

## THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 14 September 2021

Dear Member

### COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 22nd September, 2021** at **7.00 pm** in the Main Hall, in the Town Hall to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes - Council - 28 July 2021 5 - 14
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:  
  
Marketing and Communications has been moved from the portfolio of the Mayor to the portfolio of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities.  
  
In accordance with the Constitution, the change is required to be reported to Council.
7. Mayor's Statement and Report
8. Executive Member reports 15 - 68
9. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 69 - 74

10. Urgent Items

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

11. Members' Question Time

75 - 76

12. Notice of Motions

13. Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)

14. Council Committees and Outside Body Vacancies

77 - 80

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "CJ Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Benjamin,  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Documents referred to on this Summons may be downloaded from the Council's Website.

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

Should you have any queries in regard to the items on this agenda please contact Bernie Carr, Democratic Services on (Direct Line 01642 729714 or e-mail on: [bernie\\_carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:bernie_carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk)).

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**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 28 July 2021.

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

**OFFICERS:** B Carr, C Benjamin, S Bonner, D Johnson, S Lightwing, A Perriman and T Parkinson

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors L Garvey, A Bell (Vice-Chair), D Davison, T Furness, A High, L Lewis, G Purvis, J Rathmell, J Thompson, J Walker and C Wright

21/31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

21/32 **MINUTES- COUNCIL - 7 JULY 2021**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 July were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the correction of a minor typographical error under Executive Member questions.

21/33 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair announced with sadness, the death of former Councillor Peter Porley on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021, aged 90.

Peter was elected as Councillor for Park End ward in 1999 and was a member of a number of different committees. He was Chair of the Licensing Committee. Peter also acted as Civic Mayor of Middlesbrough in 2003/04 and remained a Ward Councillor until 2011.

All present stood in silence as a mark of respect.

21/34 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

There were no valid questions submitted from members of the public for this meeting.

21/35 **MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

The Mayor stated that he would like to highlight the following five issues:-

Covid-19

The Mayor advised that Middlesbrough had the worst rate of infections across the Tees Valley. He stated that the connection between infection and hospitalisation had changed. He stated that it was really important that people were vaccinated. The numbers were high but they were coming down. Neil Ferguson, a respected scientist had indicated that infection rates should have lowered by October.

The Mayor urged people to continue to wear masks in shops and on public transport.

Affordable Housing

The Mayor stated that a lack of high quality affordable housing had a negative impact on families' mental health and on how well children performed at school and after school.

The Council was currently involved in the following schemes which involved the building of

affordable homes:

Tollesby shops – work had commenced on site.

Captain Cook site – high quality social housing was being built.

Gresham – Following a £21m investment from Thirteen (which was part of a £30m investment), housing would be delivered within a year.

#### Policing/behavior/crime

The Mayor stated that he was disappointed that the current Chief Constable, Richard Lewis was leaving his post as he had stabilised the force. The Mayor stated that he was optimistic for the force going forward. He stated that he hoped that whoever was appointed, would build upon the work of the current Chief Constable, and continue to drive the police force going forward.

#### Roads/Potholes

The Mayor stated that there was lots of anger about the state of the roads in Middlesbrough, particularly in relation to potholes. The Council had spent more money on potholes in the last year then it had over a period of years.

There had been a lack of spending on roads over the last 10 years and as a consequence, it would cost millions of pounds to repair the roads to an acceptable level.

Over the next two months, there would be a challenge for the Executive and Senior Officers, to look at how the funding would be found.

#### Middlesbrough Wild Flowers and Trees

The Mayor stated that the planting of trees and wild flowers in the town was cheering people in the town up and lifting spirits. In the next few days there would be floral displays placed throughout the town. The Mayor asked if anyone had any other ideas about improving the town that would not cost too much, to let him know.

Councillor M Storey stated that he was pleased to see the demolition of Tollesby shops and that work had commenced on the site. He thanked the Mayor and the Council for following through with the plans. He stated that Councillor Dean deserved some credit as she had worked hard on this issue for many years, together with previous labour Councillors and the MP for Middlesbrough.

In respect of the roads and potholes, the Mayor and Executive Members had initiated the pothole purge, and the expectations of residents had been raised to thinking that all potholes would be repaired. He stated that in future the Mayor and the Executive needed to be careful how things were worded. There needed to be a programme of repairs so that the public could see which potholes were included within that programme.

The Mayor stated that the scale of the damage and neglect had not been appreciated. He stated that a lot of money needed to be spent. The Executive would come up with a solid proposal.

Councillor Cooke stated that in terms of Covid, 100 people had been vaccinated in Newport at the health mobile event and he praised the staff, the NHS and locality staff. There would two more vaccination mobile events, the first was the following day in Southfield Road Mosque between 11.30am and 2.30pm and on Friday at Albert Park at the same time.

In terms of Richard Lewis, he stated that he had previously had bad experiences with the police and thought he would find it hard to appreciate his work in the role. He found however that he was a very knowledgeable and caring man. He suggested that members should formalise their thanks by signing something to show their appreciation of Richard Lewis's work with the force, which would then be given to him when he left the force.

The Mayor stated that it was a good idea in respect of signing something to show the

Council's appreciation in respect of the Chief Constable. In respect of the work being carried out in Newport Ward in relation to vaccinations, the Mayor thanked Councillor Cooke and stated that he was doing a great job in the Ward, and that he was a role model and the Mayor thanked him.

Councillor Higgins stated that at a recent Children's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel meeting, she had praised the Council for their work with Covid. She stated that she had been shocked with regard to the number of children getting Covid. Although children were not getting really ill with Covid, they were still able to pass it on. She stated that she would like the Council to publicise it on the radio with regard to these facts. Councillor Higgins thanked the staff for all their work in relation to Covid.

The Mayor stated that children were getting Covid and passing it on to older relatives and it was right that this should be publicised.

Councillor C Hobson raised concerns regarding the quality of repairs of the potholes and she stated that this needed to be looked at.

The Mayor stated that an explanation needed to be obtained from the department with regard to current procedures for repairing potholes.

Councillor McTigue stated that members should have been asked if they wished to comment on the former councillor. The Chair stated that the councillor had been deceased for some time prior to the Council meeting, however he apologised for this omission.

Councillor Coupe stated that some families had contracted Covid from their children. One 30 year old was currently very ill, in hospital with Covid. This was likely to continue until everyone was vaccinated.

In relation to Richard Lewis, having sat on the Police and Crime Panel and being involved in the appointments of previous Chief Constables, he queried whether neighbourhood policing and having named contacts at the police could be made a priority.

The Mayor stated that the new Chief Constable would have great ambitions. Most forces faced the same issues because of the number of officers and the lack of resources. The Police needed more funding to appoint more officers.

Councillor McTigue stated that there was not necessarily a problem with the number of police officers, it was the judicial system. Prisons should be a place where criminals did not want to return to but most criminals were not afraid about returning to jail.

The Mayor stated that if a person was put into prison, it removed them from the streets and gave the victims a sense of justice. Prisoners needed to be re-educated to be given the chance to learn and build skills. The Courts were also too soft.

Councillor Arundale stated that some years ago he had submitted a proposal to the environment on how to repair and seal potholes. The majority of repairs to potholes had been repaired correctly.

Councillor Uddin queried whether the town could re-introduce facemasks, social distancing and the washing of hands.

The Mayor stated that people needed to be encouraged to wear masks on public transport and shops, wash hands and encourage social distancing. The Council could not enforce any of these measures, it could only provide guidance.

21/36

## **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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

**ORDERED** that the report be noted.

21/37 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

21/38 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Consideration was given to Motion No. 147, moved by Councillor M Storey and seconded by Councillor Rooney of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Motion: Freedom of the Borough

“That Council, in accordance with Procedure Rule 7(a) (ii) of the constitution of Middlesbrough Council agree a resolution to call an Extraordinary meeting of the Council for the purposes of awarding the Freedom of the Borough to Mr Gareth Southgate OBE.

After some of the most difficult and tragic 18 months this country has faced, this England football team led by Gareth Southgate has given everyone some much needed hope and joy. In difficult times, Gareth Southgate has united [England](#) with his unifying presence, leadership and quiet charisma. As a former Captain and manager of Middlesbrough Football Club, Gareth has a unique connection with our town. This Council believes it is fitting to award him the Freedom of the Borough.”

Councillor Rooney seconded the Motion and reserved the right to speak.

Councillor M Storey spoke in support of the Motion. He stated that he was delighted to propose the Motion. Gareth Southgate was the first Boro captain to lift a league trophy. By reaching the first major final for England in 55 years, Gareth Southgate had written his name into the national story. The England team were moulded in the image of Gareth Southgate. They were young talented, hard-working lads and provided role models for young people.

The stance of the manager and the team against anti-racism was to be applauded. The England team had given the people joy and he recommended that Gareth Southgate be given the Freedom of the Borough. .

Councillor Platt queried whether the honour should only be given to people brought up in the town. He provided a list of other successful sportsmen in the town, Councillor Platt pointed out that the award was awarded for eminent services to Middlesbrough. The award was bestowed on few people and only 17 had received it. He stated that Gareth Southgate was a genuine person but he queried whether people who did not live in the Borough should receive the award,

Councillor Mawston spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Higgins spoke in support of the Motion. She stated that Gareth Southgate was a role model for young people. He had influenced the young people of Middlesbrough,

Councillor McTigue queried whether Gareth Southgate was born or lived in Middlesbrough. It was confirmed that he was not born or did not live in the town. She stated that the award should be given to someone who was born and lived in the town.

Councillor Cooke spoke in support of the Motion. He stated that any of the people on the list that Councillor Platt had read out deserved the award. The young children looked up to the England team and the manager. People who aspired young people did not necessarily have to come from Middlesbrough.

Councillor Arundale stated that Gareth Southgate had done lots for the football team and the country however the award was normally for people who spent a lifetime of service in the town. Only 17 people had been awarded the honour and there was a reason for this.

Councillor Rooney spoke in support of the Motion. Councillor Rooney stated that the reason she was supporting the Motion was not so much about football, but about the leadership that had been shown by Gareth Southgate. The country had been through a horrendous 18 months and lots of people had lost relatives. The people of the town had got behind the



football matches. Middlesbrough was about football. The award was deserved for the way in which Gareth Southgate had showed leadership and his dignity in supporting players and responding to racism. He had connections with the town as manager of the football team.

The Mayor stated that from the responses to the motion so far, there appeared to be two sides. Whilst he acknowledged and understood some of the comments, he stated that in his view, Gareth Southgate should receive the award. Gareth Southgate had done something remarkable – he united people. His decency, honesty and integrity and the standards of behaviour imposed on the team meant they were role models for young people. The Mayor stated that the whole nation had got behind the team, and in his view, Gareth Southgate deserved the award.

Councillor Hellaoui spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Hubbard spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Cooke pointed out that there were other people on the Freedom of the Borough Award Board that were not born in Middlesbrough.

Councillor M Storey summed up the reasons why Gareth Southgate should be given the Freedom of the Borough.

Following a vote, it was moved seconded and **ORDERED** that a date be set for an Extraordinary meeting of the Council, as required by Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, in order to confer the Freedom of the Borough on Gareth Southgate.

Consideration was given to Motion No. 148, moved by Councillor Arundale and seconded by Councillor Waters of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Motion: Planning Applications

“The MIG Group ask that this Council support the House of Commons cross party agreement in stating we believe planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes, and therefore call on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications”.

Councillor Waters seconded the Motion,

Councillor S Walker spoke in support of the Motion.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by Councillor Branson and seconded by Councillor Cooke as follows:

“This Council resolves to support the House of Commons cross party agreement. This Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes. Necessary new homes must mean homes of good quality and be affordable. This Council therefore calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications. ”

Councillor Branson spoke to the amendment to the Motion.

Councillor Arundale spoke against the amended Motion.

Councillor Mawston spoke against the amended Motion.

The Chair of the Council explained the background to the Motion

Councillor Cooke spoke in support of the amended Motion

The Mayor spoke against the amended Motion.

Councillor McTigue spoke against the amended Motion

Councillor Rooney spoke in support of the amended Motion

The amendment was put to the vote.

On a vote being taken the amendment was declared **LOST**

The substantive motion was then put.

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

Consideration was given to Motion No. 149, moved by Councillor Mason and seconded by Councillor Coupe of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Motion: Middlesbrough for City Status Motion:

As part of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations to mark her 70 years on the throne, local authorities are being given the opportunity to enter a competition to be granted official city status. This civic honors competition will grant local authorities this opportunity for the first time in 10 years.

Middlesbrough is a town with a long and colourful history, perhaps most famous for its world-renowned iron and steel industry which has contributed to many projects around the world. Gladstone famously referred to us as 'The Infant Hercules' and our motto is 'Erimus' meaning 'we shall be'. We should not only be immensely proud of this history and heritage but, like our motto indicates, do everything we can to build on it moving forward.

We have a world class hospital, respected university and educational establishments, proud football club with an international fan base and so very much more. We have also always been a place that is welcoming to all. As it stands, we are one of the biggest metropolitan areas in the country without a city at its heart – and one of the biggest towns in the country without city status.

By entering this competition to become a city, we have a chance to build on our legacy and open a new chapter. If Middlesbrough was to become a city it would almost certainly become a more attractive destination to future investors, encourage job creation and help share our town's story further still.

But regardless of our thoughts as Conservative councillors, the most important thing to consider is that there is clear support from residents in Middlesbrough to submit an application for city status. This was demonstrated by a recent poll held by the council where residents overwhelmingly backed making a submission. We think it's only right that we listen to the people and act on their behalf.

**This council therefore resolves:**

That a formal bid should be submitted by this Council on behalf of the people of Middlesbrough to be granted official city status.

Councillor Mason spoke to the Motion.

Councillor Coupe seconded the Motion.

Councillor McTigue spoke in support of the Motion but advised that she would like further information on the benefits of obtaining "City Status".

Councillor Mason explained that the bid for City Status should be made at least

three or four months before the Queen's Jubilee.

Councillor C Hobson spoke against the Motion.

Councillor Mawston commented on the Motion.

Councillor Cooke spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Higgins spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Branson spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor M Storey spoke in support of the Motion.

The Mayor spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Coupe spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Rooney proposed an amendment to the Motion. She queried whether the reference to the Conservatives could be removed and whether full costings could be brought to the Council before making a decision.

Councillor M Storey seconded the amendment to the Motion.

Councillor Smiles advised that the deadline for the submission of the bid was December. Councillor Smiles advised members that she was confident that the bid would cost less than £10k.

Councillor Rooney advised that on the basis of the information provided by Councillor Smiles, that the amendment to the Motion was withdrawn.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that the part of the Motion that members would be voting on was as follows:

That a formal bid should be submitted by this Council on behalf of the people of Middlesbrough to be granted official city status.

The motion was then put.

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

21/39 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

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

21/40 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

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

Question 1/21 - Councillor Branson to the Mayor regarding whether the creation of a Freeport at Teesport was likely to mean that businesses from Middlesbrough would relocate there and this would lead to a reduction in Council Tax Revenue.

The Mayor advised that he did have concerns that businesses would move from one part of the town and relocate to the Freeport but he did not think this would happen. He stated that the idea of the Freeport was about attracting international businesses to the town. The Freeport would be based upon people bringing jobs to the area. Part of Middlesbrough was in the Freeport such as Dawsons and other businesses were considering locating to the Freeport.

Question 2/21 - Councillor Cooke to Councillor Cooper regarding the repair of a crater on The Crescent/Meath Street junction and whether an audit could be done throughout the town to

ensure that this would not happen again.

Councillor Cooke acknowledged that one of the craters had been repaired but he advised that his question still applied because of the state of other roads in the town.

Councillor Cooper advised that an audit had been carried out in respect of all roads but this would be an ongoing process. He advised that a list of the roads that had been identified as in need of repair would be circulated and if any roads had been missed off the list, Councillors could notify him of any omissions.

Question 3/21 - Councillor Hellaoui to the Mayor regarding children living in poverty in Middlesbrough.

The Mayor advised that it was a complex problem. One of the reasons that the North East was suffering was because of the drop in population. The people that were leaving were those that had the financial means to do so. The Mayor stated that the Council needed to attract people to the town but we also need to help those that required help.

Changing poverty was about culture, education, ambition, good role models and money. The Mayor stated that the Council could make sure that nobody ever went hungry. The Mayor stated that the town also needed high quality housing. He stated that the improvement in Children's Services was good but it would still take some time to remedy.

21/41

## **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Councillor Cooper presented a report, which sought agreement from the Council to conduct a 'Community Governance Review' for the whole of the Council's area to include Parish and Community Councils.

Councils were required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Boundary Commission. Guidance suggested that it was good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a Community Governance Review every 10-15 years. It had been over fifteen years since a review was last undertaken in Middlesbrough.

A request had been made by Nunthorpe Parish Council to reconsider its current boundaries and therefore it was considered timely to conduct a review of the whole of the Council's area and that any decisions to make changes to parish arrangements would be implemented at the next full parish elections in 2023.

Community Council's operated on a less formal footing i.e. they were not democratically elected like Parish Councils were, however, they played an equally strong part in representing communities and acting as another mechanism for the Council to consult with communities at a local level. As a consequence, it was proposed to include Community Council's in the Community Governance Review consultation.

Following a vote it was **ORDERED** as follows:

1. That Council agree that a Community Governance Review be undertaken across the whole of the Council's area under the terms of Chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health (LGPIH) Act 2007.
2. That Council approve the timetable for the review outlined in Appendix A of the report.
3. That Council delegate to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee, consideration and agreement of a Terms of Reference for the review and any consultation responses for the review with final recommendations referred back to Council for approval.

21/42

## **UPDATE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services presented a report, the purpose of which was for Council to consider proposals to update the Constitution in respect of Motions of No Confidence, the timescales for submitting the different types of motions, the use of a Notice of Motions form and voting on Committee appointments. The proposals had been considered and endorsed at the Constitution and Members Development Committee on 26 February 2021.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That Council approve the following proposals to update the Constitution:

- I. Motions of No confidence (Appendix A) to the report to be added to the Constitution.
- II. Note that all Members of Council to vote on appointment of Committee Chairs and members.
- III. Change the timescale for submitting a Motion from 7 working days to 9 working days for Notice of Motions.
- IV. Agree the proposals to introduce the use a Notice of Motion form to gather additional information.
- V. Agree the proposal to submit amendments to ordinary motions, in writing, 2 working days before the Council meeting.
- VI. Agree the proposal to submit amendments to the Council Budget, in writing, 3 working days before the Council meeting.

21/43

#### **REVISED MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services presented a report, which sought the approval of Council to the revised edition of the Members Code of Conduct.

The Constitution and Member Development Committee had been consulted on the proposed revisions and proposed some minor amendments which had been incorporated into the revised version.

The revised code had also been considered and endorsed by the Standards Committee on 19 July 2021, with a recommendation that it be submitted to Council, for final approval.

The purpose of the revised Code of Conduct was as follows;

- To assist Members' in modelling their behaviours to the expected behaviour set out in the code, and to outline the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against a member.
- To protect Members, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. The code set out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct.
- To reflect the recommendations on best practice resulting from the Local Government Ethical Standards Committee Review in relation to Standards in Public Life.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** that the revised edition of the Members' Code of Conduct be approved.

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

**Council Meeting: 22 September 2021**

**DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **22 September 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: 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

#### CONTENTS

#### SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

|   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Elected Mayor (who also has responsibility for the Adult Social Care and Public Protection and Children’s Services Safeguarding portfolios)<br/><i>Andy Preston</i></li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities<br/><i>Councillor M Smiles</i></li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Education<br/><i>Councillor S Hill</i></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance<br/><i>Councillor B Cooper</i></li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Regeneration<br/><i>Councillor E Polano</i></li> </ul>  |

**SECTION 2** – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 29 June 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 22 SEPTEMBER 2021

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### Governance

#### Ofsted

1. Focused visit from Ofsted 26 / 27 May 2021. Report published 15 July 2021. Focused visits set up to assess how 'England's social care system has delivered child centered practice and care within the context of the restrictions placed on society during the pandemic'.
2. Carried out by four social care inspectors and one education inspector. Looked across the whole of Children's Services i.e. both the children's social care and education and partnerships areas of practice. Gathered evidence during the previous two weeks.
3. Overall a successful visit. Praise for the way the directorate worked through the pandemic. Managed to improve services in the face of increased demand. A selection of key points includes:
  - Leaders appropriately prioritised recruitment and the development of the workforce strategy.
  - Workers are persistent and build good relationships with children so interventions are more effective.
  - Staff report feeling supported, liked working for Middlesbrough and understood the vision for change.
  - Caseloads are reducing but some too high for some social workers.
  - The quality of practice is variable and does not meet leader's expectations.
  - Some children experience too many changes of social worker. Children want to have social workers who stay with them for a long time.
  - There was a significant focus on Children Missing Education.
  - A minority of Looked after Children are on reduced timetables or have had no education for too long.
4. The inspectors made two recommendations namely:
  - To improve management oversight and actions to ensure that vulnerable children and children in care, including those with special needs and/or disabilities (SEND), receive their full educational entitlement.

- To improve the understanding of identity and the diverse needs of children and their families to inform assessment, planning and support.

## Commissioner

5. With Children's Services week of 12 July. He:-
  - Looked at a range of key strategic documents,
  - Undertook interviews with leaders including political leaders,
  - Held focus groups looking at key areas.
6. In summary 'considerable progress has been made and there is evidence of real impact'.
7. Recommended that 'no further direct engagement of an appointed commissioner is required and continued monitoring and support to be from the Improvement Adviser and the core DfE team'.
8. The report and its recommendation will be presented to the Minister on 8 September for a decision to be made by 15 September.

## Strategic Plan Priorities, Outcomes and Progress

9. Priorities
  - We will show Middlesbrough's children that they matter and work to make our town safe and welcoming and to improve outcomes for all children and young people.
  - We will work to address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable.
  - We will ensure the recovery of local communities, businesses and the Council's operations from COVID, taking opportunities to build back better.

**All Cross Cutting i.e. across the whole of Children's Services – Children's Social Care and Education and Partnerships so information from both services included.**

| Priorities  | Outcomes  | Progress  |
|---|---|---|
| We will show Middlesbrough's children that they matter and work to make our town safe and welcoming and to improve outcomes for all children and young people | Deliver the Children's Services Improvement Plan to achieve Ofsted rating on Requires improvement | <p>Positive feedback from Ofsted focused visit to Children's Services on May 26 and May 27. Report shared with members</p> <p>Positive report from our Commissioner Peter Dwyer recommending that we are not a service that requires an alternative delivery model.</p> <p>Report presented to the Minister, Vicky Ford on 8 September with a decision by 15 September. If agreed, the Commissioner's involvement will cease and improvement programme supported by our improvement advisor only.</p> |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  |   | The entire report will be shared after the Ministerial decision.   |
|  | Increase attainment and attendance levels and reduce exclusions for all children across Middlesbrough                                   | <p>New Exclusion model implemented and exclusions reduced last year.</p> <p>Our new initiative VCAP (Vulnerable Children's Attendance Project) is improving attendance of our most vulnerable students (e.g. 87.4 % for Children Looked After).</p> <p>Sept 20 – July 21 - attendance was 91.4% (94.3% Primary, 85.7% Secondary and 92.6% Special schools).</p> <p>Overall attendance was disrupted due to COVID.</p>  |
|  | Deliver the Youth Justice plan to reduce reoffending, safe and effective use of custody and reducing the numbers of first time entrants | <p>The Youth Justice Plan is now in delivery and overseen by the Multi-agency Youth Justice Board.</p> <p>Reoffending rates continue to decline in broader population with continued focus on prolific offenders.</p> <p>PACE bed steering group provides effective oversight of use of police custody - 100% compliance with PACE bed protocol. (PACE beds limit the time YP spend in police custody.</p> <p>Work this year includes building/ implementing an effective pathway to support YP to access Education, Training and Employment.</p> <p>Continued focus on supporting Children Looked After within the Criminal Justice system.</p> <p>Youth Offending Service is working with Cleveland Police Early Intervention Coordinators to deliver violence reduction work.</p> |
|  | Ensure high achievement for all from the early years by closing the gaps for the most vulnerable and focussing on Key Stage 4 outcomes  | <p>New Achievement Strategy launched at the end of last year which will impact within the new school year.</p> <p>The focus is to deliver:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• school to school support</li> <li>• overcome obstacles caused by disadvantage</li> </ul>  |
|  | Target young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)   | <p>Early Help team continue to support young people who are NEET/ at risk of becoming NEET.</p> <p>Approach is working well and the proportional NEET rate (combined NEET and Not Known) stretch figure for 2020-2021 is provisionally 6.1% (England average 5.5%, North East average 5.7%.</p>  |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | <p>Middlesbrough's rate of participation in education or training for 2000 was 96.2%. Third best in the NE. (Average NE rate 94.8% and England 95.4%).</p> <p>The Community Learning Service offers apprenticeship training to young people needing support.</p> <p>55% of Care Leavers aged 17-18 years are currently NEET. This increases to 64% for those Care Leavers aged 19-21. This is a national issue and Middlesbrough have developed a NEET Panel to aid a response to this and develop bespoke packages of support for these young people.</p>  |
|   | <p>Deliver a universal, town-wide Children and Young People Strategy</p>   | <p>The Corporate Reference group was set up to ensure that other directorates were informed about and contributed to the Children's Services improvement plan.</p> <p>There are ambitious plans to spread the Middlesbrough Children Matter (MCM) brand more widely. Next steps:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present a report to Executive seeking its endorsement of this approach and of the MCM branding. Oct 2021</li> <li>• 'Participation People' is being commissioned to lead the consultation with children and young people and to support their involvement in co-producing the strategy.</li> </ul> |
| <p>We will work to address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable.</p> | <p>Deliver and extend the 50 Futures programme 2020 to 2022 to provide meaningful work experience opportunities for Middlesbrough residents who find it most difficult to gain employment.</p> | <p>50 Futures now embedded in Council practise and working well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged 60 learners during the pandemic in the last year.</li> <li>• Moved 37% long term unemployed into work during the pandemic.</li> <li>• The programme is expanding - six new local employers ready to offer placements.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>We will ensure the recovery of local communities, businesses and</p>   | <p>Delivery of the Council's COVID recovery plan to enable</p>   | <p>Our strategies are aligned to schools plans to focus recovery on all pupils and particularly those classed as vulnerable.</p> <p>Our Achievement Strategy will govern recovery</p>   |



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| the Council's operations from COVID, taking opportunities to build back better | individuals, families, communities, and business across Middlesbrough achieve a proper level of functioning, post pandemic | <p>within schools.</p> <p>Work is underway with Community Learning to ensure there is support and training to assist with reskilling and employment.</p> <p>Social Care improvement has continued through COVID.</p>   |
|  | Ensure effective Council response to immediate issues, families, communities and business                                  | <p>Ofsted noted in Focused that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH) has continued to strengthen and Children's risks and needs are identified through a thorough screening process that is timely and proportionate.</li> <li>• Assessment timescales improved. In July 100%.</li> </ul> |

### Directorate Priorities

| Directorate  | Priority  | Progress   |
|--|---|--|
| All<br><br>(Across Children's Social Care and Education and Partnerships). | Deliver the Participation Strategy to support our service users to develop the services they receive in partnership with the Children and Young People's partnership. | <p>'Participation People' commissioned to do this work.</p> <p>Exciting plans such as a takeover week, youth voice champions, co-producing solutions to big business challenges, young reporters.</p>  |
|  | Deliver the Quality Assurance and Performance Strategy.   | <p>Audit to Excellence programme has been recognised nationally as best practice. Programme recently reviewed and developed to include accreditation to support a sustainable audit programme and an upskilled workforce.</p> <p>Performance framework delivered at every management level of the Directorate. Directors teams to account on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Power Bi dashboard in place for Social Care and being developed for Education and Partnership</p> |

|                 |  |   |   |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
|                 |  | <p>directorate in line with the improvement programme.</p> <p>Strengthen the way the Children and Young People partnership work together and challenge the quality of practice through the delivery of the Safeguarding Partnership plan.</p> | <p>Recently appointed an independent chair/scrutineer to the Safeguarding Partnership – Edwina Harrison. Bringing energy and enthusiasm.</p>  |
| Children’s Care | <p>Develop and deliver a workforce strategy to support a stable, skilled and focussed leadership at all levels and stable permanent skilled frontline workforce.</p> |   | <p>Workforce strategy developed.</p> <p>Comprehensive and flexible learning and development offer.</p> <p>Recruitment programme in place.</p> <p>Report to Leadership Management Team (LMT) on 16 September setting out proposals to stabilise the workforce.</p> |
|                 | <p>Deliver the Multi-agency Early Help and Prevention Strategy to support a commitment to intervening at the earliest stage possible.</p>                            |   | <p>Strategy signed off in May 2021.</p> <p>Sets out the multi-agency early help offer.</p> <p>Focuses on Partnerships, Practice and Communities.</p> <p>Governance through the Partnership and Prevention Board.</p>  |

**Below are listed the Education and Partnerships directorate priorities. Included for completeness.**

| <b>Directorate</b>         | <b>Priority</b>   | <b>Progress</b>  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Education and Partnerships | <p>Deliver the Inclusion and Specialist Support Strategic Plan to remove barriers to learning and wellbeing for children and young people and reduce exclusions and out-of-area educational placements.</p> | <p>Work progressing well and exclusions reducing. Continued work ongoing to reduce out of area placements.</p>                     |
|                            | <p>Deliver the Access to Education strategy, to ensure sufficient appropriate, high-quality places are available for children and young people now and in the future.</p>                                   | <p>There are enough primary school places.</p> <p>Work ongoing to deliver a new secondary school in Middlehaven for Sept 2023.</p> |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p>Work completed this year to expand secondary school places to create enough secondary school places</p> <p>There is an increasing demand on special school places. This is being met by the expansion of bases and two new special schools across South Tees.</p>  |
|  | Facilitate the delivery of the local area SEND plan for the Partnership to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. | <p>SEND strategy and partnership refreshed.</p> <p>Demand forecasting work ongoing suggesting increasing demand over next few years.</p>  |
|  | Deliver the Middlesbrough Community Learning Strategy to deliver more learning opportunities in Middlesbrough.                       | Ongoing delivery working well with our most vulnerable communities.   |
|  | Deliver the Achievement Plan to deliver school improvement and improve educational outcomes in Middlesbrough.                        | Achievement Strategy now launched and delivery starting within new school term.   |
|  | Develop a universal, town-wide Children and Young People's strategy that will aim to improve the lives of all children.              | <p>Children and Young Peoples plan being refreshed to support the key objectives of the Children's Trust:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best Start in Life,</li> <li>• Locality Working</li> <li>• Mental health and wellbeing of young people.</li> </ul> <p>The Corporate Reference Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, is developing a Town wide Children's Strategy. This includes a wide scale ambition to ensure everything we do in the town supports the delivery of the Middlesbrough Children Matter vision. The development of the strategy will include a town wide consultation with children and young people.</p> |

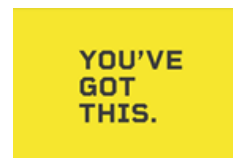
## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Ministry of Housing Funding**

1. In partnership with North Star Housing, a successful bid was made to the Ministry of Housing and Homes England to purchase six empty properties in Middlesbrough, renovate and refurbish them and use as move on accommodation. We are now working with Thirteen Group who will be submitting a bid to furnish a further six properties (their own stock) and provide support to individuals who have slept rough or are at risk of rough sleeping.
2. We have been working in partnership with Stockton Borough Council and have secured funding from the Ministry of Housing and MOJ to work with landlords in the private rented sector, provide deposits and furniture/white goods to help prison leavers sustain accommodation.
3. There are 90 single people in temporary accommodation at the moment despite moving over 300 people from temporary to secure accommodation over the last twelve months. All individuals have a move on plan in place and the team continue to work with landlords in the social and private sector to find suitable accommodation.
4. The rough sleeper team continue to carry out 2 or 3 early morning sweeps (5.30 a.m.) in an attempt to find individuals rough sleeping, known 'hot spots' are covered, parks and other areas identified by agencies. Rough sleepers are assessed, offered temporary accommodation if this is suitable and are encouraged to engage with support.

### **You've Got This – Sport England South Tees Local Delivery Pilot Update – September 2021**

5. 'You've Got This' (YGT) is the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot across South Tees, taking a whole system approach to increasing physical activity with the vision of 'Active lives as a way of life'.
6. The pilot is focused on two key themes: Communities of Place and Communities of Interest. Communities of Place covers North Ormesby and Brambles & Thorntree in Middlesbrough. Communities of Interest include groups where increasing physical activity can help improve medical conditions and quality of life. One of these is targeting people living with, or at risk of developing, Type 2 Diabetes (T2D), supporting dietary and physical activity behaviour changes with a view to achieving remission.
7. Initial progress was hampered by the pandemic, but has now been able to restart. There are two aspects to the programme: working with GP practices around a low-calorie diet and exercise for T2D patients; and a community based project delivered by Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC) and community partners that helps reduce the risk of T2D in the ethnic minority communities.



8. YGT is working with GP practices across the South Tees to develop innovative ways of supporting patients to achieve T2D remission through being more active and dietary changes. Developing T2D and beginning treatment is a “teachable moment” – an opportunity for the patient to make behavioural changes to address the condition. The YGT funded activity seeks to add value to an existing programme that addresses T2D through a calorie restricted diet by working with patients to build greater levels of physical activity into daily life. The programme is being led by a dietician funded by YGT. Staff from the practices are shadowing them, so that this new approach can be embedded into the work of the practice once the dietician post ends. Work is also now progressing with linking the service into Middlesbrough Council’s Exercise on Referral offer that is available to patients through primary care.
9. MEC’s work with NUR Fitness and the BME Network, two partners embedded in the local community, inevitably slowed during the pandemic. However, they are now starting to deliver again with a particular focus on outreach to groups at particular risk that are also hard to reach, including taxi drivers, other workers in the night-time economy, people using places of worship and women. This will include through the use of digital communication and networks that bring people together.

### **Jellystone Project**

10. The Staying Put Agencies community inclusion service Staying Included have been working with Middlesbrough Environment City to help kick-start an exciting new gardening initiative. The Jellystone Gardening Project is utilising previously unused community space in Grove Hill Middlesbrough to support residents who are lonely or socially isolated who wish to engage in outdoor community activity.
11. The site offers gardening/allotment plots to various services so that their service users can use the site to grow flowers and vegetables and come together in a safe, supportive environment for social interaction, learning and fun. The Staying Included team are working in partnership with Age UK Teesside to help establish the project and help develop the first plots on the site.
12. In addition to hands-on gardening on the available plots the various services are offering activities at the site such as crafts and plant potting. Residents are able to engage to a level they feel comfortable with, whether it be in gardening, taking part in the craft sessions or sitting in the grounds having a chat with a hot drink and biscuit. The timing of the project is ideal as residents have become more isolated during the pandemic. The project allows for residents to ease back into the community, with services supporting individuals to build confidence, improve health and wellbeing whilst bringing people together.

### **Local Government Chronicle Awards**

13. The LGC Awards is the premier event of the year in the local government calendar. The event exists to identify, celebrate and help spread the finest example of innovation and quality delivered by councils on a daily basis. Due to the high number of entries year on year, winning an LGC Award has become the most sought after accolade in local government. The categories recognise cutting edge ideas from every part of local government and are added, amended and removed year on year to reflect the ever changing priorities and challenges.

The awards' credibility is underpinned by an intensive and robust judging process which again is refreshed and redesigned year on year.

14. Middlesbrough independent Living Services have been shortlisted within the 'Team of the Year' category with their response to Covid. LGC have stated that it has been a record year for entries so to be shortlisted is a truly remarkable achievement. Shortlisted organisations now have to complete presentations and interviews to a specific judging panel made up of senior and influential figures within local government.
15. Winners of the LGC Awards will then be announced at a prestigious ceremony on 4 November 2021 at Grosvenor House, London.

## **Vaccinations**

16. From 25 -28 August the national vaccination surge support team partnered with Middlesbrough Council, Tees Valley CCG, Middlesbrough PCNs and Middlesbrough Football foundation in a push for vaccine uptake. Initiatives involved additional drop in clinic provision at North Ormesby and Brambles and Thorntree supported by a 24 strong team of staff on the ground delivering leaflets door to door in these areas, undertaking street based conversations to encourage uptake and address concerns and evaluation feedback on uptake and hesitancy at vaccine clinics. The initiative culminated in the Middlesbrough Football Foundation vaccine bus being stationed at Saturday's home game supported by street and stadium based teams driving footfall toward the bus and community clinics. A full evaluation report will follow and will inform our ongoing approach to vaccination uptake and addressing vaccine inequalities.

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL  
22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Culture**

**Theatre and Town Hall**

1. The annual open-air theatre season delivered by Middlesbrough Theatre has been a smash hit once again. Performances of Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf and the Jungle Book proved to be extremely popular with Newham Grange Farm audiences.

Older theatre fans flocked to see Romeo and Juliet and The Great Gatsby in the Town Hall Courtyard.

2. Towards the end of the Summer Season, the Town Hall was once again allowed to operate at full capacity and delivered fully sold out events such as Festival of the Dead and Jimmy Carr. Other highlights from the summer season included The Jazz Supper, Classical Café and Paul Sinnahs Crypt Keepers Quiz.

The Town Hall now looks towards Autumn, which will feature some wonderful artists including Sarah Milican, Jason Manford and Paul Weller.

3. We finally opened the doors of Middlesbrough Theatre after a long hiatus in July with returning favourite Lady Boys of Bancock. The show was scheduled in 2020 for one sold out show - but due to Covid closures the date was pushed back to 2021. Restrictions surrounding social distancing were still in place at this time which meant delivering one sold out show wasn't possible. Instead the show was delivered three times. It was truly wonderful to see the theatre reopen and we have received some wonderful feedback.
4. The Autumn season at Middlesbrough Theatre is now on sale, the program is proving to be very popular with audiences. Rehearsals for The Fiesta Fawns are well underway. The show is inspired by stories of the historic Fiesta Nightclub in Norton and written by local writer David Tuffnell.

**Middlesbrough Museums:**

5. We have delivered two Together Festivals - outdoor festivals that bring people into the museums and delivered in partnership with the Tees Valley Museums NPO. Both were very successful and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum welcomed more than 1000 people to the park.
6. Middlesbrough Museums also partnered with the Mela to develop the Seeds of Hope exhibition. Umar Butt, the new museum community co-producer, developed a community photography exhibition in Albert Park this Summer.



## **Archives**

7. Plans are underway to develop the archives service alongside the Dorman Museum. This will improve access to the collections of both services, expand gallery space and provide an on-site store that complies with up-to-date standards.

## **Stewart Park**

8. Visitor numbers continue to be high with our vehicle counter tracking more than 1800 cars per day visiting the park.
9. Despite having Cleveland Show and Fairy Tales on Ice cancel, we have hosted the successful Holidays at Home event. This was a family fun fair with a beach and special guests each weekend including circus entertainers, clowns and - most popular - dinosaurs.
10. We have installed a permeant trail within the park in conjunction with the Cook Museum that has now reopened.
11. ParkRun has restarted after the Covid pandemic and despite only operating for a few weeks numbers are already exceeding those pre Covid.
12. We have installed a piece of artwork from local artist Andrew Mckeown. This is on display on the top lawn in front of the museum.

## **Albert Park**

13. Albert Park has hosted, in conjunction with Middlesbrough Mela, a Summer of Sport. This has given families the opportunity to partake in a different sport every day over the school holidays for free.



14. The park has once again hosted the Holiday Activity Fund programme. Children who receive free school lunches have signed up for a week of activity including sport and music. A healthy lunch was also provided.
15. The park hosted this year's family Mela it was attended by well over 5000 people.
16. Work is ongoing with regards to the £100K improvement fund. This will see us bring the lake back in to action along with some much needed improvements to the Visitor Centre.
17. We have also installed a piece of artwork from local artist Andrew Mckeown, this is on display near the Park Road South/Linthorpe Road Ent.
18. As with Stewart Park a new trail is to be installed in conjunction with Dorman Museum

**Newham Grange Farm –**

19. The Discovery Centre is now opened with its live and historical information.
20. The community allotment is receiving a facelift will allow groups who may have difficulties in accessing growing space.
21. The farm has run a number of adult workshops, including ceramics and lino printmaking. It also number of children's drop in workshops over the holidays.
22. The farm has re-launched its party hire. This has down well, with one every weekend for now.
23. The farm has hosted two performance of Middlesbrough's outdoor theatre season. These were very well received and more than 100 people came to one of the performances



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hosted a school  
gone



**Events**

24. The much-loved Orange Pip Market returned to Centre Square in July and September. Delivered with social distancing measures in place to support our ongoing local Covid resilience plan, the markets were a bit wet and damp but that didn't stop the audience members turning up in their thousands to support this well-loved local event. Orange Pip will run on Centre Square in October, with the last Pip of the year taking place in December in the Town Hall.
25. Middlesbrough Mela returned this year although in a slightly different way. The program took place over a number of days and focused on younger family audiences and culturally creative activities. The Mini Mela saw an audience of in excess of 5000 people, who come along to Albert Park on a very wet and windy Sunday afternoon in August.
26. The Mela Association who collaborate the local authority to deliver the Mela are over the moon that a smaller Mela was made possible this year following the digital Mela delivery in 2020. Other melas across the country have cancelled their events again this year, so it's wonderful to know that Middlesbrough managed to stand up and be counted. The Mela Association is now looking for new members to join the committee and friends group to help plan Middlesbrough Mela 2022.
27. The summer season has also included lots of activity involved in reviewing and approving events delivered by others on our land including, Holidays at Home, Stereo Festival and Hit the Bar Street Party. Coming up in the Autumn we have Oktoberfest and 90s party, the 10k, Race for Life and (pencilled in) Diwali.
28. Planning for Christmas events began long ago, with the date for the Middlesbrough parade and light switch on set for Sunday, November 28.

### **Middlesbrough Lottery**

29. We have had an absolutely tremendous start to the Middlesbrough Lottery, with almost 40 good causes across the town set to benefit from the money raised. 60p from every pound ticket sale goes to good causes – and if we keep at the current level of support we are on track to raise £40,000 in the first year. I very much hope that we continue to build on this success.

### **Communities**

#### **Safety**

30. School patrols have been taking place daily and have utilised the CCTV enforcement car. Schools where parking issues are prevalent have had enforcement patrols each morning.
31. Below you will find a break down in enforcement activity for the month of April to July 31 2021, giving you an overview of the total fines issued in this financial year to date.

32. Since the reopening of businesses we are starting to see an increase in vehicles parking in residential bays close to the town centre without displaying valid residential permits. We are also seeing an increase around main routes such as Fairbridge Street where delivery drivers for food are parking in contravention with traffic regulation orders. In the same reporting period of the last financial year April – July we issued a total of 123 penalty charge notices. In comparison to the same period in 2021 we have seen 3193 penalty charge notices issued. 37 of the 3193 penalty charge notices were issued at local schools for contraventions.

33.

| PCN's Issued 2021-22 |     |      |      |       |  |
|----------------------|-----|------|------|-------|--|
| April                | May | June | July | Total |  |
| 795                  | 972 | 769  | 657  | 3193  |  |

### **Neighbourhood Safety Officers**

34. To support the work of the wardens we have a team of seven dedicated Neighbourhood Safety Officers (NSO) who take positive action against perpetrators and adopt a problem solving approach to tackle issues that present within their ward areas. During the reporting period of 01/06/2021 – 24/07/2021, the Neighborhood Safety Officers engaged with 116 victims and carried out in excess of 190 actions within communities. This includes acceptable behaviour contracts, civil injunction applications and house closures to name a few.

Examples:

35. After receiving information about a group of youths smoking cannabis close to Newport Hub, the NSO has taken enforcement action against one of the youths involved.

36. Another youth who was also present and has been involved in carrying a weapon and implicated in vehicle theft has been placed on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC)

37. Four months in prison for persistent beggar

After receiving reports from local businesses in Acklam and the town centre that a persistent beggar was causing harassment, alarm and distress to customers (which was having a detrimental effect on the businesses) police and wardens attended the area and identified the beggar as Mr Stephen Crozier.

Mr Crozier had previously been issued a Civil Injunction in 2019 prohibiting him from entering certain areas of the town centre and from begging anywhere within Middlesbrough.

He has been referred to numerous partner agencies in an attempt to stop his persistent begging, however he has refused to engage with these agencies or accept help to cease his nuisance behaviour.

Mr Crozier is not homeless, he has safe and secure accommodation and is in receipt of benefits. He was sent to prison in 2020 for repeatedly breaching his injunction but upon his release he continued to beg which resulted in him being returned to court by the council on May 10 2021 when he was issued with a suspended prison sentence and told to stop begging.

He breached the terms of his injunction and suspended sentence within hours of leaving court and has continued to cause nuisance by begging throughout the period of his suspended prison sentence. This resulted in the Council returning Mr Crozier to court and following a hearing on July 22 2021 he was sentenced to four months imprisonment.



### **Hemlington Hearts and Minds Campaign**

38. There was partnership engagement with residents involving MBC NSO, wardens, Thirteen housing staff, PCSO and a fire liaison officer. They spent the morning in Hemlington around Fonteyn Court/ Cass House Road area.
39. The area has been significantly affected by antisocial behaviour and arson incidents over a number of weeks. Staff knocked on doors and engaged with local residents and encouraged them to report incidents they are witnessing.
40. Contact information was provided for key staff and services and some good intelligence was obtained. A burnt out vehicle, which staff had struggled to recover due to its location, was also recovered.





41. Wardens attended Mini Mela and had some positive engagement with the public, stall holders at the event who despite the weather enjoyed the day.



42. The NSO received reports from councillors and local residents regarding overgrown land near to Northern Road in the Ayresome ward. As the land had previously been used for fly tipping and fire setting the NSO was concerned with the recent dry, warm weather, should any fires be set on the land there was a potential that the fire could spread. Contact was made with the land owner Gleeson properties who swiftly agreed to cut the grass and tidy the land.

**Before**



**After**



43. Street wardens are delighted to be supporting the National Literacy Trust's #BoroReads Look for a Book initiative. They have been busy hiding packs across Middlesbrough while on patrols.



**Public Space Protection Order**

44. The table below will give you an overview of all activity relating to the total number of positive interventions and Fixed Penalty Notices issued for breach of the public space protection order. Positive interventions and fixed penalty notices are issued for prohibited behaviors as seen in the picture below:

| Public Space Protection Order 01/06/2021 – 24/08/2021 |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Positive Interventions                                | PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices Issued |
| 98  | 14                                |





## Environmental Warden Update

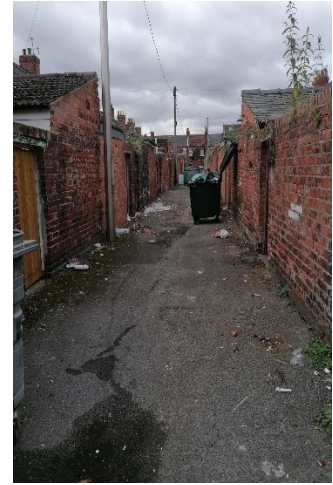
45. The environmental wardens continue to be extremely busy and are receiving high volumes of service requests within the borough. In March we launched a new approach to dealing with environmental crime. From this Middlesbrough Council Environmental Flying Squad was created.
46. The team now have four co-located area care operatives based within the team. We now respond to all service requests relating to environmental related issues and investigate and clear waste all in one swoop.
47. We have recently appointed two further officers to join the team so we can increase and improve our response times and positive outcomes when dealing with environmental related issues. Further to this we are also recruiting for a full time senior officer to oversee the activity of this team whilst being actively involved in leading the team whilst out in communities.
48. The team have dealt with 2017 service requests between June 1 2021 and July 31 2021. Within this total 165 of these service requests related to reports of abandoned vehicles, 1422 requests for fly tipping and 128 service requests relating to stray dogs and dog related issues such as fouling.
49. Further to the above I can confirm that the environmental flying squad have now obtained in excess of 130 pieces of evidence within fly tips right across the borough and are taking positive action. Of the 130 offences we have issued 19 fixed penalty notices within the reporting period for offences. This number will increase as investigations are concluded. These offences relate to environmental offences reported to the team between March 1 2021 and August 24 2021.

50. The team are investigating a regular hot spot for fly tipping in North Ormesby. The location is Kruegar Alley and using local authority CCTV we have captured the person responsible on the 15/06/2021 committing the offence. See attached the screenshots of the incident where a male driver of a silver Seat with registration tips a bed base, black bags, cardboard and wood and then drives away from the scene. Using our DVLA powers and links with Cleveland Police ANPR team we have established the owner and whereabouts of this motorist. This male will be receiving a visit from the team and issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice.



51. A section 34 notice – meaning you will be potentially subject to prosecution if the behaviour continues - has been sent to a shop on Parliament Road as evidence was found that they have been leaving waste all over the top end of the alley way in Finsbury Street. The flying squad have been and removed the bulky waste.





### **Operation Greta**

51.

Untaxed cars blighting a Middlesbrough street have been seized in a town centre crackdown. The ten cars - legally required to be kept off-road - were removed from Greta Street in a joint operation by street wardens and Cleveland Police's Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Policing Team. The illegally parked vehicles have been causing access issues for other businesses along the street. To report unlicensed vehicles and other environmental issues, call the Middlesbrough Council Contact Centre on 01642 726001.



**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**22.09.2021**

**1. South Tees Youth Offending Service**

The South Tees Youth Offending Service has recently received thanks from DJ Harrison and the outgoing Chair of the Youth Bench, both of whom are retiring after a significant period of time working in the youth justice arena. Both took time to write thank you cards thanking the service for their support and professionalism over the years, which has been gratefully received by staff.

**2. Risk and Resilience Service**

The number of young people reported to the Police as missing has remained consistent this quarter, however the number of missing episodes have decreased. This is largely due to a small group of Children Looked After whose plans have been reviewed and this has subsequently had a positive effect for those young people as their missing episodes have significantly reduced or ceased.

A VEMT (Vulnerable Exploited Missing Trafficked) project with MFC Foundation has continued to go from strength-to strength, with excellent outcomes being reported for young people involved in the programme. One young person previously categorised as 'very high risk' in 2020 engaged with the programme and has subsequently had 100% attendance at education, sat functional skills in Maths and English, completed the National Citizen Service programme.

**3. Back to school**

Pupils have returned to school and whilst the majority of Covid measures have now been removed, preventative measures such as risk assessments and proportionate control measures will remain.

**4. GCSE results**

GCSE results for Middlesbrough this year showed an overall improving pattern, though work is ongoing to ensure the validation of data sets and comparison with the rest of the region and the country as a whole. This work will confirm if the improvements seen in Middlesbrough are in-line with national outcomes and if the achievement gap remains the same or has worsened/improved.

**5. Achievement**

The Learning and Education Strategy is now out for consultation with Head Teachers and stakeholders. The strategy clearly sets out what, why and how we will work collaboratively with schools and other educational settings to support and challenge them, to ensure the Quality of Education offered is meaningful and teaches exactly what the pupils of Middlesbrough need to know. The strategy is underpinned by a three-stage roadmap (recovery, reset and sustain), exemplifying the learning journey required as we emerge from the pandemic, thereby helping to secure sustainability in schools for pupils by outlining how

through collaboration with schools, a universal teaching support, targeted support and wider strategic support can achieve this. <sup>1</sup>

Separately, our new Schools Safeguarding Compliance Officer has started in role and is already working on developing a service level agreement with schools external to the local authority, following an approach made by a large multi-academy trust. Her role will be focused primarily on supporting schools to develop increasingly effective safeguarding practice by providing supervision and professional development, thus ensuring appropriate referrals are submitted in a timely fashion.

The Ethnic Minority Team (EMAT) have successfully planned joint working with our schools for the new school term to ensure international new arrivals are fully supported to achieve great outcomes in their academic journey.

Throughout the summer and into the autumn term, reading activities have been underway, wherein a range of council service areas and officers have hidden books for pupils and their families to find, read and then re-hide.

Ten schools participated with the DfE Summer Schools initiative and provided a range of curriculum based learning activities for the year 7 cohort assisting them in their preparedness for secondary school. In addition, the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) also offered a range of enrichment activities for pupils including: free swimming, netball tuition led by a premier league netball player, canoeing, arts and crafts and bush-tucker trial experiences.

## 6. Access to Education

The DfE has extended the remit of Virtual School Heads to include strategic oversight of the academic performance of children involved with Child Protection and Children in Need Social Care services. Funding has been provided to support this and is time limited to March 2022- the DfE will decide shortly whether to extend this funding period. Within Middlesbrough Virtual School we are well placed to implement these new responsibilities The Virtual School began to track and analyse the school attendance of children open to Social Care in June and we have put in place robust systems to support this and to improve the attendance of these vulnerable children. Good attendance is the pre cursor to improved achievement so we have made a good start on getting the foundations in place.

Further to the above, DfE has also invited bids for funding to pilot new approaches to supporting post 16 looked after children; we have submitted a bid and will find out if we are successful in early September.

Personal Education Plan (PEP) completion within timescales is very good at around 95%. All of the looked after children of school age have a PEP, which is co-produced by the school, social worker and Virtual School, with input from the child.

Virtual School took 10 Looked after Children to visit Darlington Hippodrome to watch Horrible Histories Barmy Britain! The children had a wonderful time viewing the 3D special effects and enjoyed watching the performers who brought the history of Britain alive.



<sup>1</sup> [Learning and Education Roadmap \(002\).docx](#)

## **7. Inclusion and Specialist Support Service**

Nationally, the requests for an Education, Health and Care Assessment are increasing and some of this pressure is down to COVID. This is reflective across the SEND service within Middlesbrough, as we have seen the number of requests for statutory EHC assessment increase. Currently, the number of EHCPs which we have in place and which require a statutory annual review, has increased from 1224 in 2019 to 1303 for this year. To support this increase in demand, we have reviewed key processes and service delivery models. We have also increased capacity within the SEND Team, and will continue to monitor the number of requests received from schools and academic settings.

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**Barrie Cooper**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

**DECISIONS**

**1. Transporter Bridge:**

Rapid Consulting are preparing all necessary design and tender documents to enable us to appoint Contractors to carry out the initial work required to make the bridge safe and then to plan the remainder of the works to enable the bridge to either re-open as a fully functioning bridge or to be used as a visitor attraction. Works are currently underway to drill and bolt the upper angles of the bridge.

**STRATEGIC**

**2. Bridges and Structures:**

Capital have completed the design for jacking up of A66 and concrete repair works required to Column 20b on A66. We expect the tender documents to be published on the NEPO portal within the next 2 week with works to begin thereafter. Capita have been appointed as consultant/contractor to carry out Principal and general inspections on the remainder of the Council's bridge and structure asset stock to inform us of current condition and identify and maintenance works required. Inspections are currently underway.

**3. Street Lighting:**

We have awarded the tender to have all of the Councils street lighting assets tested for both structural integrity and electrical compliance. Inspections are expected to commence in October and have the testing complete and reports submitted, by July 2022.

**4. Streetworks:**

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

**5. Traffic Signals/UTMC:**

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

TVCA/Joint Authorities have been awarded £500k for traffic signals improvements following a successful bid to DfT. Funding will be awarded by the end of September with improvement works to be carried out before the end of the financial year.

**6. Highways Projects:**

The planned highways team are underway with the 2020/21 works programme and are working towards having all of the scheme works complete prior to April 2022. We are currently out to tender for the carriageway-resurfacing programme of works and expect to appoint a main contractor within the next 4 weeks, with all of the planned carriageway surfacing works being completed prior to April 2022.

**7. Surveillance:**

On 10 August, I approved a revised Surveillance Policy for the Council to ensure that our surveillance activity is lawful and that due regard is given to human rights and to data protection rights. The policy covers CCTV, covert surveillance (both under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and otherwise) and the surveillance of employees. An officer group is now in place to implement the policy, with initial work focusing on developing a central register of CCTV cameras by end September 2021.

## **INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION**

**8. Recycling:**

Waste services have had 4 vehicles fully wrapped in a bid to promote recycling and the wider environmental message. The vehicles have been wrapped in designs including:

- Turtle
- Seal
- Water Vole
- Wildflower Scene - Bee

As the vehicles are seen right across the town on a daily basis it is hoped they will promote recycling and remind residents of the impact they have on their local environment.

Alongside this the team have also began a wider communications campaign via social media to remind residents of what can and cannot be placed in the blue lidded bin, this will also be supplemented by an article in the Love Middlesbrough campaign in the Autumn edition.

Work has started on developing an education programme for all schools in Middlesbrough regarding Recycling – this will include information on the benefits of recycling, why we should all recycle and how people can recycle in Middlesbrough.

**9. Green Waste Tonnages:**

Since the Green Waste collections resumed on 24 August following the suspension at the beginning of August due to Covid related resource issues, the crews have collected in excess of 880 tonnes in a two week period, in comparison the crews normally collect on average approx.900 tonnes per month.

**10. Waste:**

Collections were suspended at the beginning of August due to the resource issues in relation to Covid self-isolation. However, the collections have now resumed a week earlier than planned as the Covid cases have reduced. The tonnage is very high and the crews are working hard to ensure all green waste is collected.

**11. Hedges/Shrubs:**

Area Care are planning to commence with the winter hedge/shrub pruning work in September 2021.



## 12. Bedding Plants:

Area Care are placing 3 tier planters and tubs with seasonal bedding plants around all accessible shopping parades around the town.

## 13. Keep Boro Tidy:

The Keep Boro tidy campaign is progressing with many volunteer litter picks around the town.

## Performance

### 14. APSE Service Awards 2021:



On Thursday evening (9<sup>th</sup> September 2021) Middlesbrough Borough Councils Area Care were announced as winners in the “Best Service Team: Street Cleansing and Streetscene Service (Public Realm)” category of \* APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Annual Awards.



The awards are an annual event, held by APSE, to recognise the best in public services and to share that best practice with all local authorities. APSE received an overwhelming 320 submissions for the Awards this year, with each one demonstrating a clear commitment to the goals of continuous improvement and the delivery of excellence in public services. The APSE Awards are specific to frontline services provided by UK local authorities. This year, the Awards included 22 categories, covering the vast majority of local services. Middlesbrough Borough Councils Environment Services Dept submitted Area Care for the Street Cleansing and Streetscene Service category, to recognise the fantastic work they have provided, despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic. MBC were one of five Local Authorities shortlisted for the finals of the Best Service Team Category. All five shortlisted candidates' submissions were judged by an expert panel and Middlesbrough was the chosen winner.

The Award winners were announced at the APSE Annual Charity Awards Dinner, in aid of Parkinson's UK, in Birmingham. MBC submission demonstrated how we deliver the best service possible, deliver in the spirit of continuous improvement and work as a team with other services and partners. The awards were hosted by Sameena Ali-Khan, a British media personality who is known as a television presenter, journalist and newsreader. She is also a published author.

**\*APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) is a not for profit unincorporated association working with over 300 councils throughout the UK. Promoting excellence**

**in public services, APSE is the foremost specialist in local authority frontline services, hosting a network for frontline service providers in areas such as waste and refuse collection, parks and environmental services, cemeteries and crematorium, environmental health, leisure, school meals, cleaning, housing and building maintenance.**

This award is great recognition for the work that Area Care within the town.

**15. Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation – Performance Awards:**

Revenues and Benefits Service have been shortlisted for an IRRV award - 'Excellence in Innovation: Operational' category for their use and development of the Voicescape product which is brand new to the Revenues and Benefits world. The inspection took place last week from senior officials from the IRRV, 3 of the team took part in the 1 hour inspection, supported by members of Voicescape. The Service provided a 40 mins presentation on all aspects required by the inspection team, and then gave the IRRV president and Vice president a demo of the software, which was ably handled by one of our front line caseworkers.

There were a number of follow up questions which were answered, and the inspectors were really keen to hear about what staff and customers thought of the product. Testimonials were provided from staff and customers who had engaged with the product. It was a very productive and positive session. The winner of this category will be announced at the awards ceremony on Thursday 7 October 2021 where 4 of our team members will be in attendance.

**16. Resident and Business Support – Centralisation of Debt Cross Directorate Initiative:**

To support residents who have multiple debts across the council, an initiative was launched in February – which would result in the centralisation of all debts within the council into one business area – which is now formally known as Resident and Business Support. This has been very successful and has resulted in a number of policies being designed to support this initiative. A number of improvement plans have been created which has seen areas of work with the same resident and business base, being aligned, so that interaction is coordinated, meaning rather than multiple contacts with different officers across the council for different debts, this is now coordinated with one officer engaging with the resident or business at any given time. Improvements are delivered on a large scale across all areas where debt exist, which has avoided duplication in effort and time. Practices and opportunities are shared across all areas and also now aligned to a comprehensive collection strategy.

The most recent work to transfer across is the collection of Public Space Protection Orders – joint working with the team and the introduction of a collection solution has resulted in some positive changes being made to support improved outcomes.

Early indications – are extremely positive – with more good news stories to follow.

**17. Resident and Business Support - Supporting Children:**

Resident and Business Support in conjunction with Children Services have recently launched an initiative to support families who have children. Alongside administering emergency payments for children the service are also supporting families with the following:-

- Benefit Take Up
- Referral to Routes to Work
- Review of all Debt and provide support and solutions to respond to payment problems.
- Provide Discretionary Housing Payments if there is a shortfall in rent and free up disposable income.
- Providing support with food – so that no child goes hungry within the town.
- Provide welfare support funding if required.

The joined up approach to the delivery of this solution has been extremely beneficial to our families with children and some extremely positive feedback has been received from both families and officers. The service have been able to maximise benefit, sort payment problems out, help with access to food and clothing, whilst supporting the families in a number of other ways.

Resident and Business Support and our colleagues in Children Services are making positive changes to the way we respond to those in need. This approach has had a positive impact on the lives of some of our most vulnerable residents.

## **ICT**

### **18. Implementation of Microsoft 365:**

ICT Services have now migrated to the Microsoft 365 cloud based service. The migration of email is complete along with Teams successfully deployed to all ICT users at the beginning of August – Teams is a new platform that will improve collaboration, messaging, presence services and video conferencing for all users.

Phase 2 planning for additional email and Teams functionality is underway to further enhance and improve communication and collaboration.

### **19. Applications:**

The Social Care Support team continues to focus on developing and implementing the changes identified as part of the overall improvement plan for Children's Services:

The Children's and Adults Social Care applications LCS and LAS have undergone a major upgrade to implement security and functionality improvements in line with the supplier's application roadmap.

Community Safety Data Recording System – CDPSoft went Live in April 2021 and the newly created support and development role has been embedded into the Applications Social Care team. Work continues to implement solutions and assessment forms across the specialist services for Substance Abuse, Domestic Abuse, Homelessness etc.

The Applications team responds to the pressures placed on Directorates, to deliver not only BAU activity but also new solutions. There are numerous application upgrades ongoing and some examples of new developments are:

Firmstep online forms amendments to support business changes to Refuse & Bulky Waste collections and Fly Tipping processes.

Ongoing development of online forms for Bereavement Services.

Implementation of Firmstep mobile working solution for Environment Services to improve business processes and customer experience.

### **20. ESRI:**

Following the implementation of ESRI the Councils corporate GIS (Geospatial Information System) in 2018 ICT continue to work with Directorates to leverage the power of the application and find new ways in which it can support the work of the Council and the services delivered to the citizens of Middlesbrough. Recent developments include:

### **21. FieldMaps:**

Mobile working solutions created to allow staff out in the field to quickly capture asset information. This data is captured and stored in the Esri platform and is shared with other team members and displayed in maps/dashboards etc. Several applications now setup including tree surveys, bins and urban meadows allowing Environment staff to be even more responsive to issues raised.

**22. Integration with other applications:**

ICT are working to integrate ESRI with other corporate systems in order to ensure data is consistent accurate and easily shared. Examples of this are Land Ownership, CCTV information and the Flare issue reporting system.

**23. Infrastructure:**

As part of the wider project team, ICT are working to define and develop the network infrastructure that will underpin the new ways of working, required within the Councils New HQ, Fountain Court. Now there is an understanding of the services and numbers of staff that may occupy the building, ICT are working to define the IT infrastructure within the building and software and systems that will be required by staff working both remotely and in the office.

**24. Website Review:**

An outline business case to redevelop the Councils Website & Intranet was approved by the Councils Project Management Office and the project Sponsor Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal & Governance. Next steps will involve ICT refining the model, timescales and approach. Whilst Marketing & Comms undertake a consultation process with key stakeholders.

**25. Security:**

During August and timed to compliment the deployment of Microsoft Teams, ICT have begun the upgrade and improvement of our Anti-Virus protection solution (Sophos) on all end-user laptop and desktop devices. This improved protection now guards against Ransomware, malicious software that once in a device can isolate and encrypt critical business data and systems. The Ransomware attack suffered by Redcar and Cleveland Council cost in excess of £11m to rectify so it is vital we maintain a strong security posture against an ever evolving threat.

26. ICT also received the findings of a recent internal Cyber Security Audit. The assessment was conducted in partnership with Veritau and considered policies, procedures and training in relation to Cyber Security. It also simulated a "phishing attack" where staff were tested on their ability to identify suspicious emails. The report issued ICT Services the highest rating "Substantial Assurance" with a number of minor actions around the ongoing promotion of policies and staff awareness.

Planning is well underway for this year's PSN submission, an annual security accreditation that all Local Authorities must achieve in order to access Central Government services such as the Cabinet Office services and the DWP. Assessment will involve an accredited auditor attempt a controlled attack on our security system in order to assess existing controls and recommend revisions where appropriate.

**ICT Abbreviations:**

**ICT**

(Information Communication & Technology)

**SIRO**

(Senior Risk and Information Officer) A statutory role held by Paul Stephen's – responsible for managing the Councils risks in relation to information security.

**GCSX**

(Government Connect Secure Extranet) A network that allows officials at local public-sector organizations to interact and share data privately and securely with central government departments, such as Department of Work & Pensions, the National Health Service, the Criminal Justice and the police.

**PSN**

(Public Sector Network) A security accreditation all Local Authorities must meet in order to access secure services across GCSX, a good example is Revenues and Benefits data.

## **LCS**

(Liquid Logic Children's) The corporate ICT application that manages case management in relation to Children supported in Middlesbrough.

## **VPN**

(Virtual Private Network) A way of creating a secure connection between two separate networks in order to share information or use applications. A VPN is used to connect your tablet (at home on your own broadband) to the Councils network to access Email, Egenda, etc.

## **NCSC**

(National Cyber Security Centre) A government department tasked with ensuring the security of the Government's IT network and for setting standards, policy advice and guidance for all local authorities.

## **Microsoft Windows 10**

The standard operating system used on all desktop, tablet and laptop devices across the authority.

## **Microsoft Windows 7**

A previous version of the Councils preferred device operating system due to be unsupported in January 2020. Currently being replaced with Windows 10.

## **Microsoft Azure**

A server and data hosting platform offered by Microsoft

## **GIS**

(Geographical Information System) A software application that utilises maps to interpret data relating to many different subjects such as housing, population, schools, ward boundaries, traffic and deprivation.

**ESRI** – the new GIS application currently being rolled out by ICT Services. Replacing the older MapInfo and Cartology applications.

**ArcGIS** – The name of the applications that will be loaded onto the desktop of key GIS users, other lighter users will access a web version.

**Slido** – One of a number of survey tools used by the authority in order to gather feedback an opinion, currently being used extensively in the Chief Exec's Employee Engagement sessions.

## **DC**

(Data Centre) A building or location, out of which the Council operates key ICT services (such as networking, applications and data storage) for the Directorates across the authority. There are two of these centres for the purpose of resilience

**Call Manager** – the software application's which underpins the Councils Phone system. This also includes, voicemail, and the Jabber messaging tools.

## **CRM**

(Customer Relationship Management) An application, or suite of applications that underpin the way in which the Council interacts with members of the public and supports the request for services and help. Allowing calls to be tracked and monitored as they are assigned to different departments across the authority. Our CRM is also called Firmstep (the actual name of the product). It is used primarily by the Contact Centre staff in the ground floor Civic and Middlesbrough House.

## **Hacking**

A term used to describe a method of gaining access or control of an IT system by utilising gaps or loopholes in the design of either the software or hardware.

## **Central Campus (Local Area Network)**

The Council buildings located in the Town Centre such as Civic Centre, Town Hall, Middlesbrough House, which benefit from a super-fast private Fibre Network.

## **WAN**

Wide Area Network

Those remote buildings that access Council resources via the Virgin Media network.

## **Ransomware/Malware**

A type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.

## **Firewall Cluster**

A security appliance that protects the Councils ICT network from malicious attack.

**4G Device**

A portable device (similar to a mobile phone) that allows flexible access to the Internet.

**Unix**

An alternate server and operating system platform to Microsoft Windows

## Eric Polano

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

#### DECISIONS

##### 1. Clear Channel Bus Shelter Provision

The Executive Member for Regeneration has approved a five-year extension of the current cleansing and maintenance contract for bus shelters and advertising panels across Middlesbrough. The decision will shortly be published and the contract will see the current high levels of cleansing and maintenance programme maintained, with an increase in advertising revenue and also the agreement to install new advertising panels in strategic locations across the town throughout the life of the contract. This contract delivers an income for the Council and provides maintenance for the bus shelter network.

The contract term will continue the pro-active working relationship with the current provider and also look at the current location of all stops, with a view to relocate, add or remove stops accordingly in line with the bus network across the town and in line with future new developments; to help grow bus patronage over the next five year period.

#### STRATEGIC

2. Middlesbrough Council submitted two bids to the Government's Levelling Up Fund, in line with the two Parliamentary constituencies within Middlesbrough's area. The first bid outlined aims to purchase and reconfigure commercial property in central Middlesbrough. The second bid, a cross-boundary partnership with Redcar and Cleveland, aims to improve accessibility to employment, housing and local community infrastructure across South Middlesbrough and East Cleveland.

On a Tees Valley level, a bid was also submitted to deliver structural improvements and resilience to a significant stretch of the A66, including the stretch within Middlesbrough's borders.

The Levelling Up Fund is a **competitive fund**, with resource distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project business case and national selection. Results of the bidding process are expected in the Autumn.

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **3. Highway Safety**

The new zebra crossing on The Avenue in Linthorpe was completed on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August. The new crossing, together with the 20 mph speed limit introduced on The Avenue and Eastbourne Road last week, aims to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of St. Edward's RC Primary School. Works to construct the new toucan crossing on Stainton Way are underway, and are due for completion by mid-September. Once complete, the new crossing will provide a safer route to school for students living in Hemlington Grange and attending The King's Academy in Coulby Newham.

### **4. Road Safety Education**

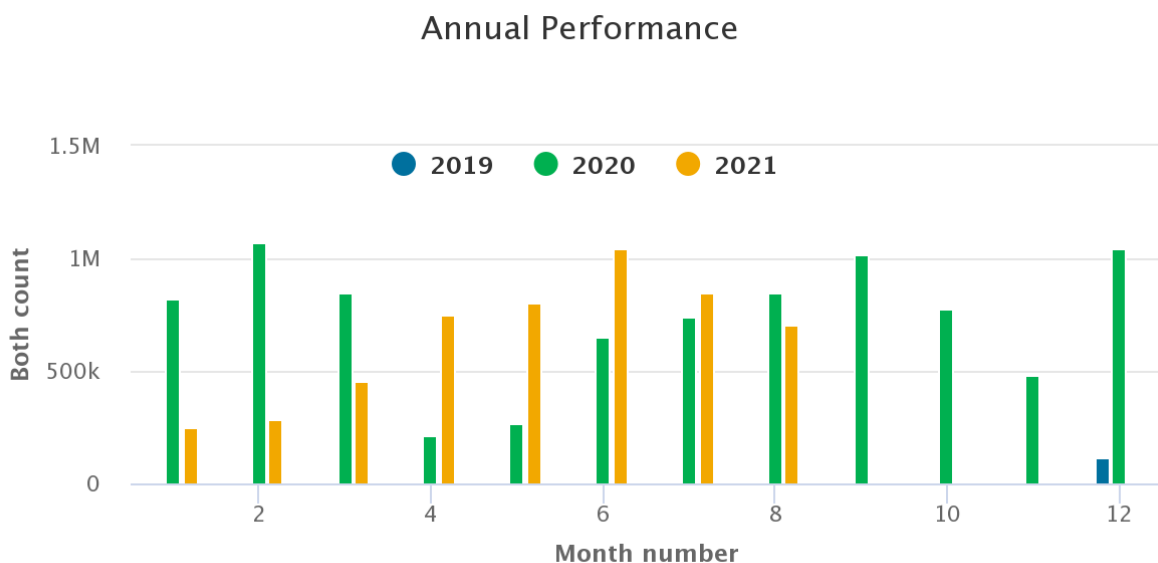
The Road Safety team have attended a number of road safety events in recent weeks, including an Older Road Users' event at Arcadia Garden Centre, a 'Doctor Bike' cycle safety event at the James Cook University Hospital and a 'Pop Up' road safety event at Teessaurus Park.

Preparations are also well under way for a Cleveland Strategic Road Safety Partnership 'Project EDWARD' event to be held at Middlesbrough Fire Station on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death) is an annual UK-wide road safety campaign backed by central government, the emergency services, Highways England, Local Highway Authorities, road safety organisations and British businesses. The Campaign promotes an evidence-led, 'safe system' approach, the long-term objective of which is a road traffic system free from death and serious injury.

### **5. Town Centre Footfall**

The latest figures show that the total Town Centre footfall count for the month of July 2021 was 850,871. This represented an 86% increase on March 2021 (456,706), which was the last full calendar month before the phased easing of Covid-19 restrictions commenced.

These figures for July 2021 also indicate that footfall in Middlesbrough Town Centre is currently operating at 80% of Pre-Covid 19 levels. This is based on figures for the month of February 2020.



### **6. Boho 8 First Tenant**



NorthLink Digital has successfully moved into the first unit of the Boho 8 development. The company has a strong, and growing presence in Middlesbrough's digital cluster and has committed to Middlesbrough for its plan to double headcount in the next year.

NorthLink, who will be more than doubling their office space and headcount through this move. NorthLink's business model sees them bring high value software development projects from London to be delivered in Middlesbrough. This move represents a justification to the development of Boho 8, and also cements an early-stage business that is growing at a rapid pace within the Boho Zone.

Boho 8 is c.10,000 sqft of premium office space to expand Middlesbrough's digital cluster. Over four units, NorthLink Digital has taken the first, a further two are contractually secured and the final unit is under discussion with interested parties, which will see the development at 90% occupancy within the 6 months since formal handover.

Boho 8 has also been nominated for Constructing Excellence North East awards for Offsite Project of the Year. The awards will be held in October. As one of Middlesbrough Council's first modular construction products, we have demonstrated that exceptional levels of quality can be achieved and this will provide a benchmark for other modern methods of construction.

## **7. TeesAMP Occupancy and Partner Investment**

Largely let during the Covid pandemic, TeesAMP has been a huge success story for Middlesbrough's employment market. The site of 180,000 sqft is now 85% let and only one unit remains available.

Interest in the site has been exceptional and the quality of tenant businesses has delivered the ambition for highly-skilled and highly-paid, employment being grown and retained in the area.

Teesside University will commence on site shortly with supporting the ongoing drive for clean energy and sustainability, the NZIIC is the latest development at the expanding Net Zero Innovation Hub, spearheaded by Teesside University and based on the Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TeesAMP) in Middlesbrough. The Net Zero Innovation Hub brings together expert insight, resources and partnerships to grow net zero capabilities and opportunities, placing the region at the forefront of the clean energy agenda and helping to create hundreds more clean energy jobs.

## **8. Tees Tech Awards 2021**

The Tees Tech Awards 2021 took place in early August, shining a spotlight on the Tees Valley's digital tech sector. As the epicentre of this sector in Tees Valley, it was fantastic to see so many Middlesbrough-based businesses shortlisted for the awards, with 6 out of 11 winners currently residing in the town's Digital Enterprise Zone. The awards have gained both local and national recognition, and further bolster the ambition for Middlesbrough to become a nationally recognised digital tech hotspot.

## **9. Towns Fund**

To date the Town Deal Board have approved seven business cases totalling £8,525,000; from the programmed budget of £21.9m.

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Knowledge Economy          | £1,175,000 |
| Boho Residential           | £2,000,000 |
| Historic Buildings         | £1,000,000 |
| Cargo Fleet Nature Reserve | £100,000   |
| Community Hubs             | £1,250,000 |
| Ward Initiatives           | £1,000,000 |
| Centre Square Development  | £2,000,000 |

Work is now taking place to submit paperwork to the Ministry of Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to draw down the funding and commence the works timetabled in each business case.

Business cases for the remaining package of Urban Living projects and some of the Enterprise Infrastructure elements will be finalised and presented to the Town Deal Board in November 2021.

## **10. FHSF**

Project delivery has now commenced, with the distribution of Covid recovery grants to a number of businesses within the FHSF area.

Work is also in the final planning stages to begin the physical improvements to Captain Cook Square Shopping Centre and make some of the vacant units suitable for key leisure tenants.

Lane 7 has now completed its lease of the former TJ Hughes unit and will commence fit out works as soon as possible. The new facility aims to open as close to Christmas as possible.

## **11. Towns Fund – Ward Initiatives**

The project aims to engage with communities in each of the 20 wards in Middlesbrough to design and deliver investment in local improvements.

Stakeholders were initially engaged via a questionnaire that went out on all Middlesbrough Council social media channels. This questionnaire was designed by the Council's communication team (with support from the Data team) and endorsed by the Town Deal Board. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather opinion on how the £1m could be spent, it included open questions for the use of the money and whether the community would prefer equally distributed funding or fewer, larger schemes.

Following recommendations from the Town Deal board meeting of 30 July 2021, further consultation is taking place with a survey to ward members. Members will be encouraged to seek as much public / community council input as possible, and refer to the issues highlighted by the ward profiles, to ensure the best possible use of the Towns Fund resource.

In the absence of any projects being returned by ward members, the Executive have expressed a preference for the enhancement of parks and play areas across Middlesbrough. The deadline for project proposals is 5p.m. on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

Page 59

| DATE        | DECISION MAKER | ISSUE  | PURPOSE OF REPORT   | KEY DECISION |
|-------------|----------------|--|---|--------------|
| 13 Jul 2021 | Executive      | ECS Installation of Town Wide Lighting Scheme  | Decision required on agreeing to allocate Capital Funding.  | Yes          |
| 13 Jul 2021 | Executive      | Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2021 - 2037   | To adopt the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2021 - 2037. The strategy is designed to identify and prioritise the actions required to strengthen Middlesbrough's network of green and blue features up until 2037, and will be a key evidence document in the preparation of the Local Plan. | Yes          |
| 13 Jul 2021 | Executive      | EXEMPT - Land at St David's Way - Proposed Freehold Disposal [PART B]                      | Proposal to dispose of Council owned land for the purpose of residential development.   | Yes          |
| 13 Jul 2021 | Executive      | Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Community Cohesion and Integration | The aim of the investigation was to examine community cohesion in Middlesbrough and what work was being undertaken by the Council and its partners to support and develop this.   | Yes          |
| 13 Jul 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          |

| DATE        | DECISION MAKER | ISSUE   | PURPOSE OF REPORT  | KEY DECISION |
|-------------|----------------|---|--|--------------|
| 10 Aug 2021 | Executive      | Nunthorpe Grange Farmhouse, Yard & Barns - Proposed Freehold Disposal             | Proposal to dispose of Council owned property  | Yes          |
| 10 Aug 2021 | Executive      | Community Engagement Policy   |  | No           |
| 7 Sep 2021  | Executive      | Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel Final Report and Service Response                           | To present the draft final report of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel following its review into Members' media communications.  | No           |
| 7 Sep 2021  | Executive      | Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter One 2021/22 | To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter One 2021/22   | Yes          |
| 7 Sep 2021  | Executive      | Supplier Incentive Programme  | Proposal to commission an early payment scheme system for payment of invoices earlier than the standard 30 days and bring associated change in practice and anticipated efficiencies in process.   | Yes          |
| 7 Sep 2021  | Executive      | Strategic Plan 2021-24 – Progress at Quarter One 2021/22                          | Report outlining performance against the Strategic Plan at Quarter One 2021/22   | No           |
| 7 Sep 2021  | Executive      | MDC Empty Homes Partnership   | To confirm the financial arrangements to enable Middlesbrough Development Company to enter into a partnership with The Ethical Housing Company to invest in the refurbishment of empty and poor quality properties in the TS1 and TS3 areas. | Yes          |



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

| DATE        | PROPOSED<br>DECISION<br>MAKER | ISSUE   | PURPOSE OF REPORT  | KEY<br>DECISION |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| 14 Sep 2021 | Executive                     | Proposed School Cleaning Price Increase 20/21 | That Executive considers the proposed school cleaning price increase for financial year 2020/2021 and approves the proposed recommendations. | Yes             |
| 21 Sep 2021 | Executive                     | EXEMPT - Middlesbrough College                | Exploring potential investment in the relocation of TTE.   | Yes             |
| 21 Sep 2021 | Executive                     | Middlehaven Options Appraisal                 | The granting of an option agreement development of Middlehaven and in line with an agreed masterplan.  | Yes             |

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

| DATE       | PROPOSED DECISION MAKER | ISSUE  | PURPOSE OF REPORT   | KEY DECISION |
|------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| 9 Nov 2021 | Executive               | Strategic Plan 2021-24 – Progress at Quarter Two 2021/22                                       | Report outlining performance against the Strategic Plan at Quarter Two 2021/22  | No           |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive               | Tackling Eye Sore Sites  | To ask the Executive to approve investment up to £1,000,000 to tackle eyesore sites.  | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive               | EXEMPT: Strategic Town Centre Acquisition  | The report needs to go to the Executive due to the financial thresholds having been exceeded (for decision) as they are over £150k. The decision relates to one Central Ward only– albeit the economic benefits will be town-wide. The report seeks approval for a number of decisions relating to the proposed commercial acquisition. | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive               | EXEMPT: Centre Square Office Investment  | Requesting approval for investment in new office building at Centre Square.   | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive               | Children's Services Social Worker Recruitment and Retention / Agency Worker Reduction Strategy | Proposal for Executive to consider the enhanced recruitment offer for experienced social workers in order to support the plan to increase permanent staff, reduce the reliance on agency staff and reduce the associated financial pressure.  | Yes          |

| DATE       | PROPOSED DECISION MAKER  | ISSUE  | PURPOSE OF REPORT  | KEY DECISION |
|------------|--|--|--|--------------|
| 5 Oct 2021 | The Mayor - Executive Member for Children's Safeguarding and Adult Social Care and Public Protection | Statement of Principles for the penalty charge structure associated with the enforcement of the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 | That the Executive member notes the content of this report and approves the proposed Statement of Principles for the penalty charge structure for enforcement of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarm (England) Regulations 2015, in accordance with the Financial and Contractual Procedure Rules. | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive  | Middlesbrough's Ambition for Children  | To build upon our existing improvement journey within Children's Services and our existing Middlesbrough Children Matter priorities, to create a Corporate ambition, strategy, and priorities for the whole of the town guided and co-produced with children and young people.                     | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive  | Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23   |  | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive  | Middlehaven - Outwood Academy Riverside  | The report sets out the case to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land at Middlehaven, in order to facilitate the delivery of a new secondary free school in Middlesbrough.  | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive  | Highways Asset Infrastructure  | Executive approval is required for the ECS Capital Highways Infrastructure Asset.  | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive  | Fountain Court Refurbishment and Fit-Out Budget  | Decision regarding fit-out costings.   | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021 | Executive  | Community Approach   | To seek approval from Executive for the implementation of a Middlesbrough Community Approach across all wards within the town that aims to increase community cohesion, encourage community  | Yes          |



| DATE        | PROPOSED DECISION MAKER | ISSUE   | PURPOSE OF REPORT   | KEY DECISION |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|---|--------------|
|             |                         |   | engagement in the development of Council plans and initiatives and which ultimately will help to build stronger and more resilient communities.   |              |
| 5 Oct 2021  | Executive               | MDC Business Plan   | To provide the Executive with a review of MDC activities over the past year and to set out the priorities and anticipated expenditure for the next 12 months.                               | No           |
| 5 Oct 2021  | Executive               | Community Environmental Initiatives                               | To support community environmental initiatives to aid improved local environmental standards.   | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021  | Executive               | Youth Service Update  | To update the Executive on the Youth Service since it commenced on the 1st April 2021.  | No           |
| 5 Oct 2021  | Executive               | ECS Built Asset Investment  | Executive approval is required for the ECS Capital Asset Strategy.  | Yes          |
| 5 Oct 2021  | Executive               | PSPO (Alley Gates)  | Supports the proposals to extend the existing town wide PSPO (previously known as gating orders) for a further 3 years.   | Yes          |
| 26 Oct 2021 | Executive               | Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan                              | To adopt the Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan.  | Yes          |
| 9 Nov 2021  | Executive               | Annual Update: Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities 0-25 | To provide an update to members re Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities 0-25 in Middlesbrough since the local area revisit in July 2019 and since the last report in November 2020 | No           |
| 9 Nov 2021  | Executive               | Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget Savings Proposals    | That the Executive notes the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position and budget savings.  | Yes          |

| DATE        | PROPOSED DECISION MAKER | ISSUE  | PURPOSE OF REPORT   | KEY DECISION |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| 9 Nov 2021  | Executive               | Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Two 2021/22    | To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter Two 2021/22.   | Yes          |
| 7 Dec 2021  | Executive               | Newham Grange Development Overview   | The report will document the process of securing options for the marketing and delivery of the site and will include the key infrastructure phasing strategy.   | Yes          |
| 7 Dec 2021  | Executive               | Nunthorpe Grange Development Overview  | The report details the current situation regarding the Community centre development work, partnered infrastructure works and housing delivery schemes including the Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey sites. Alongside of this is an update on the Nunthorpe commitments. | Yes          |
| 7 Dec 2021  | Executive               | SACRE Annual Report  | Annual Report   | No           |
| 11 Jan 2022 | Executive               | Council Tax Support Scheme for 22/23   | That the Executive approves the Council Tax Support Scheme for 22/23.   | Yes          |
| 14 Feb 2022 | Executive               | Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2022/23 | The setting of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Capital Strategy for 2022/23.   | Yes          |
| 14 Feb 2022 | Executive               | Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Three 2021/22  | To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter Three 2021/22.   | Yes          |
| 14 Feb 2022 | Executive               | Strategic Plan 2021-24 – Progress at Quarter Three 2021/22                           | Report outlining performance against the Strategic Plan at Quarter Three 2021/22  | No           |

| DATE | PROPOSED<br>DECISION<br>MAKER | ISSUE | PURPOSE OF REPORT | KEY<br>DECISION |
|------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
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|------------------------------|---|
| <b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b> |  |
|------------------------------|---|

**COUNCIL**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Report title</b>                | Scrutiny Progress Report                  |
| <b>Chief Executive or Director</b> | Director of Legal and Governance Services |
| <b>Date</b>                        | 22 September 2021                         |

**Summary**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Proposed decision(s)</b>  |
| To update the position in respect of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below. |

|                    |                      |                             |                              |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Report for:</b> | <b>Key decision:</b> | <b>Confidential/Exempt:</b> | <b>Is the report urgent?</b> |
| To be noted        | No                   | No                          | Non-urgent report            |

|   |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| <b>Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan</b> |              |   |
| <b>People</b>   | <b>Place</b> | <b>Business</b>   |
| N/A   | N/A          | Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process |
| <b>Ward(s) affected</b>                                       |              |   |
| 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**

The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 28 July and 8 September 2021.

At the 28 July 2021 meeting, the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Chief Executive's Update
- Children's Services Update – Finance and Performance
- Scrutiny Work Programme Report 2021/2022
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates

At the 8 September 2021 meeting, the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Mayor's attendance at OSB
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates
- Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel – Final Report – Behaviour, Discipline & Bullying in Schools
- Executive Forward Work Programme
- Chief Executive's Update

## **SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES**

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

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

The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 1 September 2021.

The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance at the meeting and provided an update in respect of the Integration of Health and Social Care and Adult Day Care Services.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 13 October 2021; the Panel will receive information in respect of Ageing Better Middlesbrough and Aster Care Home.

### **Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel**

At the meeting on 26 July 2021, in respect of the Scrutiny Panel's 2020 review of Addressing Poverty Issues and the Impact on Learning, the Head of Achievement, Education, Prevention and Partnerships provided an update on the progress made with the implementation of the agreed recommendations/actions.

The Scrutiny Panel also considered and approved the content of its draft final report on Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools and determined its recommendations for submission to the Executive.

The last meeting was held on 6 September 2021. At that meeting, the Scrutiny Panel began its new review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Strategic Lead for the Inclusion and Specialist Support Service; the Head of Inclusion, Assessment and Review and the Principal Educational Psychologist were in attendance to provide the Scrutiny Panel with a general overview/introduction of the topic of SEND, including:

- an overview of the legal framework in which statutory agencies must work to support children and young people with SEND;
- an outline of how SEND can affect a child or young person's ability to learn; and
- an update on the local developments within Middlesbrough.

The Scrutiny Panel also continues to receive regular updates on education and COVID-19 recovery.

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

The Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 27 July 2021.

The Executive Director of Children's Services was in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview of the service area.

The Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2021/2022 which were forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

A proposed meeting schedule for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year was approved.

The Executive Director also provided updates in relation to the most recent Ofsted focused visit and Covid recovery within Children's Services.

The Panel is scheduled to meet on 21 September at 4.00pm and will receive an introduction to its new scrutiny topic of Locality Working from a Children's Services perspective.

### **Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel**

The Culture and Communities Panel met on 15 July 2021.

The Directors of Environment and Community Services, and Regeneration and Culture were in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview of their service areas.

The Panel discussed and selected topics for the Work Programme 2021/2022 which were forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

The next meeting of the Panel will take place on 23 September 2021 where the Panel will receive an update on selective landlord licensing and discuss the terms of reference of their current review.

## **Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel**

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 21 July and 8 September 2021.

At the July meeting the Panel received information in relation to business support and grants provided by Middlesbrough Council during the Covid-19 pandemic as part of its current scrutiny review. The Panel also received an update from the Operational Manager, Environment and Community Services in relation to Teesside Crematorium, as agreed by the service area following a scrutiny review by the Panel.

The Director of Environment and Community Services was in attendance at the September meeting and provided an overview of Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy as an introduction to the Panel's new topic: The Green Strategy and the Council's plans for increasing bio-diversity.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 6 October 2021.

## **Health Scrutiny Panel**

The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 7 September 2021, during which it received an update in respect of COVID-19 from the Director of Public Health (South Tees). During that update the Panel discussed current Covid infection rates and were also advised that increases in infection rates may be seen after schools returned from the summer holidays. The Panel also discussed how to effectively communicate safe Covid practices, particularly in relation to vaccine take-up. The Panel was advised that multi-agency publicity and advertising was being created to achieve this task. The Panel did appreciate, however, that this was challenging in the current climate.

The Panel also received an overview for its investigation into Health Inequalities. Dr Heather Brown from Newcastle University and Chris Thomas of the Institute of Public Policy Research presented their respective research into this area. In general terms, the Panel was advised that areas with higher levels of health inequalities (most notably the North of England) not only had detrimental impacts on people's health outcomes but also economic vitality. For example, the Panel heard how closing gaps in health inequality could equate in billions of pounds of lost economic activity to the UK's economy.

At its next meeting on 5 October the Panel will hear evidence into how economic and regeneration initiatives can help to close gaps in health inequalities from the Council's Director of Regeneration.

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

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on 24 September 2021.

## **Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 15 September 2021 where it considered the following:

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair;



- Tees Valley Combined Authority Declaration of Interests Procedures;
- Overview & Scrutiny Committees – Statutory Powers/Legislation;
- Meetings and Forward Plan 2021/2022;

## **SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE**

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

7 September 2021 - Final Report – Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Members' Communication – 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 M SAUNDERS  
CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **Contact Officer:**

Caroline Breheny

Democratic Services

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 28 - 33**

| QUESTION NO. | QUESTION FROM       | QUESTION TO       | QUESTION   |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 4/21         | Councillor M Storey | The Mayor         | Can the Mayor confirm when the recently adjourned meeting to discuss the Stainsby Masterplan will be reconvened? Will a decision be taken that both addresses the concerns of residents and safeguards the Council from any legal action from developers?  |
| 5/21         | Councillor Cooke    | The Mayor         | Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Hartlepool Borough Council both offer a pest control service at a cost to residents. Stockton Borough Council offer a free pest control service to residents. In Middlesbrough if you have a problem with pest control you would need to pay for a private company. Does the Mayor agree with me that this is a service Middlesbrough Council should be offering to residents and will he commit to investigate how such a service could be offered here in the future? |
| 6/21         | Councillor Furness  | Councillor Polano | Landlord licensing: what are the current arrangements how many houses are under license throughout Middlesbrough? In the likes of Gresham ward where half is under licence the other not. Do we see a difference in housing from the licensed areas to the unlicensed areas?   |
| 7/21         | Councillor P Storey | The Mayor         | Can the Mayor rule out the introduction of fortnightly bin collections in the financial year 2022/23?  |

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>Report of:</b>    | The Monitoring Officer                            |
| <b>Submitted to:</b> | Council – 22 September 2021                       |
| <b>Subject:</b>      | Council Committees and Outside Bodies - Vacancies |

**Summary**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Proposed decision(s)</b>  |
| To seek Members' approval to nominations for appointment, arising from vacancies deferred at the Annual Meeting of Council and resignations from Committees. |

|                    |                      |                             |                          |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Report for:</b> | <b>Key decision:</b> | <b>Confidential/Exempt:</b> | <b>Can be called-in:</b> |
| Decision           | No                   | No                          | No                       |

|   |                |                 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan</b> |                |                 |
| <b>People</b>   | <b>Place</b>   | <b>Business</b> |
| Not applicable  | Not applicable | Not applicable  |

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| <b>Ward(s) affected</b> |
| Not applicable          |

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. That Members consider nominations for appointment to the vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies.

**Why does this report require a Member decision?**

2. Following the Annual Meeting of the Council, places on some Committees and Outside Bodies remained vacant and there have been some resignations from Committees. The report is necessary so that those vacancies that remain, can be filled.

**What decision(s) are being asked for?**

3. At the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 26 May 2021, places on some Committees remained vacant and there have been some resignations from Committees. Members are now asked to consider nominations for appointment to the vacancies.

4. That, subject to receipt of nominations to the following vacancies or amendments to places, Council approves (a) the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors and fills the following vacancies:

**Committees**

**Schedule B**

Live Well South Tees Board

**1 Vacancy: Open to all Councillors**

**Schedule C**

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

**Following the resignation of Councillor Garvey as Chair, there is a vacancy for the Chair of Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel:**

**Chair: Nominations required: Open to all Councillors on Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

**Following the resignation of Councillor Dodds as Vice Chair, there is a vacancy for the Chair of Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel:**

**Vice Chair: Nominations required: Open to all Councillors on Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

**1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors**

**Outside Bodies**

(ANEC) Resources Task and Finish Group

**1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors**

North East Regional Employers' Organisation (NEREO)

**1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors**

Tees Valley Arts Board

**1 Executive Vacancy – Councillor Mieka Smiles**

**Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

7. Not applicable

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

***Legal***

8. No impact.

***Financial***

9. No impact.

***Policy Framework***

10. Not applicable. The report does not propose an amendment to the policy framework.

***Equality and Diversity***

11. Not applicable.

***Risk***

12. Not applicable

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

13. Appoint Members to Committees and Outside Bodies in accordance with their preference.

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