume and include 300 street lighting columns to be replaced by the end of March 2022.

Streetworks

9. 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 8 million 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 May 2021, and the plan is to provide fibre connectivity to 83,000 homes.

Traffic Signals/UTMC

10. The new Urban Traffic Management Control and Urban Traffic Control system development is progressing well with Siemens carrying out the works to have the new system in place. 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 (Variable Message Signs, CCTV, Automatic Number Plate Recognition, Air Quality, Traffic Counting, Weather monitoring etc.)

Highways Projects

11. Although the progress with the planned capital verge and footway scheme works has been significantly delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Planned Highways team are currently working to having the 2020/21 works programme of scheme works completed prior to April 2021.

Location	Scheme
Albert Road	Tree Pits
Guisborough Road.	Renew Footpath
Hesleden Avenue (Phase 3)	Renew Footpath
Deighton Road.	Renew Footpath and Kerbs
Branksome Avenue.	Renew Footpath and Carriageway
Fulbeck Road	Verge Works
Bridge street west	Renew Footpath, road widening and Traffic Signals
Trimdon Avenue	Renew Footpath
Runswick Avenue	Renew Footpath
Welland close	Renew Footpath
Somerby Terrace	Renew Footpath
Malvern Drive	Renew Footpath
Hartington Interchange.	Traffic Signals
Kings road/West Terrace/Cromwell	Pedestrian Crossing
Woodlands Road	Renew Footpath
Ayresome Green Lane	Renew Footpath
Birkhall Road	Verge Works
Roman Road/Cambridge Road.	Renew Footpath
Acklam Road/Burlam Road.	Renew Footpath
Mulgrave Road.	Renew Footpath
Faverdale Avenue.	Renew Footpath
Meadfoot Drive	Renew Footpath
Low Lane.	Cycleway and Toucan Crossing
Ladgate Lane.	Cycleway
Riverside.	New Footpath/cycleway
Sotherby road	Renew Footpath
Meath street	Renew Footpath and pedestrian crossings
Rainsford Crecent	Verge Works
Crossfell Road	Verge Works
Overdale Road	Verge Works

INVOLEMENT AND PROMOTION

Green Waste

12. Starting fortnightly collections from Tuesday 6th April until Friday 1st October 2021, and then a monthly collection for October and November. New collection calendars which will include green waste collection dates will be available online by the end of March for residents to download or request a copy from the Contact Centre.
13. In order to increase recycling levels across Middlesbrough the council will start an enhanced education process in respect of recycling. To enable Middlesbrough Council to improve recycling we need to change resident's behaviours/attitudes towards recycling.

Key milestones are to be incorporated into the plan are:

- Develop a communications and marketing plan – By June 2021
- Develop an education plan to raise awareness of recycling across Middlesbrough – By June 2021
- Develop a plan to work with education establishments – Commencing July 2021
- Begin working with schools on Waste Minimisation and Recycling – Commencing September 2021
- To have an active schools environmental sustainability programme with all schools by July 2023

The service will embark on a substantial Education and Awareness programme where we would look to work with, the following partners, but not be limited to. We will work with these external stakeholders to assist them in forming relevant/practical solutions to improving their recycling rates

- a. Middlesbrough Schools & Colleges
- b. Teesside University
- c. Social Housing organisations
- d. Middlesbrough Environment City
- e. Local Businesses
- f. Thirteen Housing Group
- g. Community Hubs

To go alongside the education programme we would undertake a comprehensive communications and marketing plan which would include:

- Vehicle side advertising
- Assisting external stakeholders in developing recycling policies/procedures
- Recycling Roadshows (maximising recycling opportunities)
- Good practices on recycling and reducing waste
- Bin tags / stickers
- Social Media Updates
- Website updates
- Press Release / Editorial
- Love Middlesbrough Adverts / Editorial
- Staff Intranet Updates
- Staff Facebook
- Members Briefing

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 24th March 2021

DECISIONS

The following papers went to Executive on 16th March:

Process to Administer Grant Funding

Tender Pipeline Approval 2021/22

STRATEGIC

Human Resources

1. Provided Member briefings to give Members background knowledge to the pay policy within the Council and how arrangements came about, covering the pay and grading structure and the national framework of terms and conditions. Also discussed the reason for the Pay Policy Statement and the requirement to have it approved by Council each year and published on our website. The Pay Policy statement will be coming to Council on 24th March 2021.
2. Staff Survey on appraisals currently running to look at whether we stick with an annual appraisal process or move to a more fluid regular meeting process.

PERFORMANCE

Registrars

3. When lockdown began on 23rd March 2020, we were required to cease birth registrations – when we resumed in July 2020, we had **1300** outstanding births to register. We have now caught up with this but still have the odd errant birth that needs registering from March / April / May onwards. At present, we have approximately 240 o/s birth registrations – this is of course added to every day as births occur at JCUH. At Middlesbrough, we register on average 5500 births PA.
4. Between 1.4.19 and 31.3.20, the office registered **2579** deaths. From 1.4.20 to 28.2.21, the office has registered **2735** deaths with figures from the month of March, still to be added. All death registration from 23.3.20 have been facilitated by telephone in line with the Coronavirus Act 2020.
5. Since the Government announcement on 22.2.21 with reference to wedding / civil partnership ceremonies, there has been a surge in enquiries about booking weddings / re-arranging etc. Yesterday, the girls fielded between 160 -200 calls, mainly about marriages. Ceremonies can recommence on 29.3.21 (with certain

restrictions still in place) and from this date, we have 226 ceremonies already booked in (up to 31.3.22) with many outstanding enquiries to still be dealt with.

ICT

6. 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 Councils 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 Councils 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).

Revenues and Benefits

7. Despite the sheer volume of additional work the service had to respond to this year due to Covid 19, they still managed to roll out their new ward based operating model. Dedicated case workers were assigned to wards, each with differing collection strategies, designed based on the requirements of the ward and the needs of the residents. Whilst the model is still in its infancy, early indications suggest a very promising outcome. It's so pleasing to see customers engaging with staff at a more personal level, going that extra mile to support our residents, when debt becomes a problem.
8. Following an extensive change programme the service went live with Stop the Knock earlier this year. Due to all of the additional demands placed on the service brought about by Covid 19 this has impacted on the services ability to pick up pace. However a full redesign of the internal offering means the team are ready to move forward at speed as we move into the new financial year.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Human Resources

9. The team have been working on supporting the setup of Covid testing sites including high volume recruitment to tight deadlines. Whilst working at pace they also managed to secure ongoing work for 1 person who was on redeployment, 3 people via the Councils Routes To Work team (long term unemployed) and also 10 Casual staff who are currently unable to work because of Covid restrictions.

Revenues and Benefits

10. Revenues and Benefits have successfully held the Customer Service Excellence Accreditation for 25 consecutive years. Every year they are assessed against 57 criteria – having to demonstrate improvements year on year. This year the service underwent a full reassessment and having to provide significant amounts of evidence that demonstrated how they met the criteria by putting the customer at the heart of their Service.
11. The outcome has been confirmed that the service have achieved Customers Service Excellence again, however more importantly – it has also been confirmed that service have been awarded 'Elite' Customer Service in 10 criteria which is the highest the Service have ever achieved. The assessor also commented that he has only come across one other organisation with Customer Service Excellence who hold this level of achievement.
12. Since the onset of Covid 19 the Service has been a key player in delivering the much needed millions of financial support to both residents and businesses.
 - Millions of pounds of support have been provided to our local businesses with more to follow
 - Delivering/delivered a staggering 16 initiatives which cut across a number of services
 - Providing financial support to partnering organisations – reducing food poverty, Thousands of residents given additional financial assistance, partnering organisations provided with funding plus schools to support our 'no child should go hungry' initiative, circa 6000 families provided with vouchers at each school holiday to support with food, clothing, fuel and essential items and worked with a 3rd party to deliver food parcels to 400 of our most vulnerable families
 - The service have paved the way developing numerous policies - progressing at speed - in a number of instances, the first in the Tees Valley to launch and pay schemes
 - The service have received National Recognition/Press Recognition, recognised for innovative ideas, numerous policies and reports written seeking Executive sign off
13. The service have also been praised for this year's subsidy return. It is the highest level of achievement known to the service. Following a rigorous check by External Auditors only one small change was required to the return. This not only demonstrates the quality of the data being processed but equally ensures that the service are maximising income to the Council.

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COUNCILLOR ASHLEY WATERS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 24th March 2021

DECISIONS

LIP Consultation – Executive 16 February 2021

1. Middlesbrough Council is mandated to produce a Local Implementation Plan (LIP), in line with the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) produced by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA).

The LIP provides the local context and content as to how the local Highway Authority (Middlesbrough Council) will deliver local transport priorities and initiatives to ensure delivery of the overarching objectives of the STP. The LIP also includes both Mayoral and Strategic Plan objectives; identifying the proposals that will assist in achieving these objectives simultaneously.

The draft LIP has been prepared following the STP being approved, and Middlesbrough Council is keen to engage with the public and consult public opinion on its approach to ensuring that the area develops its transport network appropriately. This was approved by Executive and the public consultation exercise will commence presently. Finding will be incorporated into a refined LIP and brought back for Executive consideration

TeesAMP Extension Contract variation 15 February 2021

2. The lettings at TeesAMP have progressed ahead of business case assumptions. Some prospective tenants have required some site adaptations to accommodate their needs and it is deemed appropriate to extend the existing works contract to ensure continuity of warranties, indemnities and standards.

Delegated Authority has been awarded to expedite a variation to the Development Management Agreement (DMA) between Middlesbrough Council and development partner, to formally contract new sections (or phases of development) in respect of the Executive approved Plot 9 yard expansion and the power upgrade at Plots 5.

Costs of such work form part of the rental agreement / business case and are cost neutral.

Middlehaven Strategic Partner and Masterplanning - Executive 23 February 2021

3. The different investments and developments emerging at Middlehaven have the opportunity to make a significant difference to the area, and to the economy, but need to be planned in a coherent way. There is a danger of different schemes competing with each other, infrastructure requirements falling between the boundaries of different schemes, and the phasing of activity working against what the wider market can accommodate.

There is therefore a need to have a clear, up to date strategic masterplan for developing Middlehaven, and for capitalising on the financial opportunities currently available. It is also necessary for the Council to work closely with the relevant development partner to be able to put the strategic masterplan into practice, and ensure that the available funding opportunities are not missed.

The Executive report sets out how the Council proposes to work in partnership with a strategic partner (BCEGI) to develop the masterplan for developing Middlehaven, develop the necessary site infrastructure, and move into the delivery phase on multiple projects. This will form a sound basis for the coherent and strategic development of Middlehaven with an experienced investment partner.

STRATEGIC

4. Announced at the Budget announcement of 3 March 2021, Middlesbrough Council and Middlesbrough Town Deal Board has been successful in securing £21.9m of Government (Towns Fund) funding to deliver a package of interventions to regenerate Middlesbrough's economy and communities.

Funding will enable the investment in reshaping Middlesbrough's economy and community infrastructure. Investment priorities include:

- Development of residential and commercial floorspace at Middlehaven;
- Restoration and enhancement of community / heritage assets (Old Town Hall, Captain Cook Pub, Exchange Square, Central Library);
- Rebalancing office and residential space in the town centre;
- New community centres at Southlands and Nunthorpe;
- Allocations to each Ward for communities to design and deliver their own priorities for local improvements; and,
- Investment in the expansion of Middlesbrough College campus and services.

The next stage in the funding process includes:

- The Town Deal Board prioritising the funding programme to reflect the funding offer (£25m ask = £21.9m awarded);
- Agreeing the heads of terms for funding;
- Prioritising a shortlist of 'fast track' business cases; and,
- Building / detailing the business cases for strategic investment projects.

Funding will be deployed from the 2021/2022 financial year.

Future High Streets Fund****

5. Middlesbrough Council was announced as securing a provisional funding offer of £14.1m on 26 December 2020. Since this time, the programme has been prioritised to reflect the

available funding award. Final business case documentation has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the revised business case has been approved****.

Work now commences to deliver the programme objectives which is largely based around the rebalancing and repurposing of the town centre economy to include a greater proportion of non-retail / leisure uses; as well as a significant investment in urban living.

Project elements include:

- Captain Cook Square Repurposing and Leisure Adaptations £9.1m
- Urban Living within the town centre £3.5m
- Town centre transport infrastructure £1.0m
- Culture and Events £0.25m
- Covid adaptation grants £0.25m

Delivery will commence in April 2021 and the bulk of the investment will be made during the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years. This will aid Middlesbrough's recovery post covid; create new employment opportunities and revitalize our town centre economy – for the long term.

Post Covid - Recovery Programme

6. Government resources have aided in direct grant support to businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. Resources have also been earmarked for how some additional government funding can be utilised to support Middlesbrough's business community to stabilise, recover and grow, when the pandemic restrictions are gradually eased.

Based on consultation with businesses, agencies such as the federation of small business (FSB) and the North east Chamber of Commerce. A recovery package is being designed which will offer businesses advice and guidance to reposition their business in a post covid world and, where business cases have compelling investment appraisals, the support package can deploy capital grant funding to enable businesses to invest in adaptations and growth capital.

The outline programme will be presented to Executive for consideration in the coming months, when there is a clear timetable for restrictions to be eased on a sustainable basis.

PERFORMANCE

Commercial Lettings

7. TeesAMP and Centre Square continue to buck the trend in terms of very positive lettings. The sites are likely to be nearing fully let by the end of 2021 and this is in advance of the anticipated business case occupation rates.

Fit out works are well advanced in Centre Square with tenant businesses scheduling occupation from March 2021.

Boho 8

- Works are nearing completion for the Boho 8 business accommodation facilities. Practical completion will be reached in late March 2021 and members will be offered an opportunity to visit the facilities, as covid restrictions allow.

The units have certainly has caught the interest of many new and growing businesses, with advanced lettings discussions in place to occupy the units as soon as is practicable.

Road Safety

- Middlesbrough Residents can now access a set of free road safety guides at: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/roadsafety . The guides cover a range of road safety topics from advice on child car seats/family cycling and older road users plus much more. As lockdowns come to an end it is important that we all remember that the roads/traffic levels will also get back to normal and the risks will increase so the guides can help remind us of how to manage those risks.
The Road Safety Team have also prepared a ‘Back to School – Road Safety Advice’ information advice leaflet ready to send out to schools when pupils return on 8th March as children in particular have seen throughout lockdown examples of people walking in the roads and may need reminding to get back to good habits when near roads.

Depending on when this used, Ashley / Andy should have approved the new pedestrian crossing on Avenue, which was a result of ward member, Council and public collaboration and consultation. Let me know if you want something on that?

Sustainable Transport – Rail Station

- Work has now begun on the long-awaited platform extension at Middlesbrough Station, which will realise the ambition to deliver a direct London service for the residents of Middlesbrough; providing improved connectivity in and out of the region and access to additional inward investment opportunities. This will be the first stage of the major redevelopment programme, which will see a complete refurbishment of the former undercroft area. This will significantly uplift the public realm around the station, along with improving connectivity to and from Middlesbrough via a new gateway to the town.



INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

Linthorpe Road Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan – Consultation

11. Middlesbrough Council is, through consultation, committed to develop a workable walking and cycling solution in Linthorpe Road which provides opportunity for more walkers and cyclists to enjoy central Middlesbrough, whilst investing in transformative changes to ensure the character of this vital and vibrant town centre area is protected and enhanced. All this, while further improving the local area, public health and wellbeing and improving safety for all road users.

The Council (in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority) has consulted widely in a conversation to explore the benefits, issues and concerns of stakeholders; in order to design a proposal of maximum benefit. This included writing to all directly impacted (front facing) businesses and residents within the scope of the proposal; along with other stakeholders. All were encouraged to submit a response to the survey. The consultation was live between 14/12/2020 and 29/1/2021, extended to 3/2/2021 allowing additional time for stakeholders to present their views. 439 responses were received in total.

These responses have been considered in detail and Executive will be presented the findings of the consultation, and take a decision on the adapted proposal, which provides mitigation to the issues raised.

EU Transition Business Support

12. Middlesbrough Council officers have been supporting a small number of Middlesbrough businesses who have faced additional administrative burdens as a consequence of the EU transitional arrangements and Exports to the EU.

Council officers deployed specialist advice and made links with appropriate government departments to lobby and directly support businesses to maintain their export programmes.

Whilst the impact of EU withdrawal has created very specific issues for a handful of specialist companies, generic advice has not been in great demand. Businesses have committed a huge amount of time and expense in preparation and have taken direct action to minimise the transitional impact on their businesses. For this they should be applauded. Their hard work has minimised disruption and ensured that export trade continues as close to normality as possible.

Council officers continue to respond to support requirements of businesses and monitor the emerging issues; which are subsequently reported back to the appropriate government ministry, for urgent resolution.

Traffic Management - Church Lane / St Mary's Walk

13. Following the removal of the experimental road closure on Church Lane in early January, the Council has arranged for additional speed surveys on both Church Lane and St. Mary's Walk and speed enforcement from the Police. The large scale Origin / Destination survey of the estate covering the six entry / exit points, to identify the actual levels of through traffic, has been organised for late March. The results of the survey

will be analysed and there will be further public consultation on options to address the traffic issues in the local area and which options are the most suitable way forward.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

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DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
19 Jan 2021	Executive	CONFIDENTIAL - Project Funding		Yes
19 Jan 2021	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 Jan 2021	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 Jan 2021	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 Jan 2021	Executive	CONFIDENTIAL - Project Funding		Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
19 Jan 2021	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 Jan 2021	Executive	Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Teesside Crematorium	To provide a response to the Scrutiny Panel report	No
2 Feb 2021	Executive Member - The Mayor	Extension of IT Provision in Schools for Virtual Learning	To support an initiative to ensure Middlesbrough's children and young people have access to IT hardware and internet connection to enable remote virtual learning.	Yes
2 Feb 2021	Executive Member - The Mayor	Middlesbrough Council support for TVCA bid for Freeport status	the report be noted and to support the submission of a Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) led bid to the Government by 5 th February 2021 for a Freeport in the Tees Valley sub-region.	Yes
11 Feb 2021	Executive Member - Communities and Education	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 employees along with proposed actions for the next 12 months	No
16 Feb 2021	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 Feb 2021	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	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			landlord licensing	
16 Feb 2021	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 Feb 2021	Executive	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 Feb 2021	Executive	Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel's Final Report - Physical Activity for Older people (aged 65+) Service response	To provide a service response to the recommendations in the Scrutiny report around physical activity in older people.	No
16 Feb 2021	Executive	Middlesbrough Council Local Implementation Plan	That the Executive approves the draft LIP to proceed to public consultation.	Yes
26 Feb 2021	Executive	Improving Alleyways by Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Policy to tackle crime and anti social behaviour through the use of CCTV, increased enforcement activity community engagement and changes to waste management.	Yes
26 Feb 2021	Executive	The Future Development of Middlehaven	Arrangements for the future development of Middlehaven, including the partnership arrangements with a major developer.	Yes

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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
16 Mar 2021	Executive	EXEMPT Council Future Office Accommodation - Preferred Option - Part B	That Executive considers the building options that have been explored for the future accommodation of Council Staff and approves: a) a departure from Centre North East being considered the preferred option due to changing circumstances; b) Fountains Court being the preferred option for the future accommodation of staff; and, c) the purchase of Fountains Court.	Yes
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Corporate Parenting Strategy	That Executive ratifies and supports the Corporate Parenting Strategy	No
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Recycling and Education Report	A report on developing a Waste & Recycling Education / Awareness programme across Middlesbrough to increase recycling.	Yes
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Acceptance of the Holiday Activities Fund 2021 grant	That the Executive approves the acceptance of the Holiday Activities Fund 2021 grant.	Yes
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Teessaurus Park Improvement	That Executive approve the proposal to further develop and improve	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			Teessaurus Park.	
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Tender Pipeline Approval 2021/22	To approve Middlesbrough Council's tender pipeline for 2021/22 and agree delegation of award to the relevant Director.	Yes
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Voluntary Registration of Land at The Avenue, Nunthorpe as a Village Green / Nunthorpe Village Green	That Executive approves an application seeking the voluntary registration of land at The Avenue, Nunthorpe as a Village Green.	No
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Children's Services Improvement Programme Quarterly update	To provide members of the Executive with an overview of the strategic and operational actions undertaken in the last quarter against the Children's Services Action Plan 2020/21	Yes
16 Mar 2021	Executive	Council Future Office Accommodation - Preferred Option - Part A	Revisiting the options appraisal for the Council's future accommodation and identifying the preferred option.	Yes

SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
30 Mar 2021	Executive Member - Deputy Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Social Care	Youth Services Update	To provide Executive with an update on the outcome of the tender for Youth Services and progress on mobilisation of the services for go live on 1st April 2021.	Yes
Before 31 Mar 2021	Executive	Hemlington Grange - Statement		No
Before 31 Mar 2021	Executive	Community Asset Transfers	That the Executive approves the recommendation to seek expression of interests for future potential execution of community asset transfer leases for Brambles Farm Community Centre CC, Langridge Initiative Centre, The International Centre and 22 Holylake, seeking more detail from the four organisations that have already expressed an interest and allowing for a further six weeks to enable other parties to submit their own expressions of interest in the four locations.	Yes
Before 31 Mar 2021	Executive	Community Benefit From Land Sales Policy	TBC	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
13 Apr 2021	Executive	Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan	To adopt the Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan.	Yes
13 Apr 2021	Executive Member - The Mayor	Strategic Plan 2021-24: approach to delivery	To endorse the proposed milestone plans to ensure achievement of the Council's strategic priorities for the 2021-24 period.	No
13 Apr 2021	Executive	2021/22 Transport and Infrastructure Capital Programme	That Executive approves the proposals to allocate funding to deliver infrastructure as identified within the report.	Yes
13 Apr 2021	Executive	Process to Administer Grant Funding	<p>This report seeks support for implementing a Policy for the Council receiving and managing grant funding received from the Government and other third parties.</p> <p>It also requests approval for the delegation to officers of decisions relating to the distribution and expenditure of any such funding in consultation with the Section 151 Officer. Where there is an element of discretion with regard to the allocation of funding, that officers have delegated authority to make amendments to the scheme and the criteria for receiving grants, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer.</p>	Yes
13 Apr 2021	Executive	Green Strategy	That Executive approve the adoption of the Green Strategy, following the public consultation.	Yes
13 Apr 2021	Executive	Nunthorpe Commitments	A series of commitments to the people of Nunthorpe about future developments	Yes
11 May 2021	Executive	Schools Capital Programme 2021	The report updates the rolling programme of capital investment in the town's schools and seeks approval of new schemes to be added to the	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			programme for delivery in the academic years 2021/22 and 2022/223	
11 May 2021	Executive	MDC Tollesby	Confirming the financial arrangement for the development at Tollesby by the Middlesbrough Development Company.	Yes
11 May 2021	Executive	Virtual School Annual Report	This report sets out the work the Virtual School has undertaken over the last year to support the educational progress of our looked after children. It provides both a narrative and a detailed numerical analysis of impact to enable the achievements of the children to be fully understood.	No
11 May 2021	Executive	Community Safety Plan 2020-2022	That Executive approves the Community Safety Plan 2020-2022 as agreed by the Community Safety Partnership on 23rd October 2020.	Yes
18 May 2021	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

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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	24 March 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.

Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

The Panel met on 27 January 2021 at which Members were provided with an overview of Council communications and how this related to elected Members. The Panel heard that the Marketing and Communications team were developing a Communications strategy that was more aligned with the Council's strategic objectives.

The Panel also heard that Member engagement with Council communications could be beneficial for Middlesbrough as they act as brand ambassadors. However, the Panel also discussed that, in some cases, Members were not using Council communications in the most effective way. A report for the Panel is currently being drafted.

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

At the meeting on 13 January 2021, the Panel heard from the CCG in terms of future work in relation to Palliative and End of life care. The Panel agreed that as the Tees Valley had been chosen to be an exemplar site to support the overarching national agenda for palliative end of life care, the panel would reconsider the issue at a later date.

At the meetings of 10 February 2021 and 10 March 2021, the Panel heard from officers in relation to support for carers. However following agenda distribution for the March meeting the Panel learnt that there was to be a large scale South Tees Carers procurement process which would be completed by October 2021. The panel therefore also agreed to relook at this issue after the procurement process was completed.

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on 18 January 2021 to consider further evidence in respect of its review of Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools. At the meeting, the Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships; the Strategic Lead for Inclusion and Specialist Support Services; the Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision; the Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist; the Head of Inclusion, Assessment and Review and the Assessment and Quality Assurance Manager were in attendance to provide:

- detailed information on the causes of pupil behaviour problems e.g. unmet educational or other needs;
- data on the characteristics of excluded pupils (whether permanently or for a fixed period); and
- case study examples demonstrating how certain factors can impact on behaviour, from a child or young person's perspective.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 22 March 2021. At this meeting, Members will consider written evidence from a selection of schools highlighting:

- the challenges faced by schools in dealing with poor behaviour;
- the causes of pupil behaviour problems e.g. unmet educational or other needs;
- the types of sanctions used by schools that can impact on a pupil's educational outcomes and life chances; and
- the successful and proactive strategies and solutions used to promote positive behaviour, manage poor behaviour and prevent and tackle bullying.

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

The Scrutiny Panel met on 18 January and 15 February 2021.

On 18 January, the Fostering Service Team Manager provided the Panel with further evidence in relation to the Panel's current scrutiny topic – focussing on foster carers in Middlesbrough, including information on recruitment – and the Children's Services Programme Manager delivered a presentation in relation to the Corporate Parenting Strategy.

The Executive Director of Children's Services was also in attendance to provide a verbal update on Covid recovery in Children's Services and it was agreed that this would become a standard agenda item in accordance with the Children's Services improvement plan.

On 15 February, the Executive Director of Children's Services provided an update in relation to the Commissioner's six month review of Children's Services and it was noted that his report and recommendations had been accepted by the Secretary of State.

The Panel also received a verbal update on Covid recovery in Children's Services.

The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 22 March 2021.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

The Panel met on 21 January and 18 February 2021 where it considered the following:

At its January meeting the Panel received information from representatives of the British Esports Association as part of its review into Cultural Events in a post Covid world. The Panel received information about the growth, development and impact of esports in the UK, and globally. After hearing how esports had an international audience of approximately 645 million people and international revenue streams totalling \$950 million, the Panel were keen to understand how Middlesbrough could capitalize on such growth.

The Panel learned that holding an esports event in Middlesbrough was achievable and something that could complement the Council's existing cultural offer.

At its February meeting the Panel received an update regarding the Community Safety Partnership. The update informed Members about how the partnership was structured and how the Council was one agency that worked alongside other key agencies in delivering the partnership's agenda. The Panel were also informed that some of the Partnership's achievements included securing £400,000 of Safer Streets Funding that was being used to address acquisitive crime in Newport. The funding has resulted in the acquisition and deployment of extra CCTV cameras, void property screening and alley gate management refresh.

The Panel also received an overview of the Neighbourhood Warden Service as per the Panel's request that a review be undertaken in that area.

The Panel's meeting scheduled for March 18 2021 had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of required guests. The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 15 April 2021 at which updates will be received on RIPA and Operation Phoenix (Cleveland Police).

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 20 January and 23 February 2021.

At the January meeting the Panel heard from CityFibre about the company's business and plans for investment in Middlesbrough, and post Covid-19 recovery. CityFibre intended to invest around £40 million installing superfast broadband in Middlesbrough, with an initial target of 70 to 80 thousand homes being connected. The Panel also received an update on flood risk management from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

At the February meeting, the Head of Environment Services and Senior Area Care Manager presented the Council's updated draft Tree Policy for the Panel's consideration. The Panel also approved a Final Report on Pest Control.

The next meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 24 March 2021, when the Panel will be receiving information in relation to the Middlesbrough Council's draft Local Implementation Plan (LIP) and an update on the Future High Streets and Towns Fund bids as part of the ongoing scrutiny review into Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19.

Health Scrutiny Panel

The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 19 January 2021, 2 and 16 February 2021. At the January meeting the panel received a setting the scene presentation in respect of its new topic 'Health for Wealth' and received an update from the Director of Public Health (South Tees) and the Director of Commissioning and Medical Director at Tees Valley CCG in response of the local Public Health / NHS response to COVID.

At the February meetings the Panel received information in respect of the Government's £14 investment and Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) to protect communities from the crime caused by illegal drugs. Project ADDER brings together partners including the police, local councils and health services and will run for 3 financial years in 5 areas with some of the highest rates of drug misuse: Blackpool, Hastings, Middlesbrough, Norwich and Swansea Bay. Middlesbrough has been awarded £4.58 million as part of this project.

The Panel was delighted to receive news on this investment and the work that will be undertaken using the funding was of key importance to the Panel's current review on the topic of Opioid Dependency: What happens next? At the 16 February 2021 meeting the panel considered its Draft Final Report on this topic, which was subsequently approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Board at its meeting on 11 March 2021.

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee

The Committee met on 29 January 2021 and considered the following:-

- North East Ambulance Service Performance Update
- Covid Update
- Tees Suicide Prevention Plan
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust: Our Big Conversation – Draft Strategic Framework
- Work Programme and Future Meetings

The Committee met on 19 March 2021 and considered the following:-

- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust: Our Big Conversation – Draft Strategic Framework
- Community Mental Health Service Framework
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust Quality Accounts Update
- Work Programme and Future Meetings

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;
- Investment Plan Delivery Update - Q2
- Delegated Decisions;
- Meetings and Forward Plan;
- Confidential – Freeport Bid

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

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

19 January 2021 – Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – Teesside Crematorium – Service Response

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:

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Democratic Services

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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance and Executive Member for Finance and Governance
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Submitted to:	Council – 24 th March 2021
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Subject:	Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
That Full Council agree the Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	The Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council’s policies on remuneration of its staff in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The policy must be approved by full Council and is subject to annual review. The Pay Policy Statement sets out details of the various employee policies relevant to the remuneration of Chief Officers in operation within the Council. The actual content of those policies included within the statement will continue to be determined by current mechanisms.

Ward(s) affected
Not Applicable

What is the purpose of this report?

The purpose of the report is to set out the Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022 for consideration by full Council.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

It is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 (Section 38) that the Council produces an annual Pay Policy Statement, in line with supplementary statutory guidance. The policy must be approved by full Council.

Report Background

To comply with the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to approve a Pay Policy Statement setting out details of the Council's policies on the following:

- Level of remuneration of Chief Officers
- Level of remuneration paid upon recruitment
- Payment of increments
- Enhanced / additional pension contributions
- Payment of bonuses, performance related pay and severance pay for Chief Officers
- Awarding additional fees for election work
- The creation of new posts with a salary package over £100,000 per annum
- Employment of individuals already in receipt of a local government pension
- Employment of ex-employees as Chief Officers under a contract for services

The Pay Policy Statement also sets out:

- The Council's approach to the pay of its lowest paid employees
- The relationship between Chief Officer pay and the Council's remaining employees as set out within the context of the pay multiple calculation
- How the Pay Policy Statement will be publicised

An additional paragraph has been added to the Pay Policy Statement on the development of a policy and procedure for settlement agreements and to introduce a cap on payments (paragraph 19).

What decision(s) are being asked for?

That Full Council agree the Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022.

Why is this being recommended?

The Pay Policy Statement is being recommended to ensure that the Council complies with statutory requirements in relation to publication of information required by the Localism Act 2011.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

The only other option would be not to approve the Pay Policy Statement. This is not recommended because it would result in failure to comply with the Localism Act 2011.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

As set out above - the Pay Policy Statement is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011.

Financial

There are no direct implications arising from this report. It sets out financial detail but this detail is determined by the Council's range of HR policies that are in place.

Policy Framework

The Pay Policy Statement forms part of the Policy Framework, meaning that it is a decision reserved for full Council. Once agreed it will replace the previous year's statement, therefore amending the policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

An Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Pay Policy Statement sets out details of policies already in place within the Council, rather than establishing policy in its own right. The policies set out within the statement have previously been subject to the Impact Assessment process, where required.

Risk

The statement sets out how the Council remunerates its senior officers and provides assurance that it is employing fair and transparent employment practices.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

Once approved the current statement will be published on the Council's website.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2021/2022 Pay Policy Statement

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Council	2020/2021 Pay Policy Statement	October 2020

Contact: Nicola Finnegan, Head of Human Resources
Email: nicola_finnegan@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2021/2022

INTRODUCTION

1. This Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's policies on remuneration of its staff in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The policy must be approved by full Council and is subject to annual review. Any amendments during the course of the year must also be considered by full Council. The Pay Policy Statement will be published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after approval or amendment.
2. The Localism Act 2011 does not require the Council to consider individual schools therefore the arrangements set out in this document do not extend to members of staff employed within schools.

DEFINITIONS

3. The Localism Act 2011 defines the following as Chief Officer posts:
 - Head of Paid Service designated under Section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989
 - Monitoring Officer designated under Section 5(1) of that Act
 - Any statutory Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2(6) of that Act
 - Any non-statutory Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2(7) of that Act
 - Any Deputy Chief Officer mentioned in Section 2(8) of that Act.
4. The following posts within the Council fall within the above definition:
 - Chief Executive
 - Executive Directors
 - Strategic Directors
 - Directors
 - Monitoring Officer (Director of Legal and Governance Services)
5. The lowest paid employee of the Council (£9.81 per hour) is paid above the Real Living Wage (previously the Living Wage Foundation Rate) of £9.50.
6. Apprenticeships have been excluded as the salaries attributable to apprenticeships are largely in line with those set out within National Minimum Wage legislation however the Council pay £4.55 in year 1 regardless of age.
7. The median salary figure for the organisation is the middle value of all employees' salaries listed in numerical order. The median salary figure is then used to calculate the organisation's pay multiple and is calculated on a fixed date each year, as at 31 December.

CONTENT

8. To comply with the Localism Act 2011, the Council is required to approve a Pay Policy Statement setting out details of the Council's policies on the following:
- Level of remuneration of Chief Officers
 - Level of remuneration paid upon recruitment
 - Payment of increments
 - Enhanced / additional pension contributions
 - Payment of bonuses, performance related pay and severance pay for Chief Officers
 - Awarding additional fees for election work
 - The creation of new posts with a salary package over £,100,000 per annum
 - Employment of individuals already in receipt of a local government pension
 - Employment of ex-employees as Chief Officers under a contract for services
9. The Pay Policy Statement also sets out:
- The Council's approach to the pay of its lowest paid employees
 - The relationship between Chief Officer pay and the Council's remaining employees as set out within the context of the pay multiple calculation
 - How this Pay Policy Statement will be publicised

CHIEF OFFICER REMUNERATION

Remuneration of Chief Officers

10. The level of remuneration paid to Chief Officers is based on the Local Government Association Scheme and the policy on this was approved in December 2005 by the Mayor. The terms and conditions of Chief Officer Employment contracts incorporate nationally agreed Joint Negotiating Committee terms and conditions.

Post	Salary Band
Chief Executive	£152,670
Executive Director	£111,974 - £123,754
Strategic Director	£105,811
Joint Director of Public Health ¹	£88,984 - £94,546
Monitoring Officer ²	£88,984 - £94,546
Director Level 1	£88,984 - £94,546
Director Level 2	£77,860 - £83,423

Level of remuneration paid upon recruitment

11. The Council's policy on pay upon recruitment is set out within the Recruitment & Selection Policy Statement and Guide, which applies to all employees. The Starting Salaries Policy states that upon recruitment to a post, remuneration will begin at the bottom of the pay band unless agreed otherwise by the Director in exceptional circumstances. In the case of Chief Officers, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance would be required to agree any variation to this policy.

¹ Director of Public Health has joint responsibility for Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland

² Currently allocated to the Director of Legal and Governance Services

Payment of increments and increases in salary

12. The Council's policy on the payment of increments is that all employees with less than six months' service on the first of April will receive their first increment six months after appointment, promotion or re-grading. Otherwise all employee increments are payable on an annual basis on the first of April. Other increases in pay for any employee will only occur where:

- There is a pay award agreed by way of national / local collective bargaining
- There is a significant change to a job role which results in a higher salary being appropriate which is confirmed by an appropriate job evaluation process
- Recruitment and Retention payments which, following consideration of the circumstances at the time, are deemed necessary and in the best interests of the Council and which are determined under the relevant policy relating to such payments.

Enhanced / additional pension contributions

13. The Council's policy on enhanced or additional contributions to pensions is set out within the Teesside Pension Fund Policy Statement and the Council's Statement of Policy regarding the application of the discretionary elements of the Local Government Pension Scheme regulation. These apply to all employees. These statements set out:

- Allocation of employee contribution bands
- Awarding extra benefits for early retirement situations
- Extending time limits for certain provisions
- Setting up a shared cost Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) scheme
- Waiving actuarial reductions for early / flexible retirements

Payment of bonuses, performance related pay and severance pay

14. The Council's policy is that it does not operate bonus or performance related pay for its employees.

15. The policy on severance and redundancy pay is set out within the Reviews, Consultation and Redundancy Policy, which applies to all employees. This states that calculation of any redundancy payment to an employee will be in accordance with the Council's policy in relation to Redundancy. Redundancy payments will be based on age and years' service in line with the Statutory Redundancy table up to a maximum of 30 weeks, however the Council retains the discretion under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales Regulations) 2006 to offer discretionary payments. Such discretionary elements will be approved by the Chief Officer Appointments Committee as a Committee of full Council.

16. Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee has approved a temporary enhancement of the Council's Voluntary Redundancy Scheme. This policy currently enables a multiplier of 1.25 to be applied to voluntary redundancies that arise either as a result of a review within a specific service area or from time to time within a Council wide scheme.

17. Where consideration to allow voluntary redundancy/early retirement to terminate a contract of employment any redundancy payment, pension strain costs and/or salary in

lieu of notice total amounts to a single payment of £100,000 or more, full Council or a committee thereof will be given an opportunity to vote before the package is approved.

18. Where an employee is contractually entitled to a payment in excess of £100,000 on the grounds of compulsory redundancy, failure to comply with this would place the Council in breach of contract and leave it exposed to litigation. Therefore, there is an exemption from the requirement to give Council an opportunity to vote on those cases where the payment of a severance package does not involve any discretion, this is because the Council is legally bound to comply with severance terms in any event.
19. An HR policy is being developed specifically for settlement agreements to outline the procedure and approval routes. It is proposed that any settlement payment, pension strain costs and payment in lieu of notice will not exceed an amount equivalent to 26 weeks' pay. Once implemented the policy will apply to existing staff as well as new starters to the Council.
20. In the absence of any exceptional circumstances which render it necessary in the best interests of the Council to do so, the Council will generally not re-engage any individual who has previously been employed by the Council and left that employment with the benefit of a severance, early retirement or redundancy payment.

Awarding additional fees

21. The policy on the payment of additional fees is set out within the Council's Constitution and decision making is delegated to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee. The Council's policy on the payment of additional fees to officers within the scope of this statement is that fees for election duties for Chief Officers are not included in salaries. These are determined separately in consultation with the other Tees Valley Councils. For contested elections, the fees are based on an agreed sum for the first 1,000 electors and a further sum for each additional 1,000 electors or fraction thereof, and a set agreed sum for uncontested elections. This policy of payment is approved by the Council's Corporate Affairs Committee and is in line with national guidance and legislation.

Creation of new posts with a salary package over £100,000 per annum

22. In line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, Council will be given the opportunity to approve salary packages for any new posts that would come within the scope of this Pay Policy Statement, defined within the Act as posts over £100,000 per annum. This includes any additional fees, charges or allowances that would be routinely payable. The approach to be taken when creating a new post is set out within the Constitution. Where a Chief Officer post is created which is under £100,000 the usual processes will be followed as set out within the Recruitment and Selection Policy and the Pay Policy Statement will be amended accordingly.

Employment of individuals already in receipt of a local government pension

23. The approach to the employment of individuals already in receipt of a Local Government Pension is set by the administering authority for the pension. The Local Government Teesside Pension Fund has resolved not to abate pensions on re-employment, having regard to the enactment of regulations introducing flexible retirement, unless an enhanced ill-health retirement has been awarded. Some pensioners have been awarded extra pensions by their former employers to compensate them for retiring early. When this

happens, the extra pensions, called compensatory added years (CAYs), are paid along with the Fund's retirement pension. These extra pensions may be abated upon re-employment or upon subsequent retirement, in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

Employment of ex-employees as Chief Officers under a contract for services

24. The Council's position is that this is generally discouraged, however there may be some specific circumstances where employment of an ex-employee under these terms could be the most effective and efficient way of meeting the Council's needs. If this situation applies formal approval must be sought from the Chief Executive in their role as Head of Paid Service.

Chief Officers' Tax and National Insurance

25. The Council does not enter into arrangements with individual employees to minimise their tax and national insurance contributions.

REMUNERATION OF THE LOWEST PAID EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE COUNCIL

Lowest paid employees

26. As at 31st December 2020 the lowest FTE salary within the Council grading structure is £18,933.

The Council's approach to the pay of its lowest paid employees

27. The Council is committed to ensuring that pay and reward policies are fair and that the needs of the lowest paid employees are properly considered. The Council has completed the job evaluation process to ensure that all employees receive a fair and equal rate of pay for the work that they undertake. The lowest paid employees are paid above the Real Living Wage (previously the Living Wage Foundation Rate) and the Council is signed up to nationally negotiated pay agreements.

Relationship between Chief Officer pay and other employees

28. The Council publishes its pay multiple in line with the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015. The pay multiple is the ratio between the highest paid employee (£152,670) and the median earnings across the organisation (see paragraph 7 for information on the method used to calculate this). The current median salary earned within the Council is £21,748. The current pay multiple is 7.0.

PUBLICATION OF THE PAY POLICY STATEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION

29. The Pay Policy Statement is published on the Council's website. Further information on the remuneration of Chief Officers can be found on the Open Data section of the Council's website in line with the Local Authorities (Data Transparency) Code 2015.

POTENTIAL FUTURE REVIEW

Recovery of Public Sector Exit Costs

30. The Government is seeking to introduce legislation to require senior officers in the public sector (those earning over £80,000) to repay termination payments in the event that they return to the public sector within a prescribed period, which is currently proposed as 12 months. The enabling provisions are set out in the Enterprise Act which received Royal Assent in May 2016. However, there is no clear timeline for the implementation of these provisions.

£95k Exit Cap on Public Sector Employees

31. The Restriction of Public Sector Exit Payments Regulations 2020 came into force on 4th November 2020. The government then dis-applied the regulations with effect from 12th February 2021 and they are currently working to revoke the regulations.
32. It is likely the Exit cap will be revisited at some point in the future, the Pay Policy Statement will be amended to reflect any changes in regulation as required.
33. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government also consulted on Reforming Local Government Exit Pay and therefore the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations would require amendment. Any changes are likely to coincide with the further review of the Exit Cap and the Pay Policy Statement will be amended to reflect any changes in regulation as required.

Report of:	Director of Regeneration and Culture, Richard Horniman Executive Member for Regeneration, Cllr Ashley Waters
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Submitted to:	Council 24th March 2021
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Subject:	Approval of the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
To approve the Modified Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the recommendations of the Independent Examiner’s Report.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	Yes	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
<i>Neighbourhood Plans are required to be compatible with a Council’s own strategic policies in the promotion or improvement of the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Plans are required to plan positively and not promote less development than set out in a Council’s development plan or undermine its strategic policies.</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Planning ensures close working with local communities to support them in preparing their Neighbourhood Plans, in order that they are aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area.</i>

Ward(s) affected
This report affects Marton West Ward. The Ward Members have been consulted on the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan and the Independent Examiner’s Report.

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To approve the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the recommendations of the Independent Examiner's Report.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

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

Report Background

4. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, parish councils and designated neighbourhood forums can prepare Neighbourhood Plans, that put in place a vision and general planning policies for the development, and use of land in their designated neighbourhood. Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Statutory Development Plan, against which future planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Area will be determined.
5. A Neighbourhood Plan should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider area and must be in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the strategic policies of a Council's Local Plan. In addition, Neighbourhood Plans are required to plan positively and not promote less development than set out in the Development Plan, or undermine its strategic policies.
6. In 2013 the Council approved the designation of the Marton West Ward as a Neighbourhood Area and the setting-up of the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum, enabling the Forum to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the designated area.
7. The Forum prepared and submitted its original Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, to the Council for examination in November 2015. Following an independent examination and a successful referendum result, the draft Neighbourhood Plan, was subsequently adopted by the Council in November 2016.
8. As a consequence of recent Ward boundary changes, part of the Coulby Newham Ward covering Newham Hall, Brass Castle Lane and De Brus Park areas, now lie within the Marton West Ward. The existing adopted Neighbourhood Plan for Marton West, does not therefore cover these areas, due to them not being within the Ward at the time of its preparation.
9. In August 2018, the Council received two applications from local De Brus Park residents to establish the Marton-in-Cleveland Neighbourhood Area and Forum in order to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for those areas outside of the existing designated Neighbourhood Area, but which now lie within the amended Marton West Ward boundary. These applications were refused in January 2019, on the basis that

they did not meet the guidelines on what constitutes a Neighbourhood Area or Forum.

10. The Council agreed however, to extend the Marton West Neighbourhood Area to incorporate those areas excluded from the designated area, and which now form part of the amended Ward boundary. It was also agreed that an early review should be undertaken, by the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum, of the adopted 2016 Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, in order to take account of the amended designated Neighbourhood Area.
11. The Marton West Neighbourhood Forum subsequently submitted a modified draft Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix 2) to the Council for examination in July 2020, incorporating the boundary changes, updating relevant adopted planning policies to reflect the enlarged Neighbourhood Area boundary, and to include additional proposed open space designations.
12. The Independent Examination into the modified Plan was undertaken in December 2020. The Examiner's Report (see Appendix 1) was issued at the end of January 2021, and recommended that the modified Plan should proceed to referendum stage of the Neighbourhood Planning process, subject to some minor amendments being made.

Next Steps

13. Once the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan is approved, a decision statement will be published on the Council's website, and the Plan will progress to the next stage in the Neighbourhood Planning process, which is the referendum stage. The referendum is arranged by the Council, and is conducted under current national electoral and referendum guidelines. The referendum only takes place in the area that the draft Neighbourhood Plan covers, in this case Marton West Ward. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', the Neighbourhood Plan must be adopted by the Council, and will become part of the statutory development plan alongside the Local Plan.
14. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all neighbourhood planning referendums have been suspended, in line with the Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Under these regulations, the earliest the referendum could take place is 6 May 2021. However, due to the advanced logistical preparations of the delayed elections it is not possible to hold a referendum alongside the elections for the Tees Valley Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner that are due to take place on 6 May. The referendum will be arranged as soon as practicable after this date.
15. Once a local planning authority has issued a decision statement detailing its intention to send the draft Neighbourhood Plan to referendum, the Plan can be given significant weight in decision-making process. The Plan will become a material planning consideration in the determination of future planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Area until the referendum can take place.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

16. To approve the Modified Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the recommendations of the Independent Examiner's Report.

Why is this being recommended?

17. To enable the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to the referendum stage in the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

18. Under the Regulations, a local authority can pursue a different course of action, by making its own modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan. If it does, the local authority must give clear reasons for doing so, and for departing from the Independent Examiner's recommendations. Also, additional public consultation would need to take place. There are also exceptional circumstances where the Secretary of State may be asked to intervene, where the local authority fails to submit the draft Neighbourhood Plan for referendum or departs from an Independent Examiner's recommendations.
19. Given that the Independent Examiner's Report and recommendations are well balanced and provide the necessary flexibility, it is not proposed to depart from the recommendations.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

20. The legal framework for preparing Neighbourhood Plans is set out in the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Marton West Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the legislation.
21. The Regulations require that the local authority make a decision on the Examiner's recommendations within five weeks from the day following receipt of their Report unless the local authority and the Neighbourhood Forum agree an alternative date. As it will not be possible to meet this five week deadline, it has been agreed with the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum that the decision statement on the Examiner's report and recommendations will be issued as soon as possible after the Plan is approved by the Council.
22. As outlined above in paragraph 14, all neighbourhood planning referendums have been suspended until 6 May 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A referendum will be arranged on the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan as soon as is practicable following the decision to approve the Plan.
23. Once the Council issues a decision statement detailing its intention to send the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum, the Plan can be given significant weight in decision-making process. The Plan will become a material planning consideration in the determination of future planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Area until the referendum can take place.

24. The Marton West Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development if more than 50% of those voting in the referendum are in support of the Plan. The outcome of the referendum, and the adoption of the Plan, will be subject to a future report to Council.

Financial

25. The financial implications as a result of this report, include both preparation and public engagement processes that the Council is required to undertake. In addition, there will be the following identified costs:

- Independent Examiner fees = £2,835
- Undertaking the referendum is estimated to be in the region of £15-20,000.

26. The above costs associated with the preparation of the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan including the independent examiner's fees and the referendum, are currently being met from established service budgets. The Government provides grant funding to local planning authorities to assist with the additional process costs. Under this grant funding, we will be eligible for £20,000, once there has been a successful referendum outcome and the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.

Policy Framework

27. The decision to approve the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan does not, in itself, alter the Council's Policy Framework. However, it will result in a referendum. If more than 50% of eligible voters support the Plan, it will ultimately result in its adoption. Upon adoption, the policy framework will change as the Plan becomes part of the statutory Development Plan.

Equality and Diversity

28. The Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan and the Independent Examiner's Report and Recommendations, have been subject to an initial Impact Assessment (IA), which accompanies this report (see Appendix 3). This identifies that a full IA is not necessary.

Risk

29. Under the Regulations, where a local authority fails to submit the draft Neighbourhood Plan for referendum or departs from an Independent Examiner's recommendations without providing clear reasons for doing so, the Secretary of State may be asked to intervene.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

30. Once the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan is approved, the recommendations of the Independent Examiner will be incorporated into the Plan. In accordance with the regulations, a decision statement will be issued and placed on the Council's website to publicise the approval of the Plan. A referendum will be arranged for the Marton West Ward.

31. The adoption of the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan will depend on the outcome of the referendum, and be subject to a future report to the Borough Council.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – The Independent Examiner’s Report and Recommendations.
- Appendix 2 – The submitted Marton West Modified Draft Neighbourhood Plan, showing the Examiner’s Recommendations.
- Appendix 3 – Initial Impact Assessment (IA).

Background papers

None.

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MARTON WEST MODIFIED NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Submission Draft Version

**A report to Middlesbrough Council
into the examination of the
Marton West Modified Neighbourhood
Development Plan
by Independent Examiner, Rosemary Kidd**

Rosemary Kidd, Dip TP, MRTPI

NPIERS Independent Examiner

26 January 2021

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to set out the community's wishes for the revised Marton West ward in Middlesbrough.
- 1.2 The initial Marton West Neighbourhood Plan was adopted on 30 November 2016. As a result of a boundary change and the decision of Middlesbrough Council not to establish the Marton in Cleveland Neighbourhood Forum and Area, the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan area has been extended to cover the entirety of the Marton West ward and to incorporate the De Brus Park area. The Modified Plan has been prepared to cover this extended area.
- 1.3 I have made a number of recommendations in this report in order to make the wording of the policies and their application clearer, including improvements to the mapping of sites referred to in policies to ensure that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions. Section 6 of the report sets out a schedule of the recommended modifications.
- 1.4 The main recommendations concern:
 - Revisions to clarify the wording of policies and the supporting text; and
 - Improvements to the mapping of policies.
- 1.5 Subject to the recommended modifications being made to the Neighbourhood Plan, I am able to confirm that I am satisfied that the Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the Basic Conditions and that the Plan should proceed to referendum.

2.0 Introduction

Background Context

- 2.1 This report sets out the findings of the examination into the Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan (MWMNP). The Ward of Marton West lies within the urban area of Middlesbrough.
- 2.2 The initial Marton West Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2016. Following a review of the ward boundary it was agreed to expand the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum to cover the whole of the revised ward. The Neighbourhood Area was amended on 7 January 2019 to incorporate the Newham Hall / Brass Castle Lane / De Brus Park area. The ward had a population in 2011 of 5235 people living in 2205 households.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner

- 2.3 I was appointed as an independent examiner to conduct the examination on the MWMNP by Middlesbrough Council with the consent of Marton West Neighbourhood Forum in September 2020. I do not have any interest in any land that may be affected by the MWMNP nor do I have any professional commissions in the area currently and I possess appropriate qualifications and experience. I am a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute with over 30 years' experience in local authorities preparing Local Plans and associated policies.

Role of the Independent Examiner

- 2.4 As an independent Examiner, I am required to determine, under paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, whether the legislative requirements are met:
 - The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body as defined in Section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
 - The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared for an area that has been designated under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
 - The Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the requirements of Section 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, that is the Plan must specify the period to which it has effect, must not include provisions relating to 'excluded development', and must not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Area; and
 - The policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated Neighbourhood Area in line with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 38A.

2.5 An Independent Examiner must consider whether a neighbourhood plan meets the “Basic Conditions”. The Basic Conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Basic Conditions are:

1. having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
2. the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
4. the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
5. prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan. The following prescribed condition relates to neighbourhood plans:
 - o Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (various Amendments) Regulations 2018) sets out a further Basic Condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation: that the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

2.6 The role of an Independent Examiner of a neighbourhood plan is defined. I am not examining the test of soundness provided for in respect of examination of Local Plans. It is not within my role to comment on how the plan could be improved but rather to focus on whether the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and Convention rights, and the other statutory requirements.

2.7 It is a requirement that my report must give reasons for each of its recommendations and contain a summary of its main findings. I have only recommended modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan (presented in bold type) where I consider they need to be made so that the plan meets the Basic Conditions and the other requirements.

The Examination Process

2.8 The presumption is that the neighbourhood plan will proceed by way of an examination of written evidence only. However the Examiner can ask for a public hearing in order to hear oral evidence on matters which he or she wishes to explore further or so that a person has a fair chance to put a case.

- 2.9 I have sought clarification on a number of matters from the Qualifying Body and/or the local planning authority in writing. I am satisfied that the responses received have enabled me to come to a conclusion on these matters without the need for a hearing.
- 2.10 I had before me background evidence to the plan which has assisted me in understanding the background to the matters raised in the Neighbourhood Plan. I have considered the documents set out in Section 5 of this report in addition to the Submission draft of the MWMNP 2016 - 2029.
- 2.11 I have considered the Basic Conditions Statement and the Consultation Statement as well as the Screening Opinions for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment. In my assessment of each policy I have commented on how the policy has had regard to national policies and advice and whether the policy is in general conformity with relevant strategic policies, as appropriate.
- 2.12 I have undertaken an unaccompanied site visit to the Plan area.

Legislative Requirements

- 2.13 The neighbourhood plan making process has been led by Marton West Neighbourhood Forum which is a “qualifying body” under the Neighbourhood Planning legislation which entitles them to lead the plan making process.
- 2.14 The Basic Conditions Statement confirms that the Neighbourhood Plan area is co-terminus with the boundaries of the current ward of Marton West and that there are no other neighbourhood plans relating to that area. The area was designated by Middlesbrough Council on 7 January 2019 as a Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.15 A neighbourhood plan must specify the period during which it is to have effect. The front cover of the Plan states that this is from 2016 to 2029, the same period as the previously made plan. In the interests of clarity, I would recommend that the plan should be dated from the year it is made.
- 2.16 The Plan does not include provision for any excluded development: county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 2.17 The Neighbourhood Development Plan should only contain policies relating to the development and use of land. The MWMNP policies are compliant with this requirement.
- 2.18 The Basic Conditions Statement confirms the above points and I am satisfied therefore that the MWMNP satisfies all the legal requirements set out in paragraph 2.4 above.

Recommendation 1:

Revise the commencement date of the Plan period to the year it is made (2021 – 2029).

The Basic Conditions

Basic Condition 1 – Has regard to National Policy

- 2.19 The first Basic Condition is for the neighbourhood plan “*to have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State*”. The requirement to determine whether it is appropriate that the plan is made includes the words “*having regard to*”. This is not the same as compliance, nor is it the same as part of the test of soundness provided for in respect of examinations of Local Plans which requires plans to be “*consistent with national policy*”.
- 2.20 The Planning Practice Guidance assists in understanding “appropriate”. In answer to the question “What does having regard to national policy mean?” the Guidance states a neighbourhood plan “*must not constrain the delivery of important national policy objectives.*”
- 2.21 In considering the policies contained in the Plan, I have been mindful of the guidance in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG) that:
- “Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like.”*
- 2.22 The NPPF of February 2019 (as amended) is referred to in this examination in accordance with paragraph 214 of Annex 1, as the plan was submitted to the Council after 24 January 2019.
- 2.23 The Planning Practice Guidance on Neighbourhood Plans states that neighbourhood plans should “*support the strategic policies set out in the Local Plan or spatial development strategy and should shape and direct development that is outside of those strategic policies*” and further states that “*A neighbourhood plan should, however, contain policies for the development and use of land. This is because, if successful at examination and referendum, the neighbourhood plan becomes part of the statutory development plan.*”
- 2.24 Table 1 in Appendix 2 of the Basic Conditions Statement includes comments on how the policies of the MWMNP have had regard to the NPPF. I consider the extent to which the plan meets this Basic Condition No 1 in Section 3 below.

Basic Condition 2 - Contributes to sustainable development

- 2.25 A qualifying body must demonstrate how a neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. The NPPF as a whole constitutes the Government's view of what sustainable development means in practice for planning. The NPPF explains that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.
- 2.26 Paragraph 38 of the MWMNP sets out how the plan will contribute to the delivery of sustainable development.
- 2.27 I am satisfied that the Plan contributes to the delivery of sustainable development and therefore meets this Basic Condition.

Basic Condition 3 – is in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan

- 2.28 The third Basic Condition is for the neighbourhood plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the area. The Development Plan relevant to the area comprises the Middlesbrough Housing Local Plan (adopted 2014), Middlesbrough Core Strategy (adopted 2008) and the Middlesbrough Regeneration DPD (adopted 2009). There are also saved policies from the 1999 Local Plan. A new Local Plan is being prepared but this is at an early stage with the publication of the Preferred Options draft programmed for January 2021. A Publication draft Local Plan dated 2018 has been withdrawn and I have not taken it into account in my examination.
- 2.29 Table 1 of Appendix 2 of the Basic Conditions Statement sets out the way that the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan conform to the relevant strategic planning policies.
- 2.30 I consider in further detail in Section 3 below the matter of general conformity of the Neighbourhood Plan policies with the strategic policies.

Basic Condition 4 – Compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements

- 2.31 A neighbourhood plan must be compatible with European Union obligations as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. Key directives relate to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. A neighbourhood plan should also take account of the requirements to consider human rights.
- 2.32 Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations as amended in 2015 requires either that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is submitted with a Neighbourhood Plan proposal or a determination from the responsible authority (Middlesbrough Council) that the plan is not likely to have “significant effects.”

- 2.33 A screening opinion for Strategic Environmental Assessment is included in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 of the Basic Conditions Statement. It concludes:
- “As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will occur from the implementation of the Modified Plan that were not considered and dealt with by the Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan for the Council. As such the Modified Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.”*
- 2.34 Consultation was carried out with the statutory environmental bodies on the SEA Screening Opinion in June 2020. Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England all responded to state that they agreed with the conclusion of the SEA Screening Assessment that an SEA is not required for the MWMNP as it is unlikely to have any significant positive or negative effects on the environment.
- 2.41 I have noted that question 4 of Appendix 3 states that there are no internationally designated nature conservation (SPA or SAC) sites within or near to Marton West. However, in order to demonstrate that the Basic Conditions have been met, a formal screening opinion under the Habitats Regulation Assessment should be carried out to confirm that the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 2.36 I have asked the QB and LPA to undertake the HRA Screening Opinion and consult Natural England on it. Middlesbrough Council prepared the HRA Screening Report dated November 2020. The conclusion was set out in paragraph 6.2:
- “The Marton West modified Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to be in general conformity with the relevant policies in Middlesbrough Council’s adopted development plan. The above proposed Neighbourhood Plan policies provide locally specific criteria and will not lead to likely significant effects on protected European sites.”*
- 2.37 Natural England was consulted on the screening report in November 2020 and their response was: *“Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites and has no objection.”*
- 2.38 I am satisfied that the SEA and HRA screening opinions have been carried out in accordance with the legal requirements.
- 2.39 The Basic Conditions Statement considers the impact of the Plan on Human Rights and concludes that: *“The Modified Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.”*

- 2.40 From my review of the Consultation Statement, I have concluded that the consultation on the MWMNP has had appropriate regard to Human Rights.
- 2.41 I am not aware of any other European Directives which apply to this particular Neighbourhood Plan and no representations at pre or post-submission stage have drawn any others to my attention. Taking all of the above into account, I am satisfied that the MWMNP is compatible with EU obligations and therefore with Basic Conditions Nos 4 and 5.

Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.42 I am required under The Localism Act 2011 to check the consultation process that has led to the production of the Plan. The requirements are set out in Regulation 14 in The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.43 The key stages of consultation on the preparation of MWMNP were:
- a) An initial informal consultation took place in October 2019 to raise awareness of residents and businesses to the need to modify the made Neighbourhood Plan following the review of the Marton West ward boundary change and the Council decision in January 2019 to recommend an early review of the made Neighbourhood Plan.
 - b) All properties in the Marton West ward were issued with a hand delivered newsletter and response form.
 - c) 40 responses were received, all of which supported the update and there were no objections.
 - d) Regular updates on progress were given at Marton West Community Council meetings, and through newsletters and the Marton West Community Facebook page.
 - e) From January 2019, the Neighbourhood Forum has regularly provided an update to residents on the progress of the modified Neighbourhood Plan, taking account of feedback from residents.
 - f) They are also summarised in the Community Council newsletter, which is hand delivered to every property in the ward on a two monthly basis, to coincide with the Community Council public meetings
 - g) The statutory pre-submission consultation was carried out in accordance with Regulation 14 from 20 January 2020 to 1 March 2020.
 - h) All residential and business properties in the Marton West ward were issued with a hand delivered newsletter and response form to comment on the Modified Plan. Links were provided to enable people to view the Modified Plan, which was also available via Facebook pages and the Council website. Material was also placed in the Marton Community Hub and Library.
 - i) Emails and letters were sent to all relevant statutory bodies included in Middlesbrough Council's Statement of Community Involvement.
 - j) 80 responses were received from residents and businesses, all of whom supported the Modified Plan.
 - k) There were no objections to the Modified Plan.

- 2.44 Middlesbrough Council undertook the consultation on the Submission Plan from 14 September to 26 October 2020. Consultation on the HRA screening report was carried out in November 2020 in accordance with their Statement of Community Involvement. This included letters and emails as well as a notice in the Community Newsletter. The documents were placed on the Council's and Community's websites and a press release was issued.
- 2.45 Forty responses were received by the deadline and a further two were received late. All responses supported the Plan, seven included comments.
- 2.46 It is clear from the evidence presented to me in the Neighbourhood Plan's Consultation Statement and the Council's Consultation Statement, that extensive consultation has been carried out during the preparation of the MWMNP.
- 2.47 I am satisfied that the pre-submission consultation and publicity has met the requirements of Regulations 14, 15 and 16 in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.48 This report is the outcome of my examination of the Submission Draft Version of the MWMNP. I am required to give reasons for each of my recommendations and also provide a summary of my main conclusions.

3.0 Neighbourhood Plan – As a whole

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is considered against the Basic Conditions in this section of the Report following the structure and headings in the Plan. Given the findings in Section 2 above that the plan as a whole is compliant with Basic Conditions No 4 (EU obligations) and other prescribed conditions, this section largely focuses on Basic Conditions No 1 (Having regard to National Policy), No 2 (Contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development) and No 3 (General conformity with strategic policies of the Development Plan).
- 3.2 Where modifications are recommended, they are presented and clearly marked as such and highlighted in bold print, with any proposed new wording in italics.
- 3.3 Basic Condition 1 requires that the examiner considers whether the plan as a whole has had regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. Before considering the policies individually, I have considered whether the plan as a whole has had regard to national planning policies and supports the delivery of sustainable development.
- 3.4 The PPG states that “*a policy should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area*”. I will consider this requirement as I examine each policy.
- 3.5 NPPF paragraph 2 states that “*Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.*” Policies in neighbourhood plans cannot determine whether any particular forms of development can be permitted. Development proposals will be considered against the policies of the development plan that is the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan. I am proposing modifications to Policies MW1 and MW7 to ensure they accord with this national policy.
- 3.6 The Neighbourhood Plan for the Marton West area was made in November 2016. The Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared following the extension of the Marton West Neighbourhood Area to include the entirety of Marton West Ward. The Background section of the Plan explains the background to the preparation to this Modified Plan.
- 3.7 The Plan area has been extended to include the De Brus Park area in the south of the ward. The new sections of the Modified Plan are clearly distinguishable in red text. Most relate to the De Brus Park area, although there are other revisions concerning other areas and other updates to the text.

- 3.8 The MWMNP contains policies on parks and green spaces, housing, the built environment and infrastructure.
- 3.9 The Plan includes background evidence that describes the context for the plan area and the policies. Significant additions have been made concerning the heritage assets of the area, particularly relating to the Newham Hall parkland. The section on Ethos and Character has been extended to include a section on the De Brus Park area.
- 3.10 The introductory section includes a summary of the Community Involvement in the Updated Plan. This may be removed from the final plan as this evidence is included in the Consultation Statement.
- 3.11 The policies are clearly distinguishable from the supporting text by surrounding coloured boxes. Revisions to the policies of the previously made plan are shown in red text.
- 3.12 The Plan contains a map of the plan area, a map of the De Brus Area and a Sites Location Map showing the sites referred to in the MWMNP. To avoid any confusion, it is recommended that the Sites Location Map should be retitled as the Policies Map and the key revised to show the relevant policy numbers. Other improvements are recommended to improve the clarity of the Policies Map.

Recommendation 2: Revise the title of the Sites Location Map to Policies Map. Include the relevant policy numbers in the key. The boundaries of all sites should be clearly distinguishable. Designations outside the plan area should be omitted from the Policies Map but may be shown on a diagram in the plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan

Vision and Objectives

- 3.13 The vision statement remains unchanged from the original Marton West Neighbourhood Plan. An amendment has been made to one of the aims for Eagle Park to refer to the wetland at West Moor Farm.
- 3.14 A new section has been added to set out 4 aims for De Brus Park. The second aim is to “Designate the parkland setting as Local Green Space”. I will consider under Policy MW1 whether this designation is appropriate. The other objectives are delivered through the policies of the Plan.
- 3.15 Paragraph 41 sets out the objectives for the Plan. These have been reviewed and updated as necessary and two new objectives added relating to ensuring that new housing has easy access to public transport and promoting superfast broadband.

Policy MW1 Parks & Green Spaces

- 3.16 This policy includes the most significant addition to the Neighbourhood Plan: the proposal to designate the parkland to the south of Newham Hall as a Local Green Space.
- 3.17 NPPF paragraph 100 sets out the criteria to be used to assess the suitability of sites for designation as Local Green Spaces. The background evidence report prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Forum entitled “*Justification for designation of Newham Hall Parkland as Local Green Space (LGS)*” has assessed the area against these criteria.
- 3.18 Middlesbrough Council has prepared a statement on the Submission MWMNP and is seeking clarification as to whether the proposed designation is the appropriate mechanism to be applied. They state that the majority of the proposed LGS has been designated as “primary open space” under saved Policy E8 of the Local Plan (1999). They consider that this is a more appropriate mechanism for protecting this open space. They state that this area, along with an additional parcel of land, was identified as a protected open space under Policy INFRA8 of the 2018 Publication Local Plan. They state that they are proposing to address this matter again through the emerging Local Plan, where the Preferred Options stage is currently timetabled for January 2021.
- 3.19 The area proposed as Local Green Space constitutes the parkland to the Grade II listed Newham Hall. The Hall was completed in 1880 for the ironmaster John Mills. Newham Hall and its associated buildings and parkland setting have largely been conserved. The report by Land Use Consultants prepared in 2017 “*Landscape and historic environment value of land south of Newham Hall, Middlesbrough*” includes the following description of the area:

“The site comprises an intact 19th-century designed landscape, laid out at the same time as construction of Newham Hall. It represents an important, and rare, survival of a 19th century industrialist’s mansion and farm complex. As a historic environment asset, the combination of hall and landscape is of at least regional significance, and potentially greater given the rarity of survival of ironmasters’ houses in the region and more generally.”

“The landscape of this parcel comprises deliberately laid out parkland with mature trees, providing a formal setting for Newham Hall at the centre of the area. The undulating landscape slopes down generally from south to north, and the level of enclosure varies accordingly across the area. The principal landscape features are the rows of mature specimen trees, lined up along field boundaries and along the sinuous access drive. The house is surrounded by a dense shelter belt which also contains the outbuildings and extends to the west. Clumps of woodland and roadside trees are also present. The lodge, gates and associated estate fencing form an important aspect of this landscape character.”

“It remains a tranquil area, physically and perceptually separate from the built up area to the north. Built development has occurred at De Brus Park in the east of the area, where a single row of large detached houses sits uneasily at the edge of the parkland. The Newham Hall parkland is self-contained with few direct relationships to the adjacent landscapes.

“The good condition, historical significance and distinctiveness of the designed landscape within this parcel makes the whole composition of this landscape sensitive to change.”

- 3.20 The Neighbourhood Forum’s supporting paper states that *“Historic England assessed the parkland for ‘registration’ purposes in October 2019. Their report sets out the special interest between the landscape and the Grade II Listed hall stating that it appears that the hall was carefully designed and orientated to provide ‘a framed view northwards to Ayresome Ironworks with the principal rooms enjoying views across the gardens, parks and out to the North York Moors and Roseberry Topping.’ It goes on to set out how the gardens provide views back towards the hall and thus ‘very significantly contribute to the special interest of the Grade II Listed building. The wider parkland is also a key aspect to the setting of the hall and significantly contributes to the interest of the listed building, providing essential meaning to two further listings, the lodge and associated gateway...’ It concludes that ‘the Newham Hall landscape is thought to be the most complete and best surviving example (of a country house estate) in the area.”*
- 3.21 Historic England stated that the parkland did not, however, fulfil the criteria to be included in their Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Importance in England. They did consider it to be of regional importance. In the circumstances it may be appropriate for Middlesbrough Council to consider designating it as a Park or Garden of Regional or District Importance with a suitable policy in their development plan to protect its significance and landscape quality as the setting to Newham Hall. However, Middlesbrough Council has not indicated that they are proposing such a designation.
- 3.22 The Marton West Neighbourhood Forum has commented that Historic England has welcomed the use of a Local Green Space designation to recognise the historic significance of the parkland. They also welcome that the landscape has been identified as a non-designated heritage asset. They have supplied me with a copy of Historic England’s letter of 28 February 2020 in response to the Pre-Submission Draft Plan where these comments were made.
- 3.23 The saved Policy E8 from the 1999 Local Plan does not protect the parkland, rather it proposes that *“new open space with public access will be provided on the parkland area to the south of Newham Hall”*. The area excluded the south east corner of the parkland. Paragraph 1.71 states that *“the Third Review of the Coulby Newham Master Plan approved by the Council in June 1991, included provision for the development of a Country Park. The Review highlighted the need to protect and enhance the existing landscape and to*

provide informal recreational activities. It was against this background that 250 acres of land centred around Newham Hall was designated to be developed as a Country Park.”

- 3.24 It is evident that this proposal for a country park has not been implemented. In any case saved Policy E8 is a proposal and does not include any specific measures to protect or safeguard the intrinsic qualities of the parkland area.
- 3.25 The background evidence and representations refer to various proposals that the Council has made for the parkland including:
- a) Planning application for the development of 38 houses in 1995 which was called in and refused. However the cul-de-sac of 15 houses (De Brus Park) was commenced. Permission for an additional 5 dwellings was granted in 2014.
 - b) An extension to the golf course proposed in the 2013 Core Strategy and Housing DPD was deleted from the Plan following the Public Examination.
 - c) A proposal for 10 houses in the parkland adjacent to the existing cul-de-sac was proposed in the Middlesbrough Local Plan Preferred Options of May 2018 (which has been withdrawn).
- 3.26 From the evidence presented to me it is clear that the parkland to Newham Hall is clearly defined and intact except for the area at the south east corner that has been lost to the cul-de-sac of housing development of De Brus Park. Historic England has confirmed the significance of the parkland as the setting for the listed Newham Hall and the quality of the parkland as of regional importance. There is however, no formal designation in the Council's development plan to protect and safeguard the parkland for its historic or landscape importance.
- 3.27 Representations have referred me to a number of documents that have been prepared to support objections by local residents to various proposals that have been made by the Council over the last 25 years. The Council has appointed independent consultants to review and critique these studies and to propose recommendations about the opportunities and constraints of the future use of the parkland. This study has given consideration to the possibility of further housing development adjacent to De Brus Park. However, there are no policies in the adopted development plan for any housing development on the land that is not included in the proposals for the country park.
- 3.28 My role as Examiner is to consider whether the area fulfils the criteria of NPPF paragraph 100. I will also consider whether the designation of the area would be in conformity with the development plan.
- 3.29 I consider that the proposed LGS is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves. It is located to the south-east of the community of Coulby Newham which is planned to be extended towards Newham Hall. The agricultural land north of Newham Hall is allocated for housing development

under Policy H26 of the Housing Local Plan. There are footpath links across the parkland to the footpath network of the surrounding area.

- 3.30 The background evidence summarised above, demonstrates the particular local significance of the parkland in terms of its historic importance as the setting for the Grade II listed Newham Hall and associated buildings and structures. This is confirmed by Historic England that *“the Newham Hall landscape is thought to be the most complete and best surviving example (of a country house estate) in the area.”*
- 3.31 The area has a distinctive beauty created by the planned landscape and the designed landscape vistas. The area has important recreational value to the community who can readily access this attractive parkland to walk along the footpath network within and through the area. The tranquillity of the area, on the fringe of the urban area of Middlesbrough, makes this area valuable to the community. Of the 42 representations received to the Submission draft Plan, thirty-four supported the plan as a whole and five have made specific comments in support of the proposed LGS designation for the Newham Hall parkland.
- 3.32 Paragraph 100 of the NPPF states that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. The NPPG advises that blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate.
- 3.33 On my site visit I noted that the proposed LGS is a self-contained area, bounded by Brass Castle Lane to the south west and strong tree belts along the north west and eastern boundaries. It is clearly identifiable as the landscaped parkland to Newham Hall and has a distinctive character, markedly different to the open countryside to the south.
- 3.34 The NPPG also advises that the *“designation of any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making.”*
- 3.35 The Local Plan proposals for future housing development relate to land to the north of Newham Hall. The importance of preserving the character of the parkland setting of Newham Hall is recognised in Policy H26 e) of the Housing Local Plan which states that development to the north should *“preserve the character and appearance of the setting of the Grade II listed structures Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and Newham Hall Gate”*.
- 3.36 Most of the parkland is identified as a “Proposed primary open space” under saved Policy E8 of the Local Plan (1999). It is considered that the designation of the area as a Local Green Space would be in conformity with this policy proposal.

- 3.37 The south eastern field of the parkland was excluded from the area to be proposed as primary open space. A planning application for housing development on the area was dismissed on appeal in 1995. The only area of the parkland that has been lost to housing development is the incongruous cul-de-sac of housing development at De Brus Park.
- 3.38 The development plan recognises the importance of the parkland area as the setting of Newham Hall, although there are no specific policies in the Local Plan to safeguard it. No evidence has been presented to me of any overriding housing need that cannot be met elsewhere in the urban area to justify further erosion of the south eastern field of the parkland. No justification has been presented as to why the south eastern parcel of the parkland should not be included in the Local Green Space.
- 3.39 I therefore conclude that the designation of the whole of the parkland area as proposed in the MWMNP accords with national planning policy and guidance.
- 3.40 NPPF paragraph 101 sets out guidance on the wording of policies to manage development in the Local Green Space and states that they should be consistent with those on Green Belts. NPPF paragraph 143 states that *“inappropriate development (ie that which would be harmful to the Green Belt) should not be approved except in very special circumstances”*.
- 3.41 I am recommending modifications to introduce a new paragraph to manage development in the LGS in accordance with national policy on LGS and heritage and revisions to the wording of the final paragraph of Policy MW1 to simplify and clarify it so that it can be applied consistently by decision makers. I am also recommending revisions to the first and third paragraphs in accordance with paragraph 3.5 above
- 3.42 The representation from the Environment Agency expresses concern that the commentary in paragraph 65 does not accord with NPPF paragraph 170. They note that NPPF paragraph 175 states that where significant harm to biodiversity results from a development it would be expected that this would be avoided, adequately mitigated for, or at the last resort, compensated for. The test of weighing public benefit against potential harm to natural features is not found in national policy and guidance.
- 3.43 I consider that paragraph 65 amounts to a policy statement, not justification to the Policy MW1, and agree with the points made by the Environment Agency that it does not accord with national planning policy. I am therefore recommending that paragraph 65 should be deleted and replaced with a reference to paragraph 170 of the NPPF.

Recommendation 3: Revise Policy MW1 as follows:

Revise the first paragraph to read: “Development *proposals should not* have an adverse effect on”

Add a new paragraph before the third paragraph of the policy to read: *“Inappropriate development that would be harmful to the Local Green Space should not be approved except in very special circumstances. The valued parkland setting of the Grade II listed Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and Newham Hall Gate should be preserved and enhanced, where appropriate, in a manner compatible with its historic landscape design.”*

Revise the third paragraph of the policy to read *“Development should not result in the loss of green space, veteran, notable and mature trees, and local valued landscapes which make a positive contribution to the character of the area and local amenity.”*

Delete paragraph 65 and replace with *“Development proposals should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment in accordance with NPPF paragraph 170.”*

Policy MW2 Housing Allocations

Policy MW3 Small Unallocated Sites

- 3.44 The justification to these policies has been updated to reflect the up to date position on the housing requirement and delivery in the Middlesbrough Local Plan area. The adopted Local Plan did not set an indicative housing requirement for the Marton West Ward. Paragraph 68 of the MWMNP states that there is no requirement for additional housing allocations up to 2024, above that already allocated in the 2014 Housing Local Plan. The LPA has confirmed that any requirement post 2024 will be dependent on the emerging Local Plan and its housing requirement.
- 3.45 The MWMNP demonstrates that the housing supply in the plan area has increased recently due to amendments to the permission for the Grey Towers Farm site and two small windfall sites.
- 3.46 It is acknowledged that the MWMNP only makes provision for housing up to 2024 and not for the whole plan period to 2029. However, Middlesbrough Council has indicated that they would be unable to provide an indicative housing requirement for the Neighbourhood Plan area until the emerging Local Plan is progressed. At such time it will be for the Neighbourhood Plan Forum to consider whether to rely on any allocations in the emerging Local Plan or to review the Neighbourhood Plan to allocate additional sites. In any case NPPG states that neighbourhood plans are not required to plan for housing.
- 3.47 I make no comments on the wording of Policies MW2 and MW3.

Policy MW4 Land at the Ford Riding School – Brass Castle Lane

- 3.48 The Environment Agency has commented in their representation that the wording of this policy should be revised to replace “upkeep” with “long term maintenance”. I agree that this would provide greater clarity.
- 3.49 The Environment Agency has commented that they are supportive of the Plan’s policies towards the wetland at West Moor Farm. (Policies MW1 and MW4)

Recommendation 4: Revise Policy MW4 as follows:

Replace “upkeep” with “*long term maintenance*”.

Policy MW5 Built Environment

- 3.50 I make no comments on Policy MW5.

Policy MW6 Design

- 3.51 I make no comments on Policy MW6.

Policy MW7 Backland Development

- 3.52 I am recommending a revision to the first line of the policy to avoid the use of the phrase “development will be permitted” in accordance with paragraph 3.5 above. Consequential revisions to the wording of the bullet points will be required.

Recommendation 5: Revise the Policy MW7 to read:

“Backland or tandem development *should:*

- **Incorporate separate....**
- **Provide an acceptable standard of residential amenity for the new dwelling.....**
- **Provide an adequate open area within the curtilage of...**
- **Reflect the scale and character....**

Policy MW8 Design to reduce Surface Water Run-Off

- 3.53 Northumbrian Water supports the policy. I make no comments on Policy MW8.

Policy MW9 Public Transport

3.54 I make no comments on Policy MW9.

Policy MW10 Parking

3.55 I make no comments on Policy MW10.

Policy MW11 Lingfield Primary School Parking

3.56 I make no comments on Policy MW11.

4.0 Referendum

- 4.1 The Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views held by the community as demonstrated through the consultations and, subject to the modifications proposed, sets out a realistic and achievable vision to support the future improvement of the community.
- 4.2 I am satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan meets all the statutory requirements, in particular those set out in paragraph 8(1) of schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and, subject to the modifications I have identified, meets the Basic Conditions namely:
- has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the area; and
 - does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations and human rights requirements
- 4.3 **I am pleased to recommend to Middlesbrough Council that the Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Development Plan should, subject to the modifications I have put forward, proceed to referendum.**
- 4.4 I am required to consider whether the referendum area should be extended beyond the Neighbourhood Plan area. In all the matters I have considered I have not seen anything that suggests the referendum area should be extended beyond the boundaries of the plan area as they are currently defined. I recommend that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum based on the neighbourhood area designated by Middlesbrough Council on 7 January 2019.

5.0 Background Documents

5.1 In undertaking this examination, I have considered the following documents

- Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft Version 2016 - 2029
- Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement, including screening opinion for SEA, undated (file name July 2020)
- Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan HRA Report November 2020
- Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement undated (file name July 2020)
- Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan – Middlesbrough Council Consultation Statement on Submission, November 2020
- Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan – Supporting Paper - Justification for designation of Newham Hall Parkland as Local Green Space (LGS) undated
- Landscape and historic environment value of land south of Newham Hall, Middlesbrough, Prepared by Land Use Consultants on behalf of Middlesbrough Council, January 2017
- National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (as amended)
- Planning Practice Guidance March 2014 (as amended)
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
- The Localism Act 2011
- The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
- Middlesbrough Housing Local Plan (adopted 2014)
- Middlesbrough Core Strategy (adopted 2008)
- Middlesbrough Regeneration DPD (adopted 2009)
- Middlesbrough Local Plan (1999) saved policies.

6.0 Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

Revise the commencement date of the Plan period to the year it is made (2021 – 2029).

Recommendation 2: Revise the title of the Sites Location Map to Policies Map. Include the relevant policy numbers in the key. The boundaries of all sites should be clearly distinguishable. Designations outside the plan area should be omitted from the Policies Map but may be shown on a diagram in the plan.

Recommendation 3: Revise Policy MW1 as follows:

Revise the first paragraph to read: “Development *proposals should not* have an adverse effect on

Add a new paragraph before the third paragraph of the policy to read: “*Inappropriate development that would be harmful to the Local Green Space should not be approved except in very special circumstances. The valued parkland setting of the Grade II listed Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and Newham Hall Gate should be preserved and enhanced, where appropriate, in a manner compatible with its historic landscape design.*”

Revise the third paragraph of the policy to read “*Development should not result in the loss of green space, veteran, notable and mature trees, and local valued landscapes which make a positive contribution to the character of the area and local amenity.*”

Delete paragraph 65 and replace with “*Development proposals should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment in accordance with NPPF paragraph 170.*”

Recommendation 4: Revise Policy MW4 as follows:

Replace “upkeep” with “*long term maintenance*”.

Recommendation 5: Revise the Policy MW7 to read:

“*Backland or tandem development should:*

- Incorporate separate....
- Provide an acceptable standard of residential amenity for the new dwelling.....
- Provide an adequate open area within the curtilage of...
- Reflect the scale and character....

Appendix 2: 24 March Council Report - Incorporating Independent Examiner Recommendations:

Examiner's Recommendations are underlined and shown in red text

MARTON WEST

MODIFIED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PREPARED BY THE MARTON WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM ON BEHALF OF THE MARTON WEST COMMUNITY



2021 - 2029



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Introduction

1. Welcome to the draft Marton West Modified Neighbourhood Plan (MWMNP). The initial plan was adopted on 30th November 2016. As a result of a boundary change and the decision of Middlesbrough Council not to establish the Marton in Cleveland Neighbourhood Forum and Area, it has been agreed to expand the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum to cover the entirety of the Marton West ward i.e.

“The Council¹ will now:

- i. Use its powers of designation, under Section 61(G)(5) and (6) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to designate the proposed area as part of the Marton West Neighbourhood Area; and
 - ii. Recommend that an early review is undertaken, by the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum, of the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, in order to take account of the modified Marton West Neighbourhood Area.”
2. As such, the Neighbourhood Plan is being updated and modified to take account of the characteristics of the enhanced De Brus Park area and reflect the views of its residents, businesses and local councillors

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

3. The 2011 Localism Act introduced Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders. Neighbourhood Plans allow local communities to have a say in developing how their community will grow over a 15-year period. The plan allows the community to choose where it wants new homes to be built, to have their say on what these new buildings should look like whilst at the same time protecting the landscape and character of the area.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan must be in general compliance with Middlesbrough Council Local Plan Policies, The National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF) EU Obligations and Human Rights requirements. The Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, forms part of the Middlesbrough Council Development Plan. Its Policies work alongside the Middlesbrough Council Development Plan.
5. The draft MWMNP continues to cover the period from 2016 – 2029, and will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure compliance with National and Local Planning requirements and to reflect the changing needs of the Local Community.

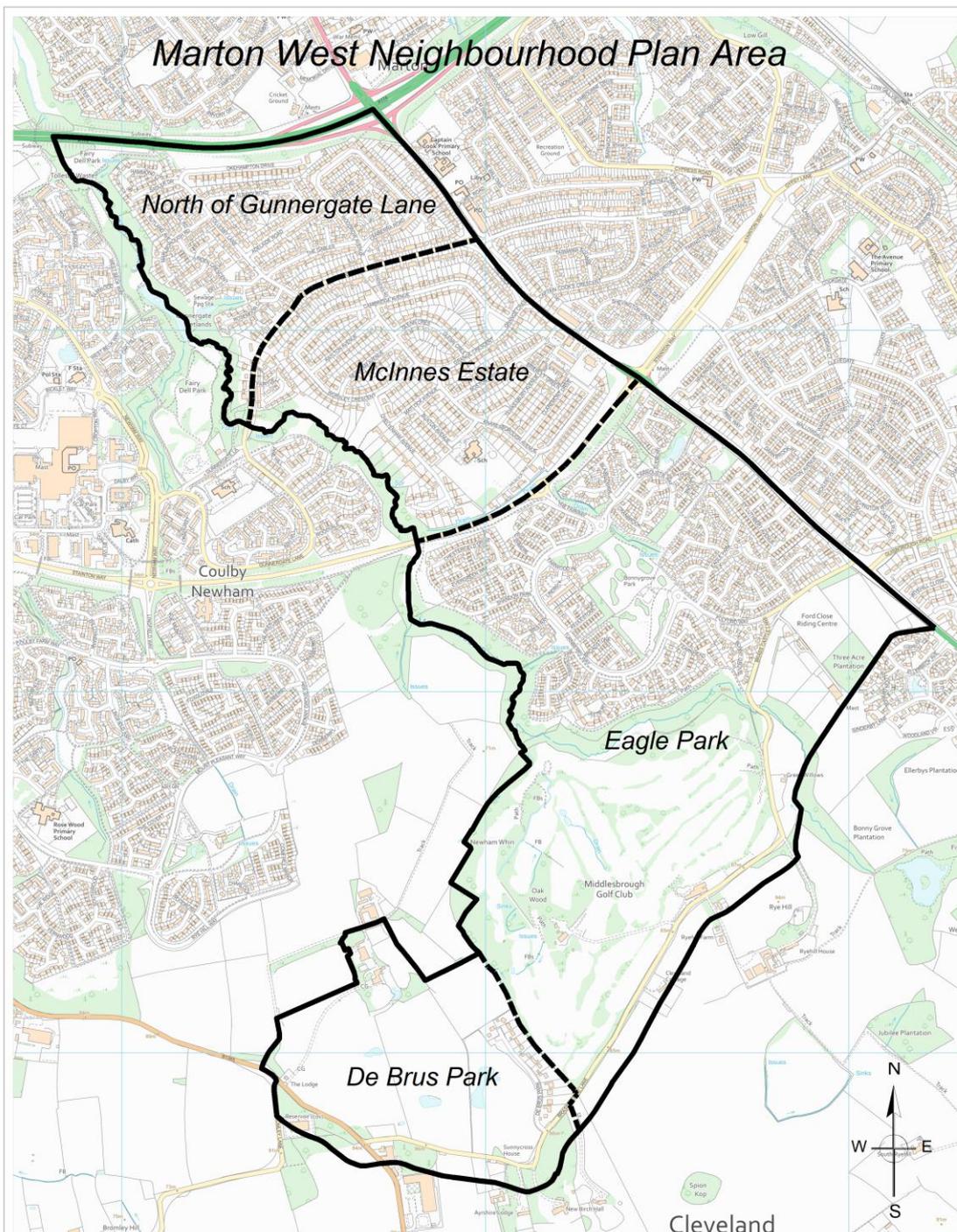
¹ Middlesbrough Council, 7th January 2019

Background

6. The Council's Executive initially approved the Marton West Neighbourhood Area designation on the 18th June 2013. It was amended on 7th January 2019 to incorporate the Newham Hall / Brass Castle Lane / De Brus Park area, herein after referred to as the De Brus Park area. This is shown on the Neighbourhood Plan Area map on the following page.
7. The Council's Executive initially approved the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan Forum on the 18th June 2013. A revised Neighbourhood Forum incorporating residents and businesses living and working in the De Brus park area, was established by local ward councillors, in January 2019, for the purpose of updating the Neighbourhood Plan, to take account of the characteristics of the enhanced area and reflect the views of the De Brus Park area residents, businesses and local councillors
8. The draft MWMNP has been compiled by the Neighbourhood Forum and supported by the Marton West Community Council and Middlesbrough Council planning officers.

Aims of the Forum

9. The primary aim of the Marton West Neighbourhood Forum is to:
 - Promote the economic, social, health and environmental well-being of the Community within Marton West;
 - Provide an opportunity for local people to influence local decision making;
 - Encourage openness and transparency amongst statutory agencies and provide opportunities for local people to influence the priorities and services of these agencies;
 - Improve community leadership and democratic participation by local people; within Marton West; and,
 - Develop area plans to benefit the local community and Marton West as a whole.



Head of Service Paul Clarke
Service Area: Planning
Created by: John Manders

Ref: UP/J/CG/MWNPA
Scale: N.T.S.
Date: 4th July 2019

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Community Involvement in the Updated Plan

10. The draft MWMNP has materialised as a result of:

- The boundary change, which incorporated the De Brus Park area into the Marton West ward
- Proposals put forward by Middlesbrough Council, through their New Local Plan process, to update the adopted 2014 Housing Local Plan, which has subsequently been withdrawn (July 2019)
- The responses of residents, businesses and local ward councillors, to the Council's New Local Plan proposals via the respective consultation and representations processes during the development of the draft local plan
- The need for De Brus Park area residents, businesses and councillors to have a formal means of determining where it wants new homes to be built, to have their say on what these new buildings should look like whilst at the same time protecting the landscape and character of the area

11. Initially, this resulted in the Marton in Cleveland Neighbourhood Forum being constituted to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Marton in Cleveland but was superseded by the decision to incorporate Marton in Cleveland into the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan area

12. Regular Neighbourhood Planning meetings have been undertaken, all minuted as listed below:

- i. 6th September 2018
- ii. 8th November 2018
- iii. 5th December 2018
- iv. 22nd January 2019

Likewise, the Neighbourhood Forum has provided regular verbal reports and presentations to the Marton West Community Council, which have subsequently been reported in their Newsletters and minutes of the Marton West Community Council, as follows:

- v. January 2019
- vi. March 2019
- vii. May 2019
- viii. July 2019
- ix. September 2019
- x. November 2019
- xi. January 2020
- xii. March 2020

13. Updates of the draft MWMNP have been submitted to Middlesbrough Council Planning Officers in March 2019, August 2019 and April 2020, on the following basis:

- To update the factual elements of the plan resulting from the enlarged boundary
- To review the plan against current national planning policy guidance

- To review the plan against the adopted Middlesbrough Housing Local Plan 2014
- To take account of the Council's Planning evidence base
- To reflect the views of the Marton in Cleveland and subsequent Marton West Neighbourhood Forums
- To take account of comments received arising from informal and pre-submission consultations

14. Feedback received from the Planning officers has been incorporated into this final draft version of the MWMNP.

15. Further meetings have also been held with planning officers on 1st May 2019, 12th June, 3rd July, 27th November and 25th March 2020 associated with the update of this Neighbourhood Plan

16. An informal consultation was undertaken in October 2019 for a six-week period, through to 12th November. All households and businesses across the Marton West ward received a newsletter, detailing the proposed modifications to the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan. They were also requested to provide any further comments and suggestions for changes to the policies contained in the plan.

17. Forty-two (42) responses were received from Marton West residents, all of whom supported the modifications to the Plan. Support was also received from Ridsdale and Co, occupants of Newham Hall, Marton West Community Council and the Neighbourhood Forum

18. A Pre-submission consultation was undertaken for a period of six weeks, from 20th January 2020. A consultation statement accompanying this document, sets out the detailed responses received

19. In summary, 80 responses were received from residents, local councillors, the Mayor of Middlesbrough, the local MP and businesses and community groups in the area, all of whom supported the modified plan

20. Statutory organisations supported the modified plan, including Historic England. There were no objections to the modified Neighbourhood Plan

Historical Context - Marton West

21. The most southerly road in the area of Marton West has the name of Brass Castle Lane. It is puzzling that there is no Castle in the vicinity and why does Brass feature in the name. The answer is historical and dates back to 1066 A.D. when William the Conqueror defeated King Harold of England at the Battle of Hastings. Following the battle, William divided North East Yorkshire amongst his noblemen, who consolidated their positions by building castles. Robert De Brus built two castles, one at Castleton (North Yorkshire) and another one at Castle Levington near the River Leven.
22. The word Brass has derived from the family name of De Brus over the intervening 1000 years. Historians and archaeologists think that there was a connecting pathway route which linked the De Brus-owned Castles of Levington and Castleton. The present Brass Castle Lane would have been part of this route but as the family's power and existence diminished the De Brus Castle Lane was changed over a period of time to become Brass Castle Lane.
23. The north-west end of the area called Fairy Dell, partly falls within the Marton West Ward boundary. This is a natural woodland which now sits within an urban area totally surrounded by housing and attached to a new town development. However it is also a rare example of a remnant of open countryside including ancient meadows, a 300 year old oak tree and sections of sunken medieval lanes which once criss-crossed the area linking the small hamlets.
24. By 1850 it had become a landscaped Victorian Estate, which included Gunnergate Hall, the home of wealthy iron masters and ship owners. The boating lake and waterfall remain near the site of the now demolished hall. Two of the original Gate Houses are still in existence and are occupied by residents. Gunnergate Lane is an old Scandinavian name, which, according to the Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names, could be derived from 'the road of a woman called Gunavor'. Gunnergate Lane went from Gunners in the Newton Parish, to the Upsall area and then on to Guisborough

Heritage Assets in Marton West

25. There are seven Grade II² designated heritage assets within Marton West, which contribute to the development of the area from a rural to an urban setting.
- Bonny Grove Farmhouse, Brass Castle Lane, Marton (now known as 8a & 8b Farmside Mews)

² Middlesbrough Council, 2019

- Barn, Horse-Mill, Stable and Cartshed, circa 10m North West of Bonny Grove Farmhouse, Brass Castle Lane, Marton (now known as nos. 8, 8c & 9 Farmside Mews)
- Gunnergate Farmhouse and Farm Cottage, nos. 80 & 82 Gunnergate Lane, Marton (now known as nos. 23 & 24 Rosemoor Close)
- Barn and Stable, 15m East of Gunnergate Farmhouse, Gunnergate Lane, Marton (now known as nos. 20 & 22 Rosemoor Close)
- Newham Hall, Brass Castle Lane, Marton
- Newham Hall Lodge, Brass Castle Lane, Marton
- Gate, Gatepiers and Walls at Entrance to Newham Hall, Brass Castle Lane, Marton

26. Gunnergate Farmhouse (Gunnergate Lane, North Side) is a Grade II listed building originally listed as farmhouse and cottage alongside Gunnergate barn and stable. The character of this group of listed buildings has since been affected by conversion to residential development and by residential development within the vicinity. The special interest of the building is as a range of outbuildings complementing the original historic farmhouse and reflecting the rural origins of the buildings.

27. The farm buildings and barn at Bonnygrove Farm are listed as Grade II. These buildings have also been brought back into beneficial use through refurbishment and conversion to residential use.

28. Other heritage assets are located at Brass Castle Lane and Newham Hall.

29. Newham is recorded in the Domesday Book as Nieweham. The presence of medieval ridge and furrow and a medieval moat supported by documentary evidence, suggests that Newham Hall is on the site of an earlier dwelling of some status.

30. Ironmaster John Mills bought the land in the 1870's and Newham Hall construction was completed in 1880. The parkland associated with the Hall, lies south of the Hall and forms an inherent part of the Hall's significance. A map provided by Historic England details the parkland, on page 10.

31. The significance of Newham Hall and its parkland setting have largely been conserved, surrounded by parkland, agricultural fields and a golf course. The parkland setting is extremely important to the significance of Newham Hall and the open character of the area is fundamental. ³

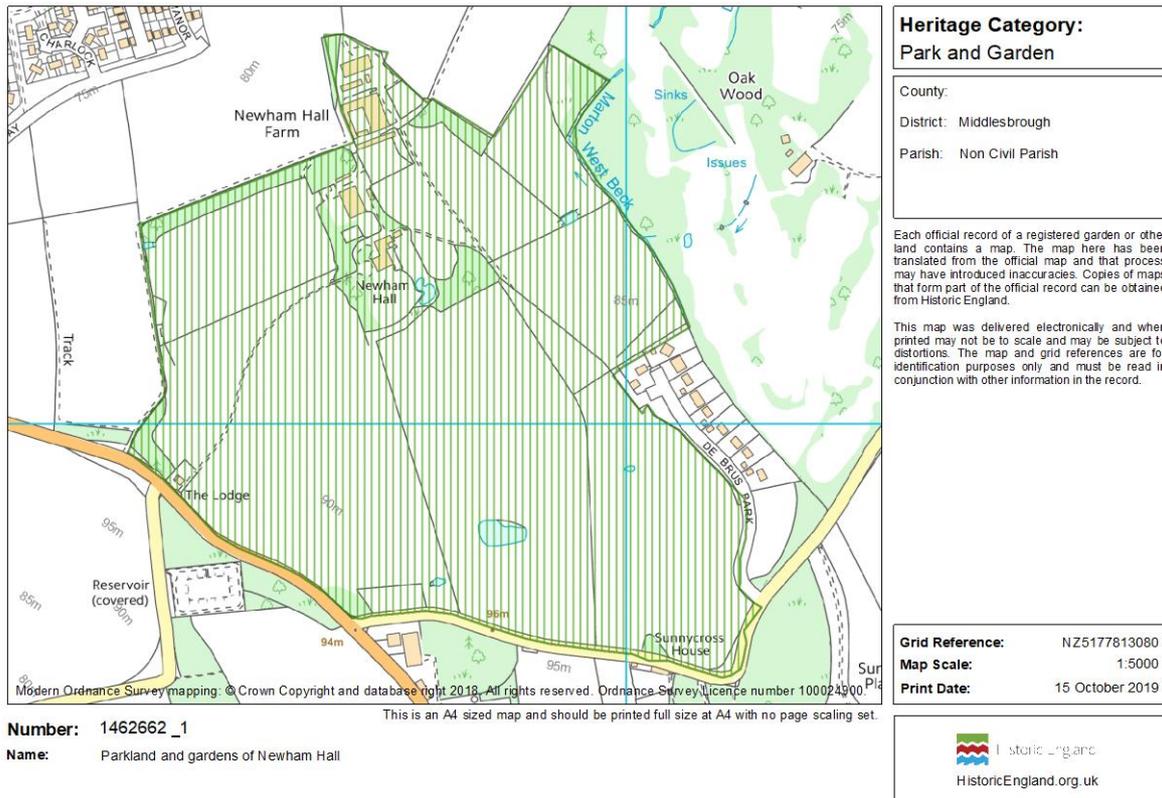
32. In 1997, Middlesbrough Council was refused planning permission to build on the parkland setting, following a Public Inquiry in August 1996⁴. The Inspector

³ Newham Hall Statement of Significance, Middlesbrough Council, 2014

⁴ Secretary of State for the Environment decision letter, 24th February 1997

did not consider the benefits would outweigh the harm the proposal would cause to the character, appearance and amenity of the surrounding area and the setting of the listed buildings

i) De Brus Park area – Parkland and gardens of Newham Hall



33. In 2013, a study commissioned by the owners of Newham Hall, indicated that the Hall and Parkland was assessed as being of considerable regional significance, with the parkland being identified as an integral part of the principal historical significance⁵

34. A further study, in 2016, for Middlesbrough Council, stated that:
 ...Map regression analysis indicates that the 19th century landscape structure, developed in parallel with the house, home farm and lodge is virtually intact – meaning that the grade II-listed Hall sits within its original setting. Given that the two assets were designed in parallel, the parkland is indivisible from the hall itself. The significance of the asset group as a whole could be argued to be more than regional, given the rarity of survival of Ironmasters’ houses in the region and more generally and the intactness of the house and landscape⁶

⁵ Landscape and heritage appraisal, May 2013, Durham University Archaeological Services

⁶ Landscape and Heritage Assessment, LUC, Dec 2016

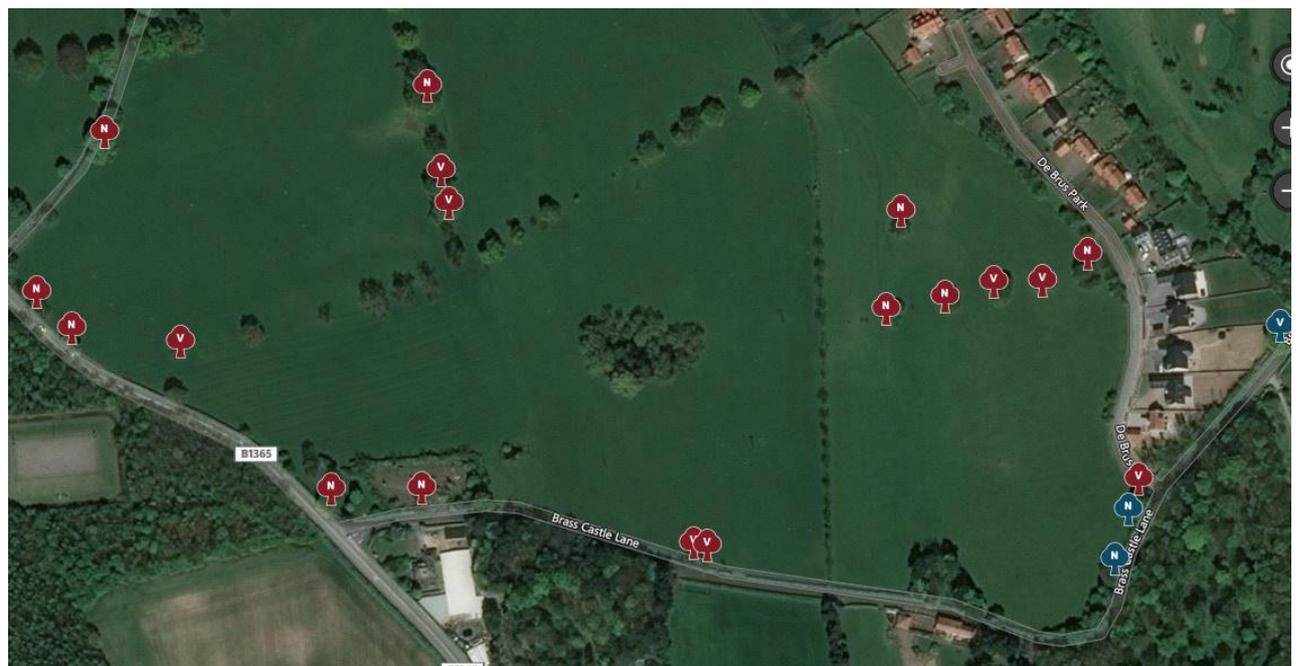
35. A number of the trees on the parkland have been designated, on the Ancient Tree Register, as “Veteran” or “Notable” trees. The Ordnance Survey plan and satellite image, supplied by the Ancient Tree Registry, below, highlights the preponderance of these trees and their location in the parkland

Location of Veteran and Notable Trees on De Brus Area parkland

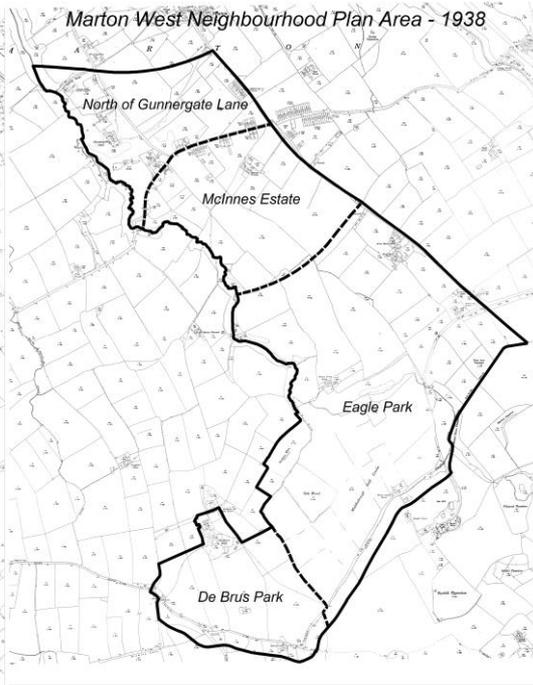
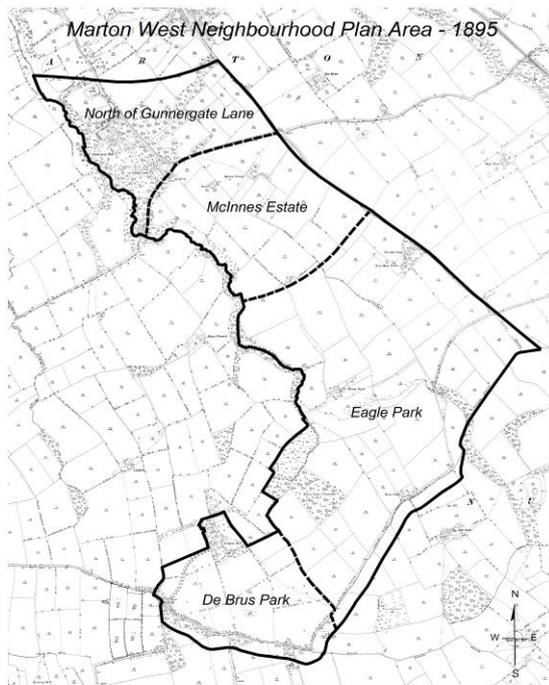
ii) Ordnance Survey map – De Brus Park Area



iii) Satellite image – De Brus Park Area



The Historical Development of Marton West

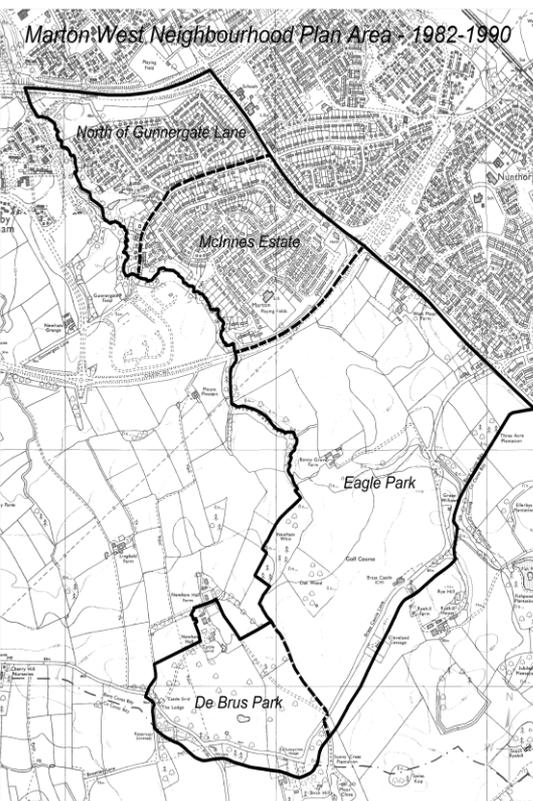
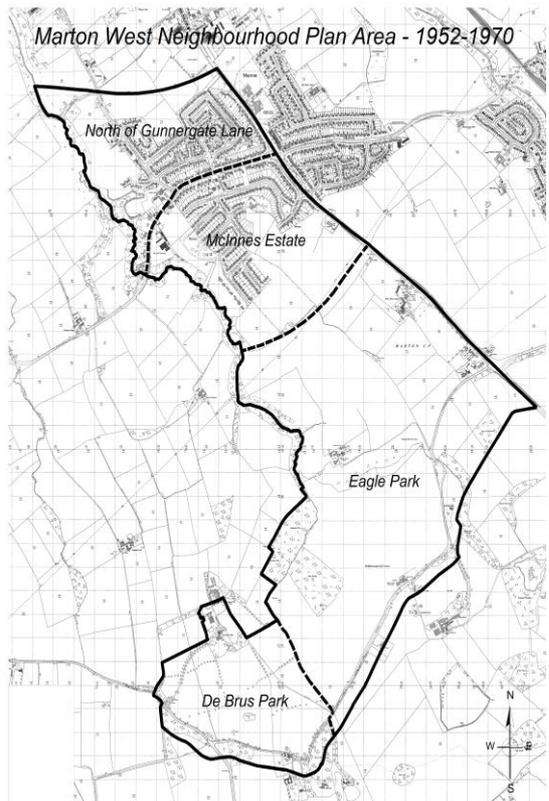


Middlesbrough moving forward
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 Service Area: Planning
 Created by: John Manders
 Ref: UP/J/CG/MWNPA
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Marton West Ward Profile⁷

36. Marton West is one of 20 electoral Wards of Middlesbrough, following boundary changes, which took effect in 2015. It has:

- An area of 239 hectares, which represents 4.44% of the total area of Middlesbrough.
- A resident population of 5,235 (51.3% female; 48.7% male) which represents 3.75% of the total Middlesbrough population of 139,505.
- The third highest number of people over both 65 and 85 years of age, across the 20 wards in Middlesbrough, with only Kader and Nunthorpe having higher numbers

Population breakdown

Population 0-15 year olds	833
Population 16-64 year olds	3,168
Population 65 years and over	1,234
This includes 152 people who are 85 years and over	
Total Population	5235
Ethnic Origin % Non-white	4.1%

Housing

Total Occupied Households	2,205
Tenure % Owner-occupied	88.7
Tenure % Rent Social Housing	3.4
Tenure % Rent Private	7.9

Economic Activity

% Employed	71.8
% Unemployed	2.2
% Economically Inactive	26.1

Health:

2011	% with limiting long term illness	16.2
2011	General Health: Very Bad/Bad	4.0
2006-10	Standard Mortality Rate	86.6

Poverty:

Index Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 1 equals most deprived		
2015	IMD Ward Rank (out of 20)	19
2015	Overall National IMD Rank (out of 7932)	6310
2012	% Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals	5.4

⁷ Source: Middlesbrough Council Ward Profile 2015 Data, ONS Mid 2015 population estimates, Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015

Ethos & Character of Marton West

37. For the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, the area of Marton West Ward has been broken down into four distinct sections.

- **North of Gunnergate Lane (Egerton Price Estate)**
 - i. This the oldest section in the area consisting mainly of bungalows on the west side and houses to the east. Its southern boundary is Gunnergate Lane with the A174 (Parkway) at the north, Stokesley Road as its eastern and Marton West Beck as the western boundaries.
 - ii. This section has four retail outlets, two hairdressers, a newsagent and a general dealer. This section has no doctor's surgery and no church.
 - iii. There is a small private community area belonging to Normanby Court, blocks of flats built for ex service personnel as retirement homes.
 - iv. Bus Services are on Stokesley Road and Gunnergate Lane.
 - v. This section also incorporates two of the Gate Houses built in the 1850's, which were the entrances to the old Gunnergate Hall which is now demolished. The Gate Houses are occupied residentially.

- **Mclnnes Estate**
 - i. This section was built approximately 40 years ago and although there are a few large houses it consists primarily of very distinctive bungalows.
 - ii. Its southern boundary starts at Stainton Way and stretches northerly to Gunnergate Lane, with Stokesley Road as the east and Marton West Beck as the western boundaries.
 - iii. This section does have a public house (Southern Cross) and a Tesco Express (petrol filling station with shop). Otherwise there are no other retail premises, nor a doctor's surgery, church or community centre.
 - iv. Bus services are restricted to Stokesley Road and Gunnergate Lane. This section houses a primary school.

- **Eagle Park**
 - i. This area is to the south of the Ward. Its boundaries are Brass Castle Lane, Stokesley Road, Marton West Beck and Stainton Way.
 - ii. It is the newest part of the ward where development is still ongoing. The small estates that make up this section were designed and developed by many different builders. The result of this is that houses are slightly different from each other. Mostly they are houses, with very few bungalows.
 - iii. The area has Bonny Grove Park in its centre which houses a children's play area, (built with lottery money) goal posts and grassed areas for differing types of recreation.

- iv. Towards the north east of this section, there is a natural wetland situated at Land at West Moor Farm, (previously identified as Sudbury Pond). This is a natural haven for wildlife and birds.
- v. This section is without any school, shops, public house, doctor's surgery, church or community centre and has a very poor bus service. The southernmost section does however feature a premier private members golf course and clubhouse.

- **De Brus Park**

- i. This part of the ward was added in October 2014 following boundary changes between Coulby Newham and Marton West⁸.
- ii. Its boundaries run along the B1365 at Newham Hall, to the northern part of Brass Castle Lane, and to the south of Brass Castle Lane. Newham Hall Farm, located in Coulby Newham, forms the boundary with Newham Hall, as does the Middlesbrough Golf Club to the east
- iii. Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and the former stables and outbuildings are now used as offices, laboratories, workshops and residential accommodation for the staff of a firm of metallurgical analysts and consultants (Ridsdale and Co.)
- iv. Brass Castle Lane is a narrow country lane that is mainly bordered by grass verges and hedgerows or woodland. There are several large detached houses, some of which are screened by dense woodland
- v. The small housing development of De Brus Park runs along the boundary to Middlesbrough Golf Course on its east side and has the boundary of the Newham Hall parkland setting to the west, separated by the access road. Five new Executive houses have been added to De Brus Park since the approval of the current adopted Housing Local Plan. These houses sit on land adjunct to the existing line of ten houses on De Brus Park.
- vi. This part of the ward is the furthest from schools (1.8 miles), shops (2.9miles) and doctors' surgeries (2.9 miles). The nearest bus stop is 1.2 miles away.
- vii. There are no footpaths or street lighting on either Brass Castle Lane, which has a 60mph speed limit, or the B1365, which is a busy link road between Stokesley and Middlesbrough
- viii. Consequently, the only means of accessing work, education, health services, leisure facilities or even to post a letter, is by car.

⁸ The Middlesbrough (Electoral Changes) Order 2014

Ethos & Character of Marton West - Continued



Sustainable Development Principles

38. The draft MWMNP will contribute to achieving the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development by:
- i. Contributing to a strong and competitive economy by supporting the incremental changes that will sustain and enhance Marton West as a place to live, and maintain its economic viability and vitality;
 - ii. Planning positively for housing growth to meet the needs of present and future generations and to ensure that any development in and around Marton West is supported by additional infrastructure, where necessary, in order to make it more sustainable;
 - iii. Supporting the provision of a mix of housing types and sizes that can meet the needs of a wide range of people, especially older households and thereby promoting a healthy and inclusive community;
 - iv. Supporting new development where it relates well to the local area and which helps provide good connectivity with the rest of the town and encourages the use of sustainable transport;
 - v. Promoting policies to protect and enhance our culturally important assets, including landscapes and green infrastructure
 - vi. Promoting policies to protect and enhance open space, water quality and biodiversity, which contribute to the natural capital, sense of community and quality of life in the area; and
 - vii. Promoting policies, which encourage the use of sustainable transport, for the health and well being of the community.

Vision and Objectives

39. A vision statement was established by the local community as part of the preparation of the original Marton West Neighbourhood Plan i.e.

“To maintain Marton West with the same Ethos and Character that currently exists, but to welcome incremental changes that will sustain and enhance its facilities and contribute to a greater sense of community and neighbourliness.”

This continues to be our vision statement for the modified Neighbourhood Plan

Specific aims for the four sub-areas in the Plan were defined by residents of Marton West and are set out below:

North of Gunnergate Lane (Egerton Price Estate)

- Maintain and protect the existing characteristics of the Egerton Price Estate.
- Encourage any new housing to be of a density similar to the density of the existing nearby housing.
- Promote a safe highway network, within the area.

McInnes Estate:

- Maintain and protect the existing characteristics of the McInnes Estate.
- Encourage any new housing to reflect the character of the estate by being of a density similar to the density of the existing nearby housing and primarily of bungalows.
- Promote a safe highway network, within the area.

Eagle Park:

- Maintain and protect the existing characteristics of Eagle Park.
- Protection and enhancement of Bonny Grove Park and wetland situated at Land at West Moor Farm (previously identified as Sudbury Pond).
- Encourage any new housing to be of a density similar to the density of the existing nearby housing.
- Promote a safe highway network, within the area.

De Brus Park

- Sustain the character and appearance of the parkland setting of the Grade II listed structures of Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and Newham Hall Gate
- Designate the parkland setting as Local Green Space, due to its historic significance, intrinsic beauty and value to, and access by, the local community
- Promote a safe highway network within the area
- Promote the upgrade and provision of superfast broadband to commercial and residential properties across the De Brus area, to match that across the rest of the ward

Objectives

40. A set of objectives was established in the original plan, for the plan period 2016 – 2029. These objectives have been reviewed and updated to define the plan policies.

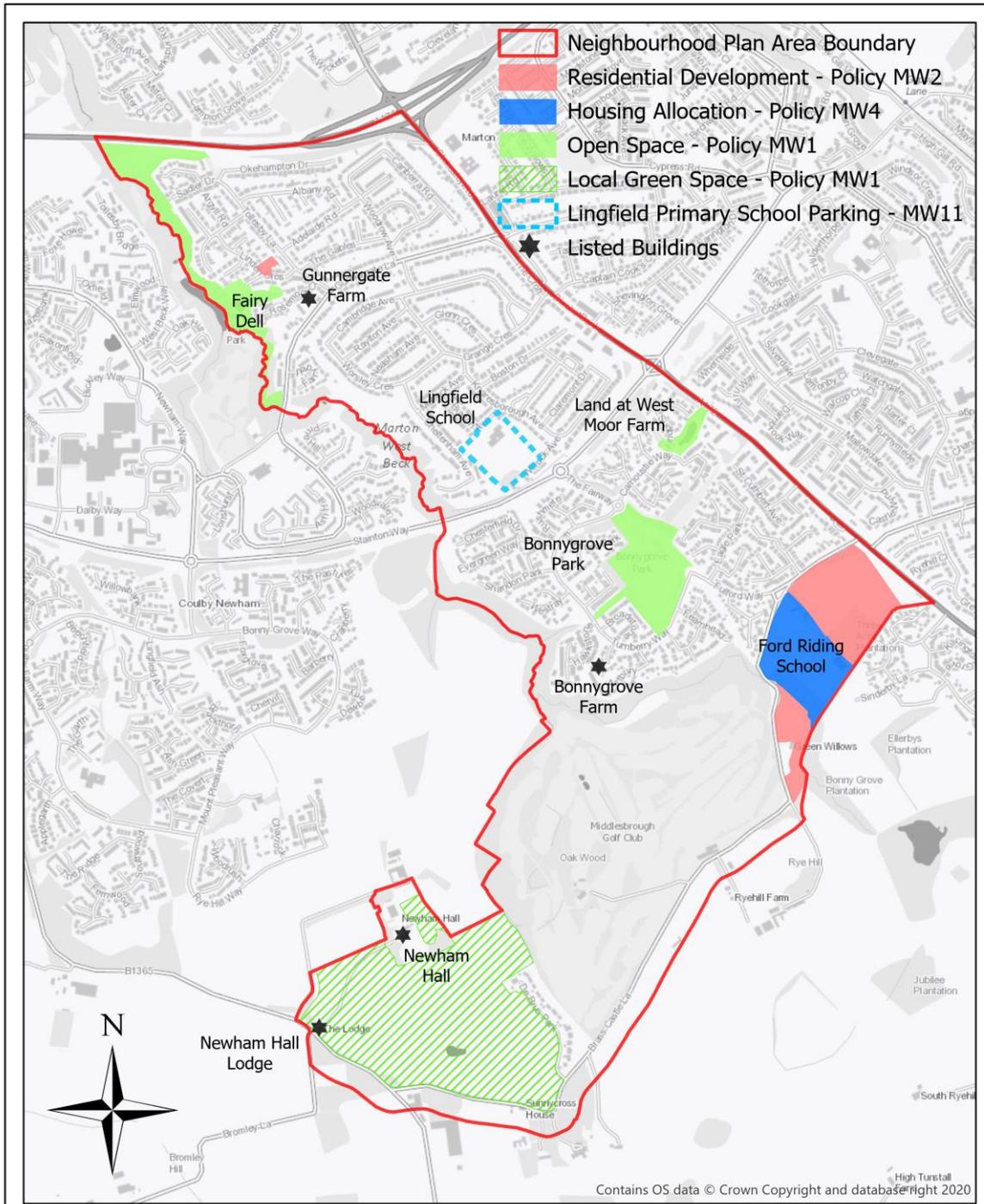
41. The objectives are as follows:

- To promote sustainable housing development through limited and controlled growth on the allocated sites (Ford Riding School and part of the Grey Towers Farm development) in accordance with the Middlesbrough Council Housing Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- To ensure that the housing on the allocated site (Ford Riding School) provides an integrated mixture of executive housing and includes bungalows
- To protect and enhance the water quality, landscape, green infrastructure and character of the area
- To ensure that any new housing and/or housing extensions reflect the established vernacular of the area in terms of building styles and materials as defined in this document.
- To ensure that any new housing can demonstrate safe and easy access to public transport, thereby encouraging a reduction in car dependency
- To ensure that the effectiveness of the surface water and sewage provisions are fit for purpose and are up-graded commensurate with any increase in demand.
- To promote superfast broadband for all properties, and to ensure any further development does not downgrade broadband speed for existing properties

Our ~~Sites Location~~ [Policies](#) map, on page 21, helps to illustrate our objectives, which are reflected in the updated Policies contained in the draft MWMNP



Marton West - Sites Location Policies Map



	Title: Policies Map	
	Service Area: Planning	
	Map Reference:	Scale: N.T.S.
	Map created by: J Manders	Date - 17/6/20
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Marton West Neighbourhood Plan

Equality Impact Assessment

42. In accordance with the themes of sustainability, one of the aims of this Neighbourhood Plan is to ensure that all residents of Marton West can live work and play in a community without any prejudice in terms of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnic origin or religion. To achieve and maintain this objective the Neighbourhood Plan will support those Plans and Policies that ensure that there is no adverse impact on equality for the residents of Marton West.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

43. This Neighbourhood Plan will encourage sympathetic management of the countryside and natural outdoor environment in and around Marton West to enhance the quality of the landscape, improve local biodiversity and provide other benefits to the community and quality of life. This encompasses all the small green areas within Marton West, which encourage health and wellbeing of the inhabitants of this area.

Historic Environment

44. The Neighbourhood Forum supports the Landscape and Heritage Assessment⁹ assertion, in its summary and conclusions, that “the further erosion of the remaining historic environment across Middlesbrough should be resisted”.
45. With seven Grade II listed buildings, together with local listings, it is desirable that these locally valued heritage assets are sustained and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations. As such, great weight should be given to the conservation of these assets
46. Proposed developments within the neighbourhood area should, where possible, avoid harm to the significance of both designated and undesignated heritage assets, including effects upon their setting (including the landscape).
47. A clear and convincing justification should be provided in order to allow a balanced judgement to be taken on the level of harm against public benefit, as required by the NPPF (paragraphs 192-197).
48. It is desirable that any designated or non designated heritage asset, including its setting, within the neighbourhood area, will be sustained and enhanced for its significance and their contribution to local distinctiveness, character and sense of place.
49. Proposals for development that affect designated or non-designated historic assets should take account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage assets in accordance with Council’s existing policy, (the 2014 Middlesbrough Housing Local Plan and other adopted development plan documents) and any superseding documents thereafter, the NPPF

⁹ Landscape and Heritage Assessment, LUC, Dec 2016, (Section 5.15)

requirements and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Parks & Green Spaces

50. In the Eagle Park section of the ward there are two small green spaces.
- (1) Bonny Grove Park which incorporates an excellent children's play area, a kick-about area and open space, made possible with funding from the Big Lottery Fund, the Play Builders Scheme and the Healthy Town Initiative.
 - (2) Wetlands situated at Land at West Moor Farm (previously identified as Sudbury Pond).
51. The Neighbourhood Plan will rigorously defend any attempt to develop these two areas, which are Oases in the middle of housing estates.
52. North of Gunnergate Lane (Egerton Price Estate) Marton West incorporates a small area of Victorian landscaping including a lake, waterfall and woodland called Fairy Dell. Its own Friends group manages it. This area is known for its medieval history, natural habitat and beauty and has won many awards from Northumbria in Bloom and the Green Flag. Once again this must be exempt from any development.
53. Middlesbrough Council has stipulated in its adopted housing policy for Coulby Newham, H26(e), that it requires the development to "deliver a high-quality scheme that preserves the character and appearance of the setting of the Grade II listed structures Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and Newham Hall Gate";
54. In its adopted Proposals Map, the Council identifies the vast majority of the parkland south of Newham Hall as Primary Open Space
55. The Landscape and Heritage Assessment, undertaken on behalf of the Council, has identified that, as a historic environment asset, the significance of the Newham Hall asset group as a whole, including its designed landscape could be argued to be of more than regional importance, given the rarity of survival of Ironmasters' houses in the region and more generally and the intactness of the house and landscape. Likewise, it is recognised that the parkland setting is indivisible from the significance of Newham Hall and the wider Newham Estate, which contains the Grade II Listed Lodge and Gates and, as such the landscape setting goes beyond the plan boundary into the neighbouring ward of Coulby Newham.
56. Subsequently, Historic England¹⁰, in declining a request from the owners of Newham Hall and local residents for listing of the parkland, indicated that:
- The phenomenal industrial growth of Teesside in the late C19 - for the years around 1880, Middlesbrough was the centre of the world's iron and steel trade - saw a number of industrialists establishing country house estates across the region. The Newham Hall landscape is thought to be the most complete and best surviving example in the area.*

¹⁰ Historic England Decision Summary, Parkland and Gardens of Newham Hall, Oct 2019

The loss of some of this parkland to housing (De Brus Park) is unfortunate and this loss has undermined the special interest of the landscape, in terms of registration

57. However, despite the lack of registration, in terms of the contribution the parkland makes, to the setting of Newham Hall as a Listed Building, Historic England stated in the same response:
- *The strongest claim to special interest is the association between the landscape and the Grade II-listed hall (...) The gardens around the hall thus very significantly contribute to the special interest of the Grade II-listed building. The wider parkland is also a key aspect to the setting of the hall and also significantly contributes to the interest of the listed building...*
58. The Ancient Tree Registry has identified and recorded a significant number of veteran and notable trees on this parkland setting. Tees Valley Wildlife Trust has confirmed that veteran trees are a rarity in Middlesbrough and, as such should be preserved and enhanced
59. The parkland is of great community value. It is in very good condition and accessible to the public, through the use of public rights of way, which link to other footpaths to Marton Beck and beyond into North Yorkshire towards Newby
60. It was identified at community engagement events and through newsletter responses as being of value to the community for walking and providing opportunities for positive mental health, having a tranquil setting, with the grazing sheep, lambs and cattle that have adorned the parkland for many years. It provides easy and safe access to the countryside for the residents of Marton West, adjacent to the largely urban form of Middlesbrough
61. Views towards the town give a unique sense of place to Newham Hall, whilst the panoramic vista from various vantage points serves to highlight the distinct landmarks of Roseberry Topping and the Cleveland and Eston Hills, allowing the visitor to feel “within” the countryside without having to travel in the private vehicle far beyond the large urban area to access it
62. The distinctive character described above is unique in Middlesbrough and considered rare in the north of England. The desire to both preserve and where possible, enhance the distinctive character of Newham Hall and its surrounding parkland by the local community has been evident throughout all community engagement exercises and events.
63. As such, in order to protect and enhance our historic open spaces, designed landscape and veteran trees, the entirety of the parkland setting to the south of Newham Hall is:
- Designated Local Green Space, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 99-101,
 - Regarded as a valued landscape, NPPF, paragraph 170(a) and
 - Provided with relevant protection of veteran trees, NPPF, para 175(c)
64. Due to the way in which it has historically evolved, Marton West has limited amounts of green space. The existing areas of green space, which add to the

character of the area and contribute to local public amenity, are as important to its residents, as the buildings that surround it.

65. Development proposals should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment in accordance with NPPF paragraph 170. Any development that would result in the loss of, or the deterioration in the quality of an important natural feature(s), including its water courses and protected trees and hedgerows will only be supported where the public benefit of doing so would outweigh any potential harm to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

MW1: Parks & Green Spaces

Development proposals should not have an adverse effect on Development will not be permitted which would have an adverse effect on the use, management, amenity or enjoyment of Bonny Grove Park, Wetlands situated at Land at West Moor Farm (previously identified as Sudbury Pond) and that part of Fairy Dell, which falls within Marton West. Opportunities to enhance their public accessibility and continued maintenance as valued local facilities will be supported.

Parkland to the south of, and indivisible from, Newham Hall is designated as **Local Green Space** due to its historic and considerable regional significance; important value to the health and well being of local communities: the need to protect veteran and notable trees and tranquil local landscape.

Inappropriate development that would be harmful to the Local Green Space should not be approved except in very special circumstances. The valued parkland setting of the Grade II listed Newham Hall, Newham Hall Lodge and Newham Hall Gate should be preserved and enhanced, where appropriate, in a manner compatible with its historic landscape design.

Development should not result in the loss of green space, veteran, notable and mature trees, and local valued landscapes which make a positive contribution to the character of the area and local amenity.

~~Applications, which result in the loss of green space, veteran, notable and mature trees, and local valued landscapes, including their setting, which make a positive contribution to the character of the area, and local amenity, will be resisted.~~

Local Green Space photographs show the public right of way across the parkland, together with views to Roseberry Topping from Newham Lodge



Housing Requirement and Allocation

66. The adopted Housing Local Plan sets out a minimum housing requirement of 410 dwellings per year for Middlesbrough, between 2014 and 2029. The Council's five-year housing land supply assessment¹¹ identifies that after taking account of dwellings delivered to date, there is a remaining minimum housing requirement of 301 dwellings per year needed between 2019 and 2024. The five-year land supply demonstrates that approximately 2280 dwellings are expected to be delivered between 2019 and 2024, giving a deliverable supply of 7.59 years
67. Likewise, the introduction of a standard method to determine Housing Need indicates that the Council now has a minimum housing need of 259 dwellings per annum, based on 2014 household projections.
68. As a result, it is evident, at this point in time, that there is no requirement for additional housing allocations in the Marton West ward, up to 2024, over and above those already allocated in the adopted 2014 Housing Local Plan, whilst providing sufficient flexibility as required to do so by the NPPF.
69. A Housing site is allocated at Ford Riding School for a maximum of 50 high quality executive homes
70. A small part of the Grey Towers Farm site lies within the plan area (originally 60 dwellings); development has commenced on this site. The developer has subsequently obtained an amended planning permission to reduce the number of 5-bedroom homes and replace them with 3- and 4-bedroom properties including semi-detached properties. This has resulted in the original approval for 60 dwellings being increased to 102 dwellings (19/0458/FUL December 2019)
71. The change in the mix and type of houses is welcomed, as it better reflects the needs of the local population
72. Two windfall sites delivering 10 high quality bespoke executive houses have been approved, with 5 executive homes at De Brus Park, being delivered in 2017. Development of 5 executive homes at Green Willows has commenced with initial completions anticipated in 2020-21
73. It is recognised that Marton West should support sustainable growth in order to remain vibrant and to meet local needs for housing and community facilities, providing that the growth is sustainable in accordance with the NPPF and that the Ethos and Character of the area is maintained.

¹¹ Middlesbrough Council 5-year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2019-24, Dec 2019

74. Any new development will lead to increased surface water run-off and therefore all new developments are encouraged to incorporate surface water mitigation techniques into their design.

75. All development should avoid putting any additional pollution pressures on Marton West Beck.

MW2: Housing Allocations

To support the sustainable growth of Marton West, housing development shall be carried out on sites allocated in the Middlesbrough Housing Local Plan in policies H30 and H31 and on small unallocated windfall sites.



MW3: Small Unallocated Sites

Development proposals on small unallocated sites for residential use will be supported if they are judged appropriate in relation to the following criteria:

1. That the location, scale, density and pattern of the development is appropriate to the existing design characteristics within Marton West and the street scene;
2. The capacity of the existing infrastructure, including broadband capacity, and the potential to improve it, to meet the increased demands likely to result from the development;
3. The development should not result in the loss of existing amenity open space unless it is replaced by open space of a similar or improved area and quality within the development;
4. Have high standards of quality and design, access, parking and amenity space; and,
5. The development would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the local highway network.

Site Assessment and Allocation of Site Policy

76. The individual site (Ford Riding School) assessment was based on local knowledge and the Middlesbrough Borough Council Strategic Land Housing Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

77. Marton West residents recognise the need for more housing but would suggest that this site has at least 40% of the development built as bungalows

as a way of partly meeting the shortfall of this type of housing in South Middlesbrough.

78. It is acknowledged that the figure of 40% is an aspiration and that the proportion of bungalows on the site will be a matter to be considered in the context of the overall deliverability of the development.

79. As Section 106 Agreements are negotiable a proportion of the developer contribution should go towards local traffic calming measures within the vicinity and a donation made for the upkeep of Bonny Grove Park, wetlands at land at West Moor Farm (previously identified as Sudbury Pond) and Fairy Dell.

MW4: Land at the Ford Riding School – Brass Castle Lane

Proposals for a high-quality residential development at Ford Riding School will be supported where an element of the dwellings provided should be bungalows. Subject to negotiation, a proportion of the developer contributions should be made towards traffic calming measures within the vicinity and a donation made for the upkeep long term maintenance of Bonny Grove Park, wetlands at land at West Moor Farm (previously identified as Sudbury Pond) and Fairy Dell.



Built Environment

80. The Neighbourhood Plan will ensure that all new houses built in Marton West reflect the general theme expressed in building styles and materials used over many years.

81. Where possible house heights should be restricted to 2-2½ storeys and the number of dormer windows should be kept to minimum to ensure they do not over dominate or overtake the roofscape.

82. All development should be enhanced by landscaping and planting and where appropriate and feasible to do so existing trees and hedges should be incorporated into development schemes.

83. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that all extensions or modifications (subject to permitted development rights) to existing premises whether to

increase their accommodation, provide extra facilities from out buildings, or add extra luxury to their living space, will continue to reflect the building style and materials that have presided over many years.

84. It will ensure that additions to premises will reflect the style and vernacular of the original building and temper the proportional increase in the bulk of the building. The combined building of the original and the extension should not significantly change the form bulk and general design of the original building or harm its landscape character or setting.

85. The permitted increase in ground footprint of any extension should be not more than 50% of the original building and should be sympathetic to the original building. It is also important that any changes do not detract from surrounding properties in style and materials.

MW5: Built Environment

Alterations and extensions to residential property should reflect the scale, detailing and materials of the parent building. Proposals should also:

- Not detract from the character of the property itself, or with neighbouring properties;
- Not cause significant harm to the amenities of nearby properties through overlooking, and/or overshadowing;
- Respect the existing building, both in detailing and character in the design of conservatories or sunrooms;
- Stagger or set back the extension to avoid lineation or a terracing effect so that it sits sub-servient to the host property;
- Avoid flat roofs for extensions and consider hipped roofs to soften the effect on the skyline and minimise the effect of visual terracing and loss of light;
- Use matching bricks, render or appropriate materials for extensions; and,
- In the case of dormers, be set below the ridge line, do not dominate or overtake the roofscape, be pitched, and be set back from the eaves line by an appropriate dimension sufficient to achieve a subordinate appearance, the number of dormer windows per dwelling should be kept to a minimum. Velux or similar type windows should be used as a preference.

Public realm improvements and advertisement boards:

- Improvements to the public realm should ensure that street furniture is of a high standard; and,
- Advertising boards should not be located on footways where this will cause an obstruction for partially sighted and disabled residents and also for parents with prams/buggies and they should be displayed in accordance with the Middlesbrough Urban Design Supplementary Planning Guidance.



Design

86. The design of new buildings and their location, scale, massing and materials in relation their surroundings are of vital importance in maintaining the character and image of an area. It is therefore important to establish a policy framework, which seeks to achieve the objective of maintaining a high-quality environment within Marton West.

87. There may also be opportunities to further enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the natural environment and encourage biodiversity, through the incorporation of bat roosts or bird boxes in new developments.

MW6: Design

New development in Marton West should be designed to:

- Reflect and enhance the character of the area in terms of its scale, massing, proportion, form and materials;
- Be similar in scale and proportion to existing buildings and will have a garden that is similar in size and sits comfortably with the gardens of adjacent properties;
- If it faces a street or is visible from a street reflect the rhythm, scale and proportion of the street scene;
- Not have an overbearing or a detrimental impact on the privacy and amenity of proposed or existing properties; and,
- Provide opportunities to enhance wildlife within and around the development.

In the case of design aspects, reference should be made to Middlesbrough Council's adopted Core Strategy Design Policy CS5 and the Middlesbrough Urban Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Backland Development

88. Backland development comprises development to the rear of existing houses, usually in large back gardens or open space used, for example, as vegetable plots or for vehicle parking.

89. It is however, considered that through successive developments the character of an area, like Marton West, can be radically altered and may eventually result in cramped forms of development which greatly reduce the outlook and landscape amenity currently afforded to existing dwellings.

90. The insertion of narrow or awkward access drives to serve land to the rear can greatly disrupt a street scene or affect adjoining properties through noise or visual intrusion of traffic movements.

91. Where there is sufficient land to provide development to the rear of properties care should be taken in the design and layout to avoid any overlooking of existing properties or their gardens. 'Tandem' development, involving the placing of one dwelling immediately behind another and sharing the same drive, will not be acceptable.

MW7: Backland Development

~~Backland or Tandem development will only be permitted where~~ **Backland or tandem development should:**

- ~~It~~ Incorporates separate and satisfactory access and parking provision;
- ~~An acceptable standard of residential amenity can be provided for the new dwelling~~ **Provide an acceptable standard of residential amenity for the new dwelling** and its development would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the amenity of adjacent dwellings;
- ~~An adequate open area can be provided within the curtilage of~~ **Provide an adequate open area within the curtilage of** the new and existing dwellings commensurate with the size of each dwelling and the character of the area; and,
- ~~The development reflects the scale and character~~ **Reflect the scale and character** of the surrounding area.

Surface Water Drainage

92. Marton West does not currently have a significant problem with flooding. In order not to exacerbate any potential impacts from new development, proposals should aim to reduce the overall level of flood risk in the area and beyond through the layout and form of the development, and the appropriate application of sustainable drainage techniques, which also make a contribution towards nature recovery networks and help to mitigate against climate change

MW8: Design to Reduce Surface Water Run-Off

New development within Marton West should be designed to maximise the retention of surface water on the development site and to minimise run-off. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be implemented wherever possible.

Public Transport

93. Most journeys by residents of Marton West area are made by either private car or public transport, mainly buses. As there is a need to encourage more journeys by sustainable public transport, it is important that a reliable and regular service is provided. This is especially important for those older residents of Marton West who rely on public transport who do not drive or have a car.

94. Opportunities should be taken within the planning process to make cycling, walking and public transport the modes of choice. These modes should be made more convenient for the majority of journeys than car usage, in order to promote sustainable transport. This is supported by the Council's existing transport policies, i.e. CS 18 – Demand Management and CS 19 – Road Safety

95. Any new housing development should demonstrate safe and easy access to public transport, thereby encouraging a reduction in car dependency

MW9: Public Transport

To support, where appropriate, initiatives by relevant public transport operators that are brought forward to maintain and enhance existing public transport provision, within the area, together with other forms of sustainable transport, i.e. cycling, walking



Parking

96. Cars littering residential areas can have a negative impact on the local environment, and create problems for residents accessing or egressing their drives. In addition, inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking blights those residents living adjacent to Lingfield Primary School and other sensitive areas within Marton West.

97. Grass verge and pavement parking is becoming increasingly frustrating for residents within the area. Inconsiderate parking on footways and grass verges causes obstructions to pedestrians particularly to those with special needs and mobility problems. It can also damage the utility piping under the ground and damages the grass making it look unsightly and costs money to make repairs, which can be recouped from those causing the damage.

MW10: Parking

Adequate off-road parking provision shall be provided within new developments in accordance with the Council's parking standards. Particular attention should be given to extensions to dwellings that entail modifications to driveways or the loss of garage space.

Education

98. Marton West has only one school, i.e. Lingfield Primary School. This school has always had a very good reputation and its pupil intake is at capacity. There is however, an issue of on street parking particularly when parents drop-off and pick-up their children to and from school. This has a major impact on adjacent residents due to the level of traffic. At times residents cannot enter and exit drives because of this inconsiderate parking. The road infrastructure surrounding the school cannot accommodate any further traffic at school times.

MW11: Lingfield Primary School Parking

To support through developer contributions, traffic calming and parking measures, which seek to ease traffic congestion around Lingfield Primary School.

References:

The following documentation has been used to provide background and/or helped to formulate the policies within this Neighbourhood Plan:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012 / July 2018
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), 2012.
- Tees Valley Sub-Regional Housing Strategy – Tees Valley Living, 2007.
- Middlesbrough's Housing Local Plan adopted 2014, Middlesbrough Council
- Middlesbrough's Housing Local Plan – Housing Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Documents 2011 – 2013.
- Middlesbrough's Core Strategy adopted 2008, Middlesbrough Council.
- Middlesbrough's Urban Design SPD, Middlesbrough Council, 2013.
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2012, Middlesbrough Council, 2012.
- Overall Housing Strategy – Housing Local Plan Background Paper 2014, Middlesbrough Council, 2014.
- Green Spaces Public Places – A Strategy for Public Open Space in Middlesbrough 2007 – 2012, Middlesbrough Council, 2007.
- Middlesbrough Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2023, Middlesbrough partnership, 2008.
- Middlesbrough 2020 Vision, Middlesbrough Council, 2012.
- Middlesbrough Local Transport Plan 3 2011 – 2016, Middlesbrough Council, 2011.
- Listed Buildings and Local List Index, Middlesbrough Council 2011 / 2019
- Newham Hall Landscape and Heritage Appraisal Reports 2013 – Ridsdale and Co.
 - Heritage Assessment Archaeological Services, Durham University, 2013
 - Appraisal of the designed landscape at Newham Hall, Fiona Green, Garden Historian, 2013
 - Landscape and visual appraisal of housing proposals for land adjacent to Newham hall Southern Green Chartered Landscape Architects, 2013
- Landscape and Heritage Assessment, LUC, December 2016
- Newham Hall Statement of Significance, Middlesbrough Council, 2014
- Inspector's Report - Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 77 – Application by Middlesbrough Council for permission to develop land to the north and west of Brass Castle
- Middlesbrough Council 5-year Housing Land Supply Assessment 2019-24, December 2019
- Middlesbrough Council – Historic Environment Record – Newham Hall, Conservation and Development Control reports for the enlarged area
- Middlesbrough Council - Planning policy evidence base
- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust - Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves in Middlesbrough December 2018

- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust - Ecological Assessment of Housing Sites – September 2018
- The Ancient Tree Registry - working with local residents, has identified a number of Ancient Trees, both veteran and notable, on land at Newham Hall
- Ridsdale and Co, owners of Newham Hall – provision of detailed historical information associated with their listed buildings and associated parkland setting.
- Historic England - Parkland and gardens of Newham Hall: Notification of Designation Decision [WH-WH. FID2539865]

Acknowledgements

The reconstituted Neighbourhood Forum, with the support of Marton West Community Council and Middlesbrough Council, has undertaken the updates to the Plan

The Team would like to thank the following in the preparation of this Plan and associated documentation:

Marton West Community Council Executive
 Marton West Councillors
 Marton West residents
 KVA Planning Consultancy
 Middlesbrough Council Planning Department
 Tees Wildlife Trust
 Ancient Trees Registry
 Historic England
 Ridsdale and Co
 Groundworks UK

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Equality Impact Assessment

Subject of assessment:	Marton West Modified Draft Neighbourhood Plan – Independent Examiner’s Report & Recommendations			
Coverage:	Marton West Neighbourhood Area & Ward only.			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities To enable town councils, parish councils and designated neighbourhood forums to prepare Neighbourhood Plans, that puts in place a vision and general planning polices for the development, and use of land in their designated neighbourhood area.</p> <p>Statutory drivers Neighbourhood Planning forms part of the statutory process under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach This is to approve the Modified Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating the recommendations of the Independent Examiner’s Report, in order to progress the modified Plan to the next stage in the Neighbourhood Planning process, in accordance with the above Regulations.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) The key stakeholders are local communities.</p> <p>Intended outcomes. To allow local communities to shape new development and improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of their neighbourhood.</p>			
Live date:	Upon approval			
Lifespan:	N/A			
Date of next review:	N/A			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation? *	☒	☐	☐	The recommendations set-out in the attached Council report accord with procedural guidelines of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to assist Local Authorities in the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, submitted by and in consultation with local communities, and therefore will not have any implications on human rights.
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups? *	☒	☐	☐	The recommendations set-out in the attached Executive report accord with procedural guidelines of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to assist Local Authorities in the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, submitted by and in consultation with local communities, and therefore will not have any implications on equality.
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town? *	☒	☐	☐	The recommendations set-out in the attached Executive report accord with procedural guidelines of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to assist Local Authorities in the adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, submitted by and in consultation with local communities, and therefore will not have any implications on community cohesion.
Next steps: ➤ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➤ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

Assessment completed by:	Charlton Gibben	Head of Service:	Paul Clarke
Date:	12/02/2021	Date:	12/02/2021

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

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Report of:	Cllrs Ron Arundale and Barrie Cooper – Armed Forces Champions
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Submitted to:	Council – 24 March 2021
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Subject:	Update on Armed Forces Community Covenant
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
To provide Council with an update with regard to the Armed Forces Community Covenant

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
To be noted	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
The covenant improves access to culture and quality of service for those transitioning from the armed services.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Ward(s) affected		
None		

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The report details the current position, and progress made by the Council in relation to fulfilling the commitments made in the updated Armed Forces Community Covenant, which was re-signed on 12 November 2020.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. To update members on the progress made against the Covenant Pillars.

Report Background

3. Middlesbrough Council originally declared its support for the armed forces community through the signing of its first Armed Forces Community Covenant (AFCC) on 19 June 2012.

4. In 2016 Middlesbrough Council received the Employee Recognition Scheme Silver Award in appreciation of their ongoing support to the Armed Forces Community. The MOD Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award publicly recognises the support employers and organisations provide the Armed Forces Community and is a formal way of thanking those businesses and organisations for their ongoing support.
5. The Council has reinforced its commitment to the Armed Forces again this year by re-signing the Covenant on 12 November 2020 and is currently working towards achieving the ERS Gold Award.
6. The report details the current position and progress made by the Council to fulfil its AFC pledges with specific reference to:
 - the formation of the Armed Forces Working Group
 - the 2019/20 Stock Take self-assessment of delivery of the Covenant Pillars (detailed in Appendix 1 and 2);
 - the Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan for 2020/21;
 - working towards achieving the 'Gold' award from the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS);

Armed Forces Working Group

7. An Armed Forces Forum (AFF) was established in 2016 which met at least once a year to discuss armed forces related issues and ensure that the Council met the needs of the armed forces community as outlined in the Covenant Pillars. Over time, attendance at these meetings became sporadic and actions arising from them were not always progressed. To ensure that identified actions were followed up, it was agreed that a smaller working group would be established to include core members from the AFF. The working group would report back to the AFF who were also welcome to attend meetings at any time or feed any ideas back to them. The Terms of Reference for the Armed Forces Working Group were formally agreed at a meeting in September 2019.
8. This smaller group consists of staff from across the council, Police, Housing, the prison service, MOD, Age UK, recovery services, RBL, NHS as well as representatives from other local organisations, who utilise their experience and expertise to help maximise the Council's ability to meet the needs of the armed forces community with the resources available to us.
9. The Working Group has met several times and progress has been made in delivering the Council's Covenant commitments. The biggest initial step was achieved in re-designing the Armed Forces pages on the Council website which provide information and advice relating to serving personnel, reservists and veterans.
10. The Defence Transition Service attended a meeting of the AFWG on 8 January 2020 and gave a presentation on transition from the military to civilian life. Following this meeting an A4 sheet containing important information in relation to services in Middlesbrough was devised and sent to them for future use. The DTS give this information to all those leaving the military who wish to relocate to Middlesbrough.

11. No meetings have taken place since the January meeting due to covid-19 but information is shared on a regular basis and a virtual meeting will be held in February 2021.

Stock Take Self-Assessment

12. The working group also had input concerning the annual Stock Take self-assessment (Appendix 1) regarding delivery of the Covenant 'Pillars' (Appendix 2) and this is used to identify priorities for the AF Covenant Action Plan in the following year.
13. Each pillar is given a 'traffic-light' rating based on being able to demonstrate successful delivery in that pillar area. Our goal is to achieve and maintain 'green' for all of them.
14. The 2019/20 Stock Take resulted in a 'green' rating for all of the pillars except the 'Transition' pillar – which is 'amber. Apart from the Forces Careers Office there is no significant military presence in Middlesbrough which means that we have very limited knowledge about those returning to our area and makes this pillar an area for improvement. We are starting to make progress towards achieving 'green' and will continue to address the matter through our AF Covenant Action Plan for 2020/21.

Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 20/21

15. The Action Plan is reviewed and updated continually. The Armed Forces Champions together with the Working Group use the results of the annual Stock Take to review and update the priorities of the Action Plan for the following year. Hence much of the AF Covenant Action Plan for 2020/21 is based on the results of the 2019/20 Stock Take. Over the last year our main focus has been to:
 - Continue to update the dedicated pages to the armed forces on the website
 - Promote the e-learning module to all Council staff as part of the induction process
 - Identify Armed Forces Champions in all service areas of the Council
 - Refresh the Armed Forces Covenant
 - Undertake a staff survey to identify numbers of ex forces and reservists at Middlesbrough Council
 - Roll out the Veterans Health Survey in conjunction with Middlesbrough Council, CCG and the AF Partnership.
 - Ensure that anyone seeking help from the Homelessness & Housing Solutions team is immediately identified as armed forces
 - Improve the detail and quality of information about the size, location and needs of our local armed forces community; and
 - Continue to work with internal / external partners and the other members of the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum to increase our combined impact in meeting the needs of the armed forces community.

The Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS)

16. The scheme was introduced to encourage employers to support the armed forces community and inspire others to do so. Those that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the AF Covenant are recognised through bronze, silver and gold awards.
17. The Council was initially awarded the Bronze Award and subsequently met the criteria to achieve the Silver award at the end of 2016 in appreciation of their ongoing support to the Armed Forces Community. The ERS Silver Award publicly recognises the support employers and organisations provide the Armed Forces Community and is a formal way of thanking those businesses and organisations for their ongoing support.
18. Much of the work outlined in this report has enabled the Council to maintain this accreditation and move towards being nominated for the 'Gold' award. This entails much greater and stricter scrutiny regarding being a robust supporter and advocate for the armed forces community.
19. The following are recent examples of work being done by the Council, which will be put forward in the submission for the gold award:
 - Re-affirming our commitment to the Armed Forces community by signing up to the new AF Covenant together with a number of other local businesses.
 - Introducing a Reservists policy for serving personnel.
 - Signing up to the Careers Transition Partnership and Forces Families Jobs to promote vacancies within the Council.
 - On 20 June 2018 Middlesbrough council passed a motion at full Council, that as part of their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, they would offer every armed forces service leaver a job interview within 3 years of leaving service provided they have the right credentials.
 - The most simple and effective way of increasing support for the armed forces community amongst local businesses, charities, voluntary, community and social enterprises is to raise awareness of the Covenant and then encourage them to do the same. Cllr Ron Arundale has approached many local business through his association with the Teesside Philanthropic Association highlighting the merits of signing up to the national AF Covenant.

CONCLUSION

20. Members are asked to note the contents of the report and the significant progress that is being made by the Council in fulfilling its commitments to the armed forces community, and the way that this has been achieved – primarily through the establishment and development of the Armed Forces Working Group.

21. In order to ensure that our Covenant-related activities and initiatives remain current and continue to support the local AF community, the Council will need to:
- continue to support the ongoing work of the Covenant Working Group to review and update the Covenant Action Plan and carry out the annual Stock take of the covenant pillars;
 - continue to monitor and implement appropriate responses to the information, guidance, research and reports provided through the various defence e-bulletins, e-newsletters and websites; and the Defence Secretary's annual report to Parliament;
22. By doing this we will be able to retain our Silver Award from the MOD ERS; maintain progress towards the Gold Award; and continue working towards and maintaining a 'green' rating for delivery of the Covenant pillars.

Legal

23. There are no legal implications.

Financial

24. There are no financial implications.

Policy Framework

25. The decision will not amend the Council's policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

26. Report is for information only.

Risk

27. The report is for information only.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

28. No actions are necessary, as the report is for information only.

Background papers

29. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- a) Middlesbrough Council Draft Stock Take for 2019/20 – Progress / Evidence
 - b) Covenant Pillars
 - c) Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme

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Community Covenant Pillar with 'traffic-light' self-assessment	Middlesbrough Council Stock Take for 2019/20 – Progress / Evidence
Individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An elected member Champion • An officer point of contact within the council 	<p>Cllrs Ron Arundale and Barrie Cooper appointed in July 2019</p> <p>Julie Lewis appointed as Civic Support & Town Twinning Officer in June 18 to liaise re Armed Forces Covenant and any Armed Forces matters</p>
Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A web page or platform with key information and links for members of the Armed Forces Community • A clear public statement of what members of the Armed Forces Community can expect from the council • A route through which concerns can be raised • Training of frontline staff • The production of an annual report highlighting the key actions taken that year 	<p>The authorities dedicated pages on the website which contain information and links to support members of the Armed Forces Community and their families need to be further enhanced and updated accordingly:- https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/mayor-council-and-councillors/civic-and-ceremonial/support-armed-forces</p> <p>The web pages should promote awareness of the help/support available to the AF community and are to be regularly updated with relevant information. The information provided on our armed forces web pages also support a number of the other covenant 'pillars'. The annual parades of remembrance, past military events and forthcoming events also have a dedicated page. The Veterans' Gateway is promoted as the key first point of contact for veterans and local support organisations are regularly encouraged to register with VG for referrals.</p> <p>There is a clear public statement on the web page which reflects the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces.</p> <p>The first point of contact is the Council's Customer Contact Centre and there is a platform on which any concerns can be raised via the Council Complaints procedure:- https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/open-data-foi-and-have-your-say/have-your-say/feedback-and-complaints-about-council-service</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council have been permitted to upload the e-learning module developed by Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire councils onto the staff training portal and this is expected to go live in April 2020. Initially, the training is being undertaken by front line staff and the remaining staff will be asked to undertake the training as part of their induction process. It is hoped that that all staff and elected members will access this as part of their continued development. Work is ongoing to identify Armed Forces Champions in relevant Service Areas and a script introduced for call centre staff which could identify anyone from the Armed Forces immediately.</p> <p>To review the Covenant annually with a view to meeting any highlighted needs. Report to go to Elected members at appropriate full council meeting from the Armed Forces Champions.</p>
Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outward-facing forum which meets regularly and includes the following: military reps.; military charities; public sector representatives; effective council members (senior elected members on cabinet); and the officer champion. 	<p>Middlesbrough Council are members of the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum. The forum consists of elected members and officers from the Tees Valley region, military representatives and local army reserve units. The TVAFF has not met since January 2018 as meetings were regularly postponed but there is a meeting scheduled for 20 September 2019. Officers from Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, Darlington and Redcar & Cleveland have regularly communicated by email and telephone.</p> <p>The North East Armed Forces Forum (NEAFF) usually meets twice a year. As well as military representatives, the 12 local authorities are represented by their elected Member AF Champions and contact officers. It also has updates/presentations to share information, ideas and best practice, encourages partnerships and more 'joined-up' working across the region. Information and updates are regularly shared outside of the meetings via email.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council is an active member of these groups and sends representatives to attend meetings/events wherever possible. The Council is fully committed to pursuing best practice in delivering our Covenant pledges with the resources we have available. We work with a range of internal and external partners in supporting the armed forces community in Middlesbrough including Hardwick House.</p>
Vision & Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An action plan which leads to action and is monitored and reviewed • Policy reviews • Enthusiasm and commitment 	<p>An action plan for Middlesbrough arising from this stocktake will be implemented by Julie Lewis and the AFCs. Progress against the plan will be monitored and reviewed on a six monthly basis and all policies relating to or those which affect the armed forces will be reviewed on an annual basis after being approved by the AF Working Group.</p> <p>The Armed Forces Covenant has not been refreshed for a number of years and with the changes in Middlesbrough following elections in May and the election of a new Mayor, the Covenant will be relaunched later in the year.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council has a HR Reservist supportive Policy in place which is contained within the staff handbook and actively operates a policy of additional paid leave for reservists.</p> <p>A short staff survey will be rolled out from September 2019 to establish how many Reservists are employed within the Council and which of the forces they served in.</p> <p>Middlesbrough's Armed Forces Forum was established in 2016 and met on a quarterly basis to discuss options and how best to share information etc but due to non-attendance and varying workloads of its members, a Working Group, which consists of fewer members was formed in March 2019. The working group will meet on a quarterly basis. The larger Armed Forces Forum will meet on an annual basis so that progress/information can be shared. Members of the larger forum can attend meetings of the working group as and when required at any time. Members of both groups include Council staff, Police, Army, Probation, Health, Housing, Recovery Services, Prison Service and other partners.</p>

	<p>The Working Group will use their knowledge and experience to ensure that actions arising from meetings will be progressed and monitored, gather information/statistics/evidence for the annual stocktake and liaise with others inside/outside the Council who have been identified to help deliver the action plan or provide information.</p>									
<p>Healthcare - The Armed Forces Community should receive the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as that received by any other citizen in the area they live</p>	<p>Over 200 TEWV staff have been specially trained in military culture and mental health awareness so they can better understand and treat the mental health illnesses of people who have served in the Armed Forces. These can include depression and other mood problems, anxiety, alcohol and drug misuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and adjustment difficulties. The Community Veterans Mental Health Service is supported by the Department of Health and the Ministry of Defence.</p> <p>Veterans should receive priority treatment where it relates to a condition resulting from service, subject to clinical need. Middlesbrough Council have signed the Community Covenant and ensure these responsibilities are being met and will also build on existing good work, such as the North East Scrutiny review of the health needs of Ex-Service Personnel. Details of the numbers of ex-forces personnel who have been accessed by the Mental Health Services in TEWV, from across the Tees Valley is ?? – information requested from TEWV still awaiting response.</p> <p>Below also shows the number of 'Ex-services' referrals from Middlesbrough and Stockton MIND - Date range 01.01.2017 to 30.07.2019</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="557 625 1038 724"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Age 18-64</th> <th>Age 75-89</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>134</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>25</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All facilities are equally accessible to local residents and those who require assistance.</p> <p>The current benefit take up campaign "It's Your Right to Claim" also provides information on health services in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>All GP Practices in Middlesbrough have been advised of the NHS initiative to become Veteran Friendly practices and are being actively encouraged to sign up to this. To date, 4 local practices have signed up and public health will be contacting surgeries to participate.</p> <p>There is a dedicated section in the 'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment' for the health and well-being needs of the ex-service community which can be found on the JSNA website. The 'Veterans' Health' theme has not been updated for several years and this is being raised with the Public Health Department with the aim of reviewing and updating the section.</p> <p>NHS England has a 'Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service' hub to support veterans across the north east. This is promoted on the Council's AF web page along with health services offered by Combat Stress PTSD UK, Finchale, Help for Heroes and several others.</p> <p>A Veterans Health survey has been devised by Emma McInnes (Public Health) and it is envisaged that the Survey will be launched later in 2019 to collect data from a sample size of residents to help Middlesbrough Council understand some of the characteristics of the veteran population and their specific needs. The survey will be made available online and promoted through the CCG and Public Health.</p> <p>The Council has commissioned drug/alcohol treatment services for the residents which includes the Armed Forces Community. They are currently being delivered by CGL - 'Change, Grow, Live' (CGL).</p> <p>If a person is identified as ex-forces when they have been referred to the Occupational Therapy Team and they have a contribution to pay for physical adaptations as part of the Disabled Facilities Grant, the Council will approach SSAFA to see if they will pay this element, if it is a passport there is no need to do this.</p>		Age 18-64	Age 75-89	Male	134	14	Female	25	0
	Age 18-64	Age 75-89								
Male	134	14								
Female	25	0								
<p>Education - Children of members of the Armed Forces should have the same standard of, and access to, education as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live. Service Personnel should expect to receive appropriate training and education for both personal and professional development, including the opportunity to gain nationally recognised civilian qualifications.</p>	<p>Middlesbrough Council recognises that children from service families can face specific disadvantages which can affect their emotional health and well-being, as well as their educational attainment.</p> <p>Pupil Premium</p> <p>Children from serving families are supported by the pupil premium. The DfE release a file at the start of every academic year which details pupil premium funding breakdowns, one of which is Service Child premium. This indicated that at the start of 2015-16 there were 98 pupils in Middlesbrough who received service child premiums. This figure does not just include those children whose parent (s) are currently serving. Children can also receive this if their parents have served in the last 5 years or those whose parents are in receipt of war pension. The figure for 18/19 is that 127 pupils were in receipt of the pupil premium.</p>									

	<p>School admissions</p> <p>If children of service personnel move into Middlesbrough and are wanting a mid-year transfer, in the main, the Council are able to meet parental preferences. If a place is available in school it should be offered to any child, if the school is full, we can still apply the following;</p> <p>“Children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants” are a category in the Local Authority’s Fair Access Protocol, which is a protocol to help to place children. The protocol allows schools to accept children in specified categories and admit over their admission number (unless the ‘extra’ child would take the school 10% over their admission number in that year group).</p> <p>Also, in particular for primary schools, as specified in the Admissions Code, “children of UK service personnel admitted outside the normal admissions round” are classed as an exception to Infant Class Size legislation, which means that classes in reception, Y1 and Y2 normally limited to 30 children per teacher are legally allowed to accept over 30 in such cases.</p> <p>Those young people post 16 who would like a career in the armed forces are followed by Stronger Families whilst in education, employment or training.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council offer training and educational opportunities via the Middlesbrough Community Learning Scheme. Middlesbrough Community Learning provides high quality learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. They are a focal point for the local community and provide a wealth of learning opportunities and courses for adults and young people. People accessing the service can apply for apprenticeships and training, participate in community learning programmes, access volunteering programmes be offered routes into employment. https://www.mcls.ac.uk/</p> <p>Emailed Andrea Williams 7/8/19 – awaiting response for further information for MBC.</p>
<p>Housing - Where Serving personnel are entitled to publicly provided accommodation, it should be of good quality, affordable, and suitably located. The MOD should also promote homeownership and offer support where this is desired. They should have priority status in applying for Government sponsored affordable housing schemes, and Service leavers should retain this status for a period after discharge.</p>	<p>All supported accommodation (homeless hostels, etc) can provide accommodation to service personnel. Hardwick House, managed by Riverside Care and Support is a supported housing project located in Middlesbrough on Grange Road, comprising 20 single self-contained flats housing single ex-Service veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming rough sleepers. It provides accommodation on a short term basis (up to 18 months) and facilitates residents move on into permanent housing in their area of choice. In addition, armed forces personnel get the highest priority on the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme.</p> <p>In November 2018 the Ministry of Defence and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government signed up to a statutory duty for commanding officers to refer vulnerable individuals to councils for housing. It is hoped the move will protect veterans from homelessness. We will monitor if this happens in our area.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council is signed up to the Compass Housing Scheme along with the other local authorities. The Compass Allocations Policy was amended in 2013 to include a provision to ensure that all ex-service personnel in housing need, would be given additional preference on the scheme to ensure they were given the best opportunity of securing housing suitable for their needs in a timely manner.</p> <p>Thirteen group provide the majority of social housing for Middlesbrough and award veterans Band 1 with additional priority. In the period from April 2016 to March 2019 Thirteen have housed 156 people in this priority band. Of the Regulars they have housed, 40 left the forces within the last 5 years and 92 responded that they left longer than 5 years ago. 16 people responded that they had been seriously injured or ill as a direct result of their time in the forces. Current figures in relation to Armed Forces Families housed in Middlesbrough have not been provided</p> <p>Thirteen group have advised that they will be launching the ‘My Thirteen’ digital lettings platform which will allow existing Thirteen customers more access to the services they deliver such as rents, repairs and tenancy management. They will advertise their vacant properties using this platform alongside a new Lettings Policy and the ‘Tees Valley Home Finder’.</p> <p>Homeless Accommodation is accessible to all those who present themselves and adaptations are also available through a Disabled Facilities Grant for those who meet the qualifying criteria.</p> <p>Everyone who seeks the help of the ‘Homelessness & Housing Solutions’ Team should be asked if they are a member of the armed forces, or ever have been. This ensures that they will receive relevant advice according to their circumstances. To ensure that the Homelessness provider asks this question as a matter of course.</p> <p>Representatives from local housing associations and organisations who provide housing advice are included on the Armed Forces Forum and regularly attend meetings.</p>
<p>Benefits & Tax - Members of the Armed Forces Community should have the same access to benefits as any UK citizen, except where tailored alternative schemes are in place</p>	<p>Middlesbrough Council continues to operate an enhancement to the housing, council tax benefit and the recent local council tax support schemes. This means there is a 100% disregard of military compensation payments, which includes war widows and war disablement pensions in the assessment process. Current claimants in receipt of the disregard can be found below (figures were obtained in August 2019)</p> <p>Claimants on War Disablement pension Housing benefit Only = 0</p>

Housing benefit and Council Tax reduction = 22
 Council Tax Reduction Only = 33
Claimants on War Widows Pension
 Housing Benefit only = 0
 Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction = 4
 Council Tax Reduction only = 3

The Council's Revenues and Benefits advisors are available to give advice and help on a number of issues including housing and council tax benefits. Advisors are based in hubs across the town including the town centre, Berwick Hills and Thorntree. Middlesbrough Council's website also has a dedicated page which contains information on council tax, free school meals, benefit advice, universal credit and other benefits. <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/benefits-and-council-tax>

The Council's Welfare Rights Unit provides specialised, independent and confidential advice, as well as representation on benefits and tax credits, and encourages the take-up of benefits. Appointments can be made to see any of the advisers.

The It's Your Right To Claim campaign helps people to understand which benefits they might be entitled to and haven't claimed, which can help those who are struggling to make ends meet. All sessions relating to the It's Your Right To Claim campaign are advertised on the website and in the community hubs. These sessions are run in conjunction with the Financial Inclusion Group and local advice partnerships.

Advice is also given by Middlesbrough Citizens Advice based on Linthorpe Road and is accessible to all residents. Middlesbrough CAB do not record the number of clients with links to the Armed Forces.

Amanda Ellwood is the Armed Forces Champion at Middlesbrough Job Centre Plus. The role of the DWP Armed Forces Champion is to:

- develop and maintain joint working arrangements between Jobcentre Plus and the armed forces community in the Tees Valley;
- provide information to Jobcentre Plus staff about specific armed forces initiatives;
- provide an understanding of the issues the forces community face that can be a barrier to employment;
- be the first point of contact for Jobcentre Plus staff and services welfare and families staff to advise on queries regarding individual armed forces cases – including serving personnel, their families and veterans;
- focus specifically on the Jobcentre Plus support available to service leavers, those within their resettlement period and spouses and civil partners of currently serving and ex-service personnel – where necessary and appropriate, the champions will work to put support in place.

The Council has contact with local support organisations such as the VWS, SSAFA, RBL, and Finchale to ensure that they can refer clients on if the need arises.

Family Life - Family members should have the same access to childcare, training and employment opportunities as any other citizen. Support should be available to minimise the impact of mobility.

The Council has formed links with various organisations supporting the armed forces community such as SSAFA and Finchale,

There is a variety of support in Middlesbrough to help families find work including the Council's Routes to Work and 50 Futures programmes which offer routes into employment via an apprenticeship scheme. In addition, many local companies have training schemes such as Network Rail. Job Centre Plus also have schemes that help ex-service personnel and their families into work.

Information about community events and activities relevant to any family is featured on the Council's website and through the various social media platforms - <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/leisure-events-libraries-and-hubs>

Love Middlesbrough Magazine - The magazine is delivered to every household in Middlesbrough and acts as an important source of information for local people, ranging from advice on health and welfare to a what's-on guide highlighting the best in arts and culture. Love Middlesbrough is produced on a quarterly basis and is also available online - <https://issuu.com/lovemiddlesbrough/docs/love-middlesbrough-magazine-autumn-2019>

Armed forces specific events and activities are placed on the armed forces section of the website - <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/mayor-council-and-councillors/civic-and-ceremonial/civic-events-calendar>

The Council also has an online information portal known as the Family Service Directory which gives information, advice and guidance on services and activities in the local area for children, young people, and families. The FSD contains information on childcare, health, employment and training, leisure, money advice and much more - <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/children-families-and-safeguarding/family-service-directory>

<p>Transition - Support should be available for all Service personnel in order to assist their transition from Service to civilian life.</p>	<p>Amanda Ellwood is the Armed Forces Champion for Middlesbrough Job Centre Plus. The main elements of her role are outlined in the Benefits and Tax section but she also ensures that those leaving the armed forces are able to access any benefit they are entitled to. Amanda is also responsible for identifying work opportunities and supporting service leavers and their families.</p> <p>Job Centre Plus continue to make referrals to the Finchale Group who provide support, welfare and debt advice and skills training. All 'Work Coaches' within Durham and the Tees Valley can refer AF clients directly to the Finchale Group. Mark Steed, the Veterans' Services Manager at the Finchale Group regularly attends the working group meetings to liaise with the council and other stakeholders.</p> <p>On 20 June 2018 Middlesbrough council passed a motion at full Council, that as part of their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, they would offer every armed forces service leaver a job interview within 3 years of leaving service provided they have the right credentials.</p> <p>The AFC's together with the relevant council officer have arranged to visit the Career Transition Partnership which is based in Catterick in September 2019 to better understand the work they undertake with service leavers and see whether they can be linked up with any local companies in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>The Council's armed forces web pages provide information to help those transitioning to civilian life.</p>
<p>Recognition - The Armed Forces Community is entitled to appropriate recognition for the unique Service which it has given, and continues to give, to the Nation.</p>	<p>Events / activities held to recognise and honour the Armed Forces in 2019/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flag raising – Armed Forces week June 19, Merchant Navy Day 3/9/19; RAF Ensign 9/9-16/9/19; • Supported 'Poppy Day' collections in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday on 10/11/19 in Middlesbrough town centre and various other venues. Middlesbrough Council are the lead authority for the Poppy Appeal and publish a letter in the local press from all Tees Valley authorities launching the annual Poppy Appeal on behalf of the RBL. • Annual poppy display in Nunthorpe commemorating the end of both wars from October 2019 organised by the ward Councillors and local residents • RAF Cadets Battle of Britain Parade and Service 15/9/19 • TS Erimus Sea Cadets Trafalgar Day Parade and Service 27/10/19 • Laying of the First Poppy and Turning of the Page in the Book of Remembrance Services 7/11/19 – 35 schools were in attendance to lay poppy crosses • Remembrance Day Service and Parade including a Wreath-laying ceremony with a special appearance by the Yorkshire Regiment Band 10/11/19 • Armistice Day service 11/11/19. <p>All armed forces events past and present feature on a newly created dedicated page on the Council's website and feature on the social media platforms. Every event is also featured in the Love Middlesbrough magazine and has resulted in improved attendance by the public. https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/mayor-council-and-councillors/civic-and-ceremonial/support-armed-forces/recognising-our-local-heroes-past-and-present</p> <p>The Armed Forces Champions also supported a number of events organised by the armed forces and veterans' organisations throughout the year including inspecting the Sea Cadets.</p> <p>Supporting recruitment – The Yorkshire Regiment and Army and Navy Careers Offices had recruitment stands in the town centre at various times of the year.</p>
<p>Participation as Citizens - The Armed Forces Community should be able to participate as citizens to the same extent as any UK citizen, subject to necessary constraints on the activities of public servants. This includes taking full part in the electoral process.</p>	<p>Cllrs Ronald Arundale and Barrie Cooper, our Armed Forces Champions, are advocates of the armed forces community and regularly attend meetings, events and forums to build links and partnerships to increase support. Cllr Arundale was a former member of the Parachute Regiment and is actively involved with SSAFA, RBL and the Paras.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council actively promote citizenship and participation in the democratic process throughout the year through a variety of events and activities. An annual canvass of every residential property in the borough takes place from July to October to ensure that everyone entitled to vote is on the electoral register. There are currently 47 electors registered as 'service voters.'</p> <p>We provide our local armed forces contacts with details of all the major public events coming up in the borough over the year so that they can pass the information on to raise awareness and attendance amongst serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families.</p> <p>The Council gives support for employees who are reservists by providing up to two weeks paid leave for training and unpaid leave should they be required to undertake military service overseas.</p> <p>See above information about activities, events and support for families that is provided on the main Council website.</p>

Recourse - Members of the Armed Forces Community should have means of recourse open to them, if they believe that they are not being treated in a fair and appropriate way.

The Council's Customer Services team has a 'Comments, Compliments, Commendations and Complaints' system for all members of the public to give feedback or raise issues of concern or complaint. It is available to any member or family member of the armed forces community. Those accessing the service are not currently asked if they are from the armed forces community. Several armed forces related queries have been directed through the Customer Contact Centres and Complaints section to Julie Lewis, the Covenant contact officer in Democratic Services. These were regarding various issues including the poppy appeal, parades and services and support for the armed forces.

A Freedom of Information and an internal request about the Council's Armed Forces Covenant was received and how we are fulfilling our commitments to it. Julie Lewis sent a response outlining all the support and initiatives which Middlesbrough Council are involved in.

In the coming year our main focus will be to:

1. Continue to update the dedicated pages to the armed forces on the website
2. Promote the e-learning module to all Council staff as part of the induction process
3. Identify Armed Forces Champions in all service areas of the Council
4. Refresh the Armed Forces Covenant
5. Undertake the staff survey to identify numbers of ex forces and reservists at Middlesbrough Council
6. Roll out the Veterans Health Survey in conjunction with the CCG
7. Ensure that anyone seeking help from the Homelessness & Housing Solutions team is immediately identified as armed forces
8. improve the detail and quality of information about the size, location and needs of our local armed forces community; and
9. continue to work with internal / external partners and the other members of the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum to increase our combined impact in meeting the needs of the armed forces community.

Appendix 2 – ‘Pillars’ of the Armed Forces Covenant

Covenant ‘Pillars’
<p>Healthcare The armed forces community should receive the same standard of, and access to healthcare as that received by any other citizen in the area they live.</p>
<p>Education Children of members of the Armed Forces should have the same standard of, and access to education as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live. Service Personnel should expect to receive appropriate training and education for both personal and professional development, including the opportunity to gain nationally recognised civilian qualifications.</p>
<p>Housing Where Serving personnel are entitled to publicly provided accommodation, it should be of good quality, affordable and suitably located. The MOD should promote home ownership and offer support where this is desired. They should have priority status in applying for Government sponsored affordable housing schemes, and Service leavers should retain this status for a period after discharge.</p>
<p>Benefits & Tax Members of the Armed Forces Community should have the same access to benefits as any UK Citizen, except where tailored alternative schemes are in place.</p>
<p>Family Life Family members should have the same access to childcare, training and employment opportunities as any other citizen. Support should be available to minimise the impact of mobility</p>
<p>Transition Support should be available for all Service Personnel in order to assist their transition from Service to Civilian life.</p>
<p>Recognition The Armed Forces Community is entitled to appropriate, recognition for the unique Service which it has given, and continues to give to the nation.</p>
<p>Participation as Citizens – The Armed Forces Community should be able to participate as citizens to the same extent as any UK citizen, subject to necessary constraints on the activities of public servants. This includes taking full part in the electoral process.</p>
<p>Recourse Members of the Armed Forces Community should have means of recourse open to them, if they believe that they are not being treated in a fair and appropriate way.</p>

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
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AGENDA ITEM 17

Submitted to:	Council - 24 March 2021
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Subject:	Council Diary 2021 - 2022
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
<p>(i) That the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/2022, as detailed in the Appendix attached, be approved.</p> <p>(ii) That, with the exception of the following, the dates for ordinary meetings of the Council be designated as meetings at which questions will be taken from members of the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget/Council Tax Setting Meetings – 23 February and 4 March 2022 • Wednesday 25 May 2022 (Annual Meeting)

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Can be called-in:
Decision	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Not applicable	Not applicable	The setting of the dates for meetings will enable the dates to be placed on the Committee Management System and for members to place them in their diaries. Failure to plan ahead may result in poor attendance or inquorate meetings.

Ward(s) affected
Not applicable

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To request approval of the draft programme of Council committee meeting dates for the Municipal Year 2021/2022 as outlined in the attached Appendix A and to approve the dates and times of Council meetings.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. Council is required to approve the diary of meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

Report Background

3. In order to prepare a diary of meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/2022, Council is requested to approve the attached draft programme for Council, Executive and other committee meetings.

The dates are tentative at this stage and may change depending upon the meetings being re-established in the new municipal year and to the requirements of individual chairs appointed at the annual meeting.

What decision(s) are being asked for? Why is this being recommended?

4. That the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/2022, as detailed in the Appendix attached, be approved.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

5. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

6. Not applicable

Financial

7. Not applicable

The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough

8. Not applicable

Policy Framework

9. Not applicable

Wards

10. Not applicable

Equality and Diversity

11. Not applicable

Risk

12. Not applicable

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

13. Place the dates on the Committee Management System.

Appendices

14. Copy of Draft Council Diary

Background papers

15. None

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**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2020/2021**

Committee	Time	Day	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022
Council	7 00 p.m. (unless indicated otherwise)	WEDS (unless indicated otherwise)	26(#1) 6pm	30*	28*		22*	20*	24*	22*	26*	23(#2)	Friday 4(#2) Wed 30*		25(#1)
Executive	1.00 p.m.	TUES	11	15	13		7	5	9	7	11	14 MON	8	5	
Overview and Scrutiny Board	4 00 p.m.	THURS		10	8		2,30	28	25	16	13	10	10	7	
Licensing Committee	1.00 p.m.	MON		14, 28	26		6, 27	18	8, 29	20	10, 31	28	14	4, 25	
Planning & Development Committee	1.30 p.m.	FRI		11	16		10	15	19	17	14	11	11	8	
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	3.30 p.m.	THURS		3	15		30			9		17	17		
Constitution and Members Development Committee	3.00 p.m.	FRI		4			17			10			4		
Staff Appeals Committee	10.00 a.m.	TUES	11	15	13		14	12	16	14	11	15	15	12	17
Teesside Pension Fund Committee	11 00 a.m.	WEDS		23	28		29			15			16		
Teesside Pension Board	2.00 p.m.	MON			19				15			21		11	
Works Council	11.30 a.m.	THUR			1			7			6			7	
Corporate Health & Safety Committee	9.30 a.m.	THUR			1			7			6			7	
Standards Committee	10.00 a.m.	TUES			5										
Joint Archives Committee	10.30 a.m.	WED						29				23			

NOTES:

- * Council meetings at which questions may be taken from members of the public.
- (#1) Annual Meeting.
- (#2) Budget/Council Tax Setting Meeting

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Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin Director of Legal & Governance Services Chris Hobson – Executive Member Finance and Governance
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Submitted to:	<i>Council 24 March 2021</i>
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Subject:	<i>Members’ Scheme of Allowances</i>
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council consider the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members’ Remuneration outlined in their report at Appendix 1 2. Council adopt the proposed Members Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22 (Appendix 2)

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
<i>Decision</i>	<i>No</i>	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
		An appropriate scheme of Members’ Allowances is integral to the good governance of the Council.

Ward(s) affected
N/A

What is the purpose of this report?

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

Why does this report require a Member decision?

4. The Council are required under Section 18 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to publish a Members Scheme of Allowances on an annual basis and to have due

regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members Remuneration.

Report Background

5. Members Allowances are reviewed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration annually, and undergo a full review every four years. The Panel carried out a full review in early 2018 and submitted their recommendations to Council for agreement.
6. In 2018 the Panel made recommendations that the Basic Allowance be increased incrementally, for a four year period in order to bring it in line with the average Basic Allowance of other Tees Valley authorities. It was also recommended that the Basic Allowance should continue to be increased in line with any inflationary staff pay awards.
7. It was recommended that; the multiplier for working out the level of SRA's was also to be suspended for a four year period; that the level of Special Responsibility Allowances be reduced by 14% and that no inflationary increase be applied. They also determined that they would review the Deputy Mayor's allowance after six months once further evidence of the remit of the role could be considered.
8. The Council approved those proposals in October 2019.
9. The Council are still required to publish an Annual Scheme of Allowances and therefore the Independent Panel still conduct an annual review to address any issues that have arisen or significant changes to roles receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance.
10. The panel submitted its recommendations for the Members Scheme of Allowances 2020/21 to full Council on 25 November 2020 (delayed due to the pandemic).
11. A motion was passed by Council that the Scheme of Allowances be referred back to the Panel in its entirety for further consideration, as it was felt that the recommendations failed to consider another significant Executive portfolio change and take into consideration Members receiving a rise when there was a possible pay freeze for staff.
12. The panel met on 12 January 2021 to consider the Council's view and were provided with copies of the minutes of the Council meeting. They determined that their initial proposals had been fully considered, given the information they had at the time of the review.
13. The Panel reiterated that they were aware of the current economic climate, however it was clear basic allowances were below regional averages and failing to adhere to the incremental plan agreed in 2019 would not address the long standing issues that could be detrimental in the longer term.
14. The Panel maintained their views on the proposed increase in remuneration to

the Deputy Mayor's portfolio and identified that they had reviewed the role as they had previously identified they would in 2019. When conducting the review the Panel took into account levels of responsibility, workload, time and commitment required to undertake the responsibilities set out in the portfolio, they do not consider individuals in those roles. The Panel identified that there was a significant increase in the responsibilities of the portfolio that should be recognised however due to economic factors the Panel recommended that the proposed increase should be limited to £1000 per year.

15. They accepted that the responsibilities of another Executive portfolio had significantly increased but that had occurred after their review had taken place, therefore they would review this role when they next considered the annual review.
16. The Panel requested clarification from the Monitoring Officer with regard to the options available to the Council and it was confirmed that the Council should have due regard to the Independent Panel's recommendations (justifying the reasons if the Council chose to reject them) although in essence they could accept; reject or propose their own amendments to the Scheme.
17. The Panel were also advised that the Members' Scheme of Allowances makes provision for any elected Member to forego all or any part of their allowances, without impacting on the Scheme.
18. The Panel met again on 8 March 2021 to consider its annual review and proposed a Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22. They considered representations from Councillors and comparative SRA information provided by Democratic Services.
19. The Panel determined that no changes were required for the majority of the Scheme of Allowances, however they made one further recommendation from their report to Council on 25 November 2020 in relation to the Executive portfolio for Communities and Education.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

20. That Council consider the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration outlined in their report at Appendix 1.
21. Council adopt the proposed Members Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22 (Appendix 2).

Why is this being recommended?

22. The Council are required under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to publish a Members Scheme of Allowances on an annual basis.
23. The Panel feel that the Scheme agreed in 2019 is achieving its intended goal i.e. to re-align allowances with our regional neighbours.

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

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

25. Other options available to the Council are

- Reject the Panel's recommendations and propose its own Scheme of Allowances.
- Retain the status quo and propose no changes to the Scheme of Allowances agreed in 2019.

26. Council have a duty and to have due regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members Remuneration.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

27. Council can either accept the recommendations of the Members' Remuneration Panel ('the Panel') or reject some or all of them; Council is obliged to have regard to the recommendations. But there is an obligation to have a scheme which can be amended at any time and which must be adopted anew each year. If Council votes to reject the Panel recommendations, the scheme that is adopted would be the previous scheme (unamended) unless members successfully move any amendments to the previous scheme.

Financial

28. For 2021/22 the Basic Allowance of £8057 will be paid in equal monthly instalments.

29. If approved there will be an increase of £2000 in the overall costs of Special Responsibility Allowances, which can be met from the existing budget.

Policy Framework

30. The Members' Scheme of Allowances forms part of the Council's Constitution and therefore any recommendations approved by Council will consequently update the Constitution.

Equality and Diversity

31. None – all groups are affected equally

Risk

32. If the recommendations of the Independent Panel are not accepted, the Basic Rate of Allowance for elected Members will remain unaligned from the Council's neighbouring authorities and may affect future recruitment of Members or skew the demographic profile of the Council so that it does not represent the community it serves.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

- I. The Head of Democratic Services to advise payroll of any changes.
- II. The Head of Democratic Services to publicise relevant Scheme of Allowances based on recommendations proposed in this report.
- III. The Head of Democratic services seeks new panel membership and or alternative Independent Panel provision

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 Independent Remuneration Panel Annual Review Report

APPENDIX 2 Proposed Members Scheme of Allowances 2021/22

Contact: Sylvia Reynolds

Email: sylvia_reynolds@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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MEMBERS' REMUNERATION – APPENDIX 1

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' REMUNERATION

Panel Membership

1. The establishment of an Independent Panel on Members Remuneration, and its resultant recommendations is required under sections 20 and 21 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The Panel consists of five members (with 1 vacancy), and meets on an annual basis to review Members Remuneration.
2. The Panel are keen to stress that in their deliberations they have carefully reviewed all the relevant information; respectfully considered all representations made to them; are sensitive to wider economic considerations and have acted independently of all other considerations.

Annual Review - 2021

3. Having carried out a full four-yearly review in 2018 (recommendations agreed in October 2019) the Panel were informed that an annual review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances was required for the municipal year 2021-22. The annual review is a full and robust process that encompasses the amount of allowances paid and the mechanisms by which they are assigned.

Allowances

4. The Panel were advised, and wish to convey to Members, that when considering allowances they have strong regard for the current economic conditions for local authorities; recent pay settlements for MBC employees; whether the level of remuneration reflect the responsibilities and commitment expected of Councillors and if they are set at levels which also recognise the well-established principle of voluntary unpaid public service.
5. In determining the rate of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) the Council previously agreed to use a banding scheme index model, based on multiples of the Basic Allowance. However, the index-banding system has been temporarily suspended following the 2018 review for a period of four years. In conducting the 2021 review, the Panel examined the levels of the Basic allowance in line with the 2018 review and Special Responsibility Allowances.
6. The Panel were provided with background information which included executive portfolio's, an overview of all roles currently receiving an SRA and comparator information for other local and Mayoral authorities in order to the assist the Panel with their deliberations. Providing comparator information against the other Tees Councils was not possible on an exact like for like basis, as each authority has a different political structure and committee make-up. However, data was examined on a best fit basis.
7. All elected members were invited to put written representations to the Panel. Two representations were received but fell outside the Panel's remit.

Basic Allowance

8. Following the Panel's 2018 recommendations no further changes were recommended.
9. The Panel maintained its recommendation that the Basic Allowance should continue to 'shadow' staff pay increase awards going forward.

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)

10. The Panel were advised that the 'Guidance on Consolidated Regulations for Local Authority Allowances' states that SRAs should only be paid when Councillors have "significant additional responsibilities" over and above the generally accepted responsibilities of a Councillor.
11. Until the 2018 review, the method of determining Special Responsibility Allowances was based on a 'multiplier', using the Basic Allowance as a base then multiplying it by a factor ranging from 0.5 to 10, depending on the role. This system has been suspended for a period of four years given the increase to the Basic Allowance and simultaneous decrease to SRAs. In line with the Panel's 2018 review the Panel have reviewed this situation and determined that the increase to the Basic Allowance continue as previously agreed.
12. The Panel were keen to express that when considering SRAs that they look at a role in its entirety and that an allowance was not solely based on the number of meetings held/attended. For example; they would take into consideration the depth and range of the portfolio; the level of responsibility; policy development; work with senior officers; level of accountability and decision making and the time commitment required. For Overview and Scrutiny other commitments were also considered, e.g. researching topics, site visits, external meetings with contributors to Panels, effective challenge and the coordination and selection of topics for review and call ins etc.
13. In their deliberation the Panel can only take into account the level of responsibility and commitment required for the role, they cannot take into account personal perceptions of those making representations of a person appointed to a post and therefore these have not been taken into consideration.

Authority	Mayoral Allowance
Hackney	£85,375
Newham	£84,272
Liverpool	£83,593
Tower Hamlets	£78,030
Lewisham	£67,909
North Tyneside	£67,321
Salford	£66,862
Watford	£65,738
Bristol	£65,522
Leicester	£62,933
Bedford	£62,552
Middlesbrough	£55,952
Mansfield	£54,863
Doncaster	£52,864
Copeland	£51,000

14. With regard to the Mayor the Panel examined the responsibilities of the Mayor and considered comparators with other Mayoral authorities and found that the allowance to the Mayor of Middlesbrough to be slightly below the average of other Mayoral authorities. It was also felt that regardless of the population or the size of an authority, the time, commitment and responsibilities of an elected Mayor are comparable.

15. The Panel felt those roles attracting an SRA were all still relevant, recognising the time commitment and responsibilities involved. It was also recognised that, generally, the rates afforded to special responsibility allowances in Middlesbrough were comparable to other Teesside Authorities.
16. As part of the Panel's 2018 review the exception to the general SRA reduction was that the Deputy Mayor's allowance remain the same as, at the time, he was also the thematic lead on drugs in addition to the responsibilities pertaining to the role of Deputy Mayor.
17. The Panel agreed to review this situation after six months. Due to the restrictions owing to the Covid Pandemic, it was only able to do so in October 2020. At this time the Panel found the Deputy Mayor had further increased his responsibilities by assuming the role of Lead Member for Children's Social Services.
18. After presenting a recommendation to Council that the Deputy Mayor's allowance increase by £1,000 in November 2020, Council rejected the recommendation and suggested the Panel review all SRAs, as other Executive Members had taken on additional responsibilities since the previous review.
19. Given the Panel were scheduled to undertake their annual review in early 2021, Council's suggestion has been considered in the Panel's 2021 review.
20. After considering each of the Executive Member portfolios the Panel feels the roles of Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Communities and Education now encompass new responsibilities that are likely to result in increased workload above what would normally be expected. In light of this the Panel feel the SRA assigned to those roles should be increased by £1,000 per year. The Panel would review this situation as part of their next review.
21. The Panel were also made aware of representations to the Head of Democratic Services that the Chair of Corporate Parenting Board receive an SRA due to the increased frequency of meetings and additional workload the current chair had assumed.
22. The Panel decided they needed more information about the activities of the Corporate Parenting Board before making a decision. The Panel agreed to consider this as part of their next review.
23. The Panel continue to recommend that during this period any future staff pay awards should not be applied to SRAs.
24. The Panel recognise the valued work and commitment provided by all members.

Travel & Subsistence

25. The Panel considered that the legislation allowed for travel and felt no changes were necessary.
26. The Panel considered the rates for mileage that are currently based on Her Majesties Revenues and Customs national rates i.e. 45p per mile; and subsistence in line with those paid to staff. The Panel recommended no change.

27. The Panel agreed that Co-Opted Members should be allowed to make claims for allowances based on the fact that they are acting voluntarily and that the current £10 per meeting rate remained reasonable and that no changes should be made.

Dependent Carers Allowance

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

Pensions

29. The 'Scheme of Allowances' sets out which Members of the authority are to be entitled to pensions in accordance with a scheme made under Section 7 of the Superannuation Act 1972.

30. In making that provision an authority may only include someone who has first been recommended by the Independent Panel. The current position is that no members receive a pension. The Panel recommended no change.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

The Panel felt that the Scheme of Allowances should remain as agreed in 2019, albeit with the following changes:

- I. That the rate of Special Responsibility Allowance for the role of Deputy Mayor and Lead for Children's Social Care be increased by £1,000 from £19,518 to £20,518.
 - II. That the rate of Special Responsibility Allowance for the role of Executive Member for Communities and Education be increased by £1,000 from £11,190 to £12,190.
32. The Panel were advised that the above recommendations could be accepted or rejected by Council. They were also advised that should Council reject the Panel's recommendations, Council could determine its own Scheme of Allowances having due regard for the Panel's recommendations.

Why is this being recommended?

The Scheme as agreed in 2019 is achieving the goals set by the Panel to re-align the Basic Allowance with regional neighbours.

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

MEMBERS SCHEMES OF ALLOWANCE 2021/22

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

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Middlesbrough Borough Council Members' Scheme of Allowances', and shall have effect for the year commencing on 1st April 2021 and subsequent years, unless amended by the Council.

2. In this Scheme:

"Year" means the 12 months ending with 31st March.

3. Basic Allowance

3.1 All Elected members including the Mayor of Middlesbrough Council receive a basic allowance to recognise the time devoted to carry out their work as Members. It is also intended to cover incidental costs such as use of members' homes, attendance at meetings with officers, community meetings, and ward activities.

3.2 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 provide for the payment of a basic allowance in respect of each year to each member of an authority, and the amount of such an allowance shall be the same for each such member. Subject to paragraphs, 10 and 11 the allowance will be paid to each elected Councillor for the year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

3.3 For 2021/22 the basic allowance of £8057 will be paid in equal monthly instalments.

3.4 The Basic Allowance will continue to be increased in line with any subsequent annual staff pay award.

4. Special Responsibility Allowances

4.1 Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) are paid in addition to the basic allowance to members who hold positions with significant responsibilities over and above the general duties of a councillor and are also paid in equal monthly instalments.

4.2 For each year a special responsibility allowance shall also be paid to those Members who hold the special responsibilities in relation to the Authority that are specified in Schedule 1, PROVIDED THAT no Member shall be entitled to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance. SRA allowances will remain static and shall not be increased in line with any subsequent annual staff pay award.

4.3 Special Responsibility Allowances were originally arrived at by an agreed multiple of the basic allowance. This process has been suspended from 1 April 2019 and

will be further reviewed in 2022.

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

5. Travelling and Subsistence Allowance – Councillors

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

6. Travelling and Subsistence – Co-opted Members

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

7. Dependent Carers Allowance

- 7.1 A Councillor or Co-opted Member shall be entitled to receive a dependent carers allowance to provide for child/ren or adult care, where he/she has necessarily incurred that expenditure in respect of a dependent who is looked after by a registered provider whilst the Councillor or Co-opted Member is carrying out an approved duty.

- 7.2 The dependent carers allowance referred to in paragraph 7.2 above shall be paid per hour and be in line with the national living wage and limited to 7 hours per week.
- 7.3 The allowance will not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household.
- 7.4 For the purposes of this paragraph, an approved duty is any duty listed in Part I of Schedule 2 to this Scheme.

8. Telephone / Broadband Allowance

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

9. Pensions

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

10. Renunciation

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

11. Part-year Entitlements

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

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

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

12 Claims and Payments

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

SCHEDULE 1

BASIC 2021/22 - £8057 x 47 Members (including Mayor)

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILTY ALLOWANCES (SRAs)

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

<u>OFFICE</u>	No of Positions	ALLOWANCE	<u>Total</u>
Mayor	1	£55,952	£55,952
Deputy Mayor & Executive Member	1	£20,518	£20,518
Executive Members (dual portfolio)	1	£12,190	£12,190
Executive Members	5	£11,190	£55,950
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Board	1	£11,190	£11,190
Chair of Licensing Committee	1	£8,393	£8,393
Chair of Planning & Development Committee	1	£8,393	£8,393
Chair of the Council	1	£5,595	£5,595
Chair of Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	1	£5,595	£5,595
Chairs of Scrutiny Panels	6	£5,595	£33,570
Chair of Standards Committee	1	£2,798	£2,798
Chair of Staff Appeals Committee	1	£2,798	£2,798
Chair of Teesside Pension Fund Committee	1	£2,798	£2,798
Political Group Leaders:			
Majority Group (currently not claimed)	1	£8,393	£8,393
Largest Minority Groups – maximum x 2 providing they have 10% of Council membership	2	£2,798	£5,596
Total cost of SRA	25	£152,004	£238,729

Banding Scheme Index – The Council’s “Multiplier” System of calculating Special Responsibility Allowances has been suspended for a period of 4 years (2022-23, or until it is next reviewed.

SCHEDULE 2

TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

Part 1 Duties that may qualify for Travelling & Subsistence Allowances

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

Travelling allowances may not be claimed for political group meetings;

Part 2 - Subsistence

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

Part 3. Telephone / Broadband Allowance

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

Part 4. Co-opted Members Travelling & Subsistence Allowances

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