

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 16 November 2021

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 24th November, 2021** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes - Council - 20 October 2021 5 – 12
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. Mayor's Statement and Report
7. Executive Member reports 13 – 46
8. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 47 – 52
9. Medium Term Financial Plan Update 53 – 72
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
12. Notice of Motions 73 – 74

13.	Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)	
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16.	Council Committees and Outside Bodies - Vacancies	97 - 100



Charlotte Benjamin,
Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

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

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

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

Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 20 October 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors J Hobson, A Bell (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, C Cooke, B Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, C Dodds, T Furness, TA Grainge, A Hellaoui, C Hobson, B Hubbard, L Lewis, L Mason, T Mawston, D McCabe, C McIntyre, M Nugent, E Polano, A Preston (The Mayor), G Purvis, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Smiles, P Storey, J Thompson, Z Uddin, S Walker and G Wilson

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, S Bonner, C Breheny, B Carr, A Hoy, D Johnson, S Reynolds, K Whitmore, A Wilson and I Wright

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D Branson, S Dean, L Garvey, T Higgins, A High, S Hill, N Hussain, D Jones, J McTigue, J Platt, J Rathmell, R Sands, M Saunders, M Storey, J Walker, A Waters and C Wright

21/57 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

21/58 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 September 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

21/59 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair welcomed members back into the Council Chamber.

The Chair requested that members join him in a minutes silence to remember Sir David Amess MP who was tragically murdered on 15 October 2021, whilst carrying out his constituency surgery.

All those present stood in silence to remember Sir David Amess MP.

21/60 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

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

21/61 **MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

The Mayor stated that he wished to speak about the following issues:

Covid

The Mayor stated that there had been an increase in the rate of Covid infections, and he reminded everyone that Covid was lethal to some people. He urged people not to panic, but to be sensible and to continue to wear face masks. Middlesbrough was currently about 80th position in the table of rates of Covid cases, but as the town suffered from high unemployment and had a dense population; compared to other towns with the same issues, Middlesbrough had a lower rate of infections. The Mayor stated that this was largely down to work of the Council's Public Health Team. He encouraged people to take up the offer of having a vaccination or booster.

Hemlington Ward

The Mayor referred to a small group of people in the Hemlington area that were carrying out anti-social behaviour and intimidating residents. Some residents that lived in the Hemlington area were afraid to report any instances of anti-social behaviour to the police or the council. The groups carrying out the anti-social behaviour were aged between 12 – 16 years of age

and they were committing serious crimes. He stated that he was pleased to see that some people had been arrested and that action would be taken against the perpetrators. The same groups had been throwing bottles at the police and the fire brigade.

The Mayor urged people living in the Hemlington Ward to report any instances of anti-social behaviour to the police or crime stoppers. He stated that the Council also needed to put pressure on those involved in the sentencing process.

Wardens had been under attack along with the police and the fire brigade. The Wardens had been involved in numerous different tasks whilst performing their role as a Warden, including saving 13 lives, reuniting dementia sufferers and lost children or pets with their families and assisting the homeless by signposting them to the correct services in order for them to be re-housed. The Mayor also referred to the work of the Fly-Tipping Enforcement Team.

Standards Complaints

The Mayor referred to the amount of money and time being spent on investigating complaints against councillors. He urged councilors to think whether a complaint was necessary, before submitting a Standards complaint against another councillor.

The Mayor stated that if any person felt lonely, isolated or intimidated, the Council was available to help improve their life. He urged residents to get in touch with the Council and they would do what they could to assist.

Councillor Mawston referred to the good response to attending for vaccinations at the mobile vaccination centre in Newport. He stated that only a few members were involved in submitting complaints against other councillors.

The Mayor stated that there was currently a culture in the Council of councillors using the Standards complaints process to bully other councilors. This was causing a strain on the department responsible for dealing with the complaints in terms of the time being taken up to investigate the complaints and there was also a financial cost involved.

Councillor Rooney stated that everyone needed to be more vigilant in respect of dealing with Covid and she stated that she had been hoping for a stronger message to be conveyed to the public with regard to helping to prevent the spread of Covid.

Councillor Rooney stated that it was pleasing to see the queues of people waiting to receive their vaccinations at the Newport hub. The Riverside site was sometimes difficult for residents to get to, so it was good to see that residents had access to other more accessible sites to receive their vaccination.

In terms of the anti-social behaviour in the Hemlington Ward, Councillor Rooney urged residents to report any instances to the appropriate authorities.

In terms of the amount of Standards complaints, Councillor Rooney stated that councilors had a duty to uphold the highest standards of behaviour. If there had been an increase in the number of complaints being submitted, then this needed to be looked into to see what the reason was for the increase in the receipt of complaints.

**At this point of the meeting, member were informed that there had been a break down in the filming of the meeting. As, according to the Access to Information Rules, the meeting was open to the public to attend, the meeting continued.

Councillor Cooke referred to the excellent attendance at the Newport vaccination centre.

In terms of the issues of anti-social behaviour being experienced in the Hemlington area, Councillor Cooke stated that locality working should be rolled out in that and other Wards. It had made a huge difference to anti-social behaviour in the Newport Ward.

In relation to the increase in the number of Standards complaints, Councillor Cooke stated that having seen some emails concerning councillors and their families, he could understand why some of the complaints had been submitted and were justified. He stated that any councilor submitting unnecessary complaints should be identified.

The Mayor stated that it was interesting to see that crime had reduced in the Newport Ward, but it was too early to tell if this was as a result of the introduction of locality working.

He stated that the Standards complaints system was available for instances where any attempts to resolve a complaint informally, had failed. He reiterated the cost involved, in terms of time and money, for investigating complaints against councillors, and he urged councillors to be responsible in terms of the use of the Standards complaints system.

Councillor Hellaoui stated that given the increased rate of Covid infections, it was ill-advised for councillors to be meeting in the Council Chamber for the Council meeting. Not very councillor had carried out a lateral flow test or was wearing a face mask. Councillor Hellaoui stated that in her view, councillors were placing themselves at risk, by meeting in the Council Chamber.

Councillor Hellaoui stated that the queues at the Newport Hub for people wanting to receive a vaccination were long, but very well managed. The pop up hubs and locality working were working very well.

The Mayor stated that it was important to try and get things back to normal, but the Council would not take unnecessary risks. The air conditioning was working in the Council Chamber and both doors were open.

Councillor Coupe referred to the fact that some people were not wearing masks when visiting the supermarket, or carry out social distancing, and this might lead to a further lockdown. The cancellation of operations in hospitals would have an effect on the health service for some time to come.

In terms of the number of complaints being submitted, Councillor Coupe stated that councillors often had differing political opinions, and that was acceptable. If people in the community were of the view that councillors were complaining about each other regularly, it might prevent new candidates putting themselves forward to stand as a councillor.

Councillor Bell stated that he echoed the sentiments of the Mayor with regards to the issues in Hemlington Ward. The police were working with the Neighbourhood Safety Team with regard to the anti-social behaviour and more people were coming forward to make a complaint. Councillor Bell stated that he would like to see a greater presence in terms of Street Wardens, the police and the Council's Enforcement Team in the Hemlington area.

21/62

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

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

Question on the Mayor's Executive Member report

Councillor Uddin in relation to Looked After Children

Councillor Uddin queried whether foster carers had been invited to take part in the Life-story work and the Berri training that had recently been delivered to staff? He thanked the foster carers for their commitment with regard to looking after children. He also congratulated the fostering/adoption team on securing three Adoption Orders this month.

Councillor Uddin also referred to the Adoption Tees Valley Annual Report 2020-2021 which reported that, in total 17 children had been placed on a fostering for adoption basis, prior to the Court authorisation to place for adoption, and he congratulated the teams involved in the fostering/adoption process on their efforts.

The Mayor stated that he joined Councillor Uddin in congratulating the foster carers for assisting in looking after children in care. Children thrived better in a stable family unit. The Mayor advised that he was not sure if foster carers did receive the same training as staff, but he would look into it and report back to Councillor Uddin.

Questions on the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities report

Councillor Thompson in relation to Events

Councillor Thompson referred to the details of various events that had been held in the town that had been included in the Executive Member's report. Councillor Thompson queried why there was no reference in the report to the 'Walk and Talk' event held at the Dorman Museum to celebrate Black History month. Councillor Thompson also queried whether there had been any training on black history issues.

The Executive Member advised that she had been aware of the event held at the Dorman Museum but had been unable to attend due to a prior engagement. The Executive Member stated that it was important to celebrate different cultures and she advised that she would encourage people from all different cultures or political persuasion to become a councillor.

The Black History Youth Awards were due to be held on Friday to honour exceptional achievement of black youths in the Tees Valley. There were a number of different events and initiatives that had been organised to celebrate black history month in the libraries and community hubs and the libraries were promoting black literature. In response to why the event at the Dorman Museum had not been referenced in the report, the Executive Member advised that there was so many different events taking place in the town, it would be difficult to include them all in the report. The Executive Member advised that she would ensure that it was included in next year's report.

Councillor Furness in relation to Albert Park.

Councillor Furness made reference to the fact that the tennis courts located in Albert Park were due to be refurbished. He queried with regard to whether facilities for more diverse activities such as basketball or skateboarding could be included in the park in the future.

The Executive Member advised that Albert Park was a great asset to the town. The Executive advised that she had recently visited Albert Park, along with the Mayor to look at the croquet club, which was the largest in the North. The Council had recently committed £100k funding to deliver capital improvements to the park, which included improvements to the visitors centre, park signage and the lake. The work was due to be completed by March 2022. An application for funding had also been submitted to the Lawn Tennis Association towards the refurbishment of the tennis courts, and it was hoped that the facility would be free to use. The Executive Member advised that the Council was always open to new ideas for improvements to Albert Park.

Councillor Cooke regarding locality working

Councillor Cooke referred to the 15 incidents of anti-social behaviour that had been reported in the Newport Ward and the fact that only one of the incidents had been captured on CCTV. He queried whether the amount of CCTV in the Ward was sufficient or whether all of the cameras located in the Ward were in working order.

The Executive Member advised that the number of CCTV cameras varied across each ward. Schemes were available to increase the amount of CCTV in the town.

In terms of the concept of locality working, a report was due to be submitted to the Executive with regards to the issue of locality working and the effectiveness of the scheme.

The Mayor advised that not every camera in the town had been installed by the Council. A camera had been installed on Cass House Road because of issues of anti-social behaviour but it had been damaged twice. The Council intended to install a Belfast camera in order to prevent tampering and damage to the camera. Funding of £300k would be available in the near future to be used to install additional cameras across the town.

Question on the Executive Member for Education report

Councillor P Storey regarding the shortfall in school places in 2022.

Cllr Storey queried with regard to what plans were in place to deal with the 200 place shortfall for children starting secondary school in Middlesbrough in 2022.

The Mayor advised that the demand for secondary school places was greater than had been anticipated. A new school was due to be built in St Hilda's, and building would commence in a matter of months but it would take up to two years to build it which would mean that there would be a temporary pressure in respect of secondary school places in Middlesbrough. Officers had however worked hard with the secondary schools to find short and medium term solutions so that no child would be without a school place in 2022.

Questions on the Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance report

Councillor Arundale regarding the Transporter Bridge

Councillor Arundale referred to the work that had previously been carried out by Atkins to secure angle bracing on the bridge, so he was unsure as to why further work on the bridge was required by Rapid Engineering.

The Executive Member advised that in December 2020, Middlesbrough Council and Stockton Council had committed £650k to make urgent repairs to the bridge which included repairing welds that were cracked to make them safe. To ensure that the bridge was in full working order then more money would need to be spent. A report was needed to ascertain the full costs of repairing the bridge, which would be submitted to full Council for approval.

Councillor Arundale stated that in his view, the bridge was outdated and the costs involved in repairing the bridge could involve millions of pounds.

Councillor Rooney regarding Strategic

Councillor Rooney referred to the number of acronyms included in the Executive Member's report and requested that in future, names are included in full with the acronym listed after.

Councillor Cooke regarding Human Resources

Councillor Cooke queried with regard to how long it had been since the Council staff had been surveyed and whether the Executive Member could provide details of the outcome of any surveys. The Executive Member advised that he would make some inquiries and provide a response to Councillor Cooke in due course.

Questions on the Executive Member for Regeneration report.

Councillor Arundale regarding TeesAMP

Councillor Arundale stated that he was delighted to see the progress with the TeesAMP site and he congratulated all those involved in making the site a success.

The Executive Member stated that there was only one unit vacant and there were three interested parties. The units were bringing in substantial rent to the Council.

Councillor Furness regarding Stainton Way Toucan Crossing.

Councillor Furness stated that the schemes, such as the Members Small Scheme Allocation Fund, that allowed members to bid for crossings made the town a safer place. One crossing had been installed following a request from Councillor J Walker following an accident. Councillor Furness stated that he would like to see more accessible crossings installed across the town, without members having to bid for them.

The Executive Member stated that traffic calming measures needed to be installed to prevent accidents. Progress was being made but it took time, money and manpower for systems to be installed.

21/63 **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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

ORDERED that the report be noted.

21/64 **FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY**

The Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance presented a report which sought the approval of a proposed Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

Under the Statutory Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts, full Council was required to approve the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

Details of the individual projects which were planned to be funded from the flexible use of capital receipts, in accordance with the Guidance, were included within the report.

Councillor Rooney requested clarification with regard to what members were being asked to approve.

The Director of Finance advised that the flexible use of capital receipts was a back-up plan to increase reserves by £5.1m. It provided an extra buffer for the Council however, if the reserves proved not to be required in the future then the process could be reversed.

Councillor Hellaoui queried with regard to the impact on the Capital Funding Budget. The Director of Finance advised that instead of funding projects with capital receipts, it would be funded by borrowing at a cost of interest of £200k per year.

The Mayor advised that the flexible use of capital receipts would give the Council some flexibility by boosting reserves and although the Council might not be required to use the reserves, it provided a safety net, should it be required.

The Director of Finance advised that the current figures did not indicate that the Council would need to use the flexibility but future costs and income had become more uncertain. The increase in the revenue reserves held by the Council would provide insulation against any future unexpected financial pressures.

Councillor Hellaoui queried with regard to how the Council could be certain that they were getting value for money.

The Director of Finance advised that whenever the Council was required to borrow money, it always made full use of the market to ensure that it secured the best rates available. In order to achieve this the finance was usually borrowed using a mixture of short term and long term loans.

Councillor S Walker stated that he was in favour of the principle of the flexible use of capital receipts. He stated that he fully appreciated that Children's Services were in need of funding, but was concerned that capital receipts were being used to fund a service that continually required additional funding.

The Director of Finance advised that the reason why the majority of spending was in relation to Children's Services was because it would help support the significant and continued transformation work currently taking place within the Council which commenced as a result of the Ofsted Improvement Plan. The transformation work would assist in delivering improvement and efficiencies to the service.

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

That the proposed Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy be approved.

21/65 **ADOPTION OF THE MARTON WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - 2021-2029**

The Executive Member for Regeneration, Councillor Polano presented a report, the purpose of which was that the Council adopt the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2029, as part of the Council's Policy Framework, so that the Plan could be used in the determination of future planning applications within the designated Marton West Neighbourhood Area.

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

That the Marton West Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2029 be adopted, as part of the Council's Policy Framework, so that the Plan could be used in the determination of future planning applications within the designated Marton West Neighbourhood Area.

21/66 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

21/67 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The Chair announced that one question had been received from a member of the Council. The detail of the specific question was included at Agenda Item 12.

Question 8/21 - Councillor Thompson to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities regarding progress to date of the Middlesbrough Lottery with regard to the uptake, ticket sales and the benefits that the organisations that had signed up had received?

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities advised that the first weekly draw of the Middlesbrough Lottery took place on September 4th. As of October 15th the lottery had 635 players purchasing a total of 1,264 tickets each week.

Based on the current uptake, the lottery was on track to raise almost £40k for good causes around Middlesbrough per year. 50p from every £1 ticket was donated to the good cause of the player's choice, with 10p from every £1 ticket coming to the council to support cultural activity.

Players could choose to donate the full 60p proceeds to the council's fund and 225 players were choosing to do so. The council had received a payment of over £1k for the past month.

In terms of other good causes, 43 organisations had signed up so far. The three most popular with players so far, were My Sister's Place, Marton Community Centre Group and Bloodrun EVS.

Each organisation was required to set their own funding target. A tracker was available on the Council website for people to log on to see the progress of each organisation in terms of achieving their funding target.

21/68 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The Chair advised that he had received a request for Motion 150 to be withdrawn, as the proposer and seconder of the Motion were unable to attend the meeting. The Chair advised that he had consented to the withdrawal of the Motion, due to the absence of the proposer and seconder.

21/69 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

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

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

Council Meeting: 24 November 2021

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **24 November 2021**.

The booklet, in addition to containing details of Executive Member activities covering the period following the last Council meeting (section 1), also details those Executive decisions taken since the last booklet was published (section 2) together with those decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting (section 3) and those decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting (section 4).

The table at section 2 contains details of decisions taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. The public reports that were considered are also available through the Modern Gov system.

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

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

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

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

Contact details

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

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 24 NOVEMBER 2021

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

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

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 12 October 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

24 November 2021

Culture

1. Middlesbrough Council is currently leading a bid with Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership to work on the regeneration of our cultural buildings in Middlesbrough, including Middlesbrough Library. The bid is for a total of £5m and was submitted at the end of October, with an outcome expected in February 2022.
2. Cultural services has been successful in receiving £301,000 of funding from round three of Arts Council England's covid recovery fund. This funding will be used to reinforce a return to commercial stability for Middlesbrough cultural venues.
3. The main focus through October at Newham Grange Farm was preparations for half term week and Halloween – with 2,500 pumpkins sold! The farm had a traditional Halloween look, with customers taking part in pumpkin carving, Halloween crafts and 'Ghoul School' which included fun activities with our performing witches.

Parks

4. The legal agreement has now been signed with Kompan and this will see works start on four of our play areas: Stewart Park will be replacing its wheelchair swing, Albert Park will be replacing an old swing set and multi climbing frame, Pallister Park will have a new climbing frame installed and Thorntree Park will see its swings replaced with new ones.
5. The £100k investment at Albert Park continues and improvement work on the Visitor Centre begun on November 1. The centre will close for three weeks and alternative public toilets are provided at the fountain toilets. Roller-skating will still continue, with alternative ways to access our skates provided.
6. The park has purchased large games and also had graphics painted on the floor around the skating rink for the public to enjoy. Work on the lake will start soon.
7. Both Albert Park and Stewart Park have had new trails installed - Stewart Park's was in conjunction with the Cook Museum and Albert Park's was part of the Mini Mela programme.
8. Farmers markets have returned to Stewart Park, taking place on the third Sunday of each month. The December date is to be confirmed.
9. Assist Women's Network planted bulbs in its Sister Wood in Stewart Park: 20 trees have been planted to celebrate woman in Middlesbrough over the past 20 years. A new tree will be added each year.
10. ParkRun continues to gather pace with numbers exceeding 300 in both Albert Park and Stewart Park every Saturday.

Museums

11. In August Dorman Museum received its Sandford Award with commendation. Judge, Emma Canterbury, was very impressed by the learning programmes on offer at the site and felt that they were worthy of commendation by the scheme.
12. Schools have been welcomed back for educational visits at both of our museum sites and take up has been positive with 90-95% of availability booked between September and December 2021.
13. Work to create elements of the Bottled Ocean exhibition has commenced. Working with local artist Diane Watson, we have engaged local schools and community groups to explore the use of plastic, its purpose and how we use it through free creative workshops to create jellyfish and coral from plastic bottles. The work produced by participants will then be included in an immersive installation.

Black History Month / Taste of Africa

14. Middlesbrough Museums partnered up with local organization Taste of Africa to display a new exhibition for Black History Month. Irin Ajo mi is an exhibition chronicling and celebrating the experiences of black Teessiders. Irin Ajo Mi is a Yoruba word for My Journey.
15. Originally a Heritage Lottery supported project, this exhibition was developed by black young people living in the Tees Valley as an opportunity to celebrate diversity in Tees Valley. Irin Ajo Mi celebrates the journey of these amazing African and Afro Caribbean people showcasing their resilience despite challenges faced. It highlights their stories, struggles and achievements.



Curious Night at the Museum

16. Delivered in partnership with Curious Arts, Dorman Museum came alive after dark with fun curious entertainment. The evening was an engaging and exciting celebration of Middlesbrough's queer past and present with the help of a super group of LGBTQIA+ artists



Mini Pride

17. The Dorman Museum also played host to a Mini Pride celebration on Tuesday, October 26. Mini Pride was a celebration of everything that's wonderful and unique about families!

Events

18. Race for Life was held on Sunday, October 17 and was well received by all who took part.
19. Trafalgar Day parade took place on October 24, followed by Laying of the 1st Poppy on November 11 and Remembrance Day on November 14. All were moving and emotional ceremonies which gave residents the opportunity to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our futures.
20. The 90s event and Oktoberfest drew more than 5,000 people to the town centre over the weekend of the October 15. The privately run event was delivered on Centre Square.
21. October 23 saw the first Dino Day take place and it was a roarsome hit. The success has led to requests for Dino Day to become an annual event in the calendar, drawing more than 2,000 people to Teesaurus Park to enjoy the new augmented reality trail and pop up performances.
22. Sadly, due to significant health and safety concerns owing to expected wind gusts, the last outdoor Orange Pip of the season was unable to go ahead. This also meant that the Pride takeover of pip was unable to be delivered. The decision not to go ahead with an event is not a decision ever taken lightly. We continue to work with Curious Arts and the Pride Committee in developing program and opportunities for Pride events moving forward.
23. November 6 saw Middlesbrough's first Diwali event delivered in partnership with Kash Patel productions and Middlesbrough Mela Association. This event was also affected by the elements, which forced a last minute move indoors. But The Town Hall managed to shuffle

the program around in order to accommodate the event which was a great success, with almost 3,000 people enjoying the festivities. We have already begun to have conversations with the organisers about what might be possible next year.

24. The Middlesbrough 10k run took place on November 7. Starting and finishing on Centre Square, the route took in iconic sites and locations across the centre of town from Middlehaven up to Albert Park. Almost 2,000 runners took part, including our mayor and local councillors. The move to the town centre has had a positive impact with competitors who are keen to know next year's date already.
25. The annual Discover Middlesbrough festival took place in person this year with a range of talks walks, tours and activities held across the town by the many contributors to the festival.
26. Planning for Christmas continues, kicking off with the annual Middlesbrough Reindeer Parade and Light Switch On November 28.

Venues

27. Middlesbrough Town Hall and Middlesbrough Theatre are in full swing with shows and activities taking place almost every day. Highlights from October and early November include Sarah Millican, Totally Tina, Classical Café and Big Mouth Comedy Club to name but a few.
28. Reflecting on work carried out over the summer, Musinc delivered lots of holiday clubs for young people who are eligible for free school meals as part of the Government's Holiday Activities Fund. We are very pleased to hear that there will be more funding and opportunities available for similar holiday clubs at Christmas, so we'll get our planning hats back on for new and exciting programs of delivery.





Safety and Communities

29. Middlesbrough Council in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office are set to receive a share of £23.5 million funding allocated to help women and girls feel safer on the streets.
30. Middlesbrough Council worked with local providers to develop the Middlesbrough bid and are set to receive £381,771 Safer Streets Government funding. A range of initiatives will be introduced, which will be primarily focus in Newport and Central wards.
31. Just a few elements of the successful bid are improved CCTV and lighting in key locations, campaigns led by charity Crimestoppers to educate public and challenge harassment and student safety and engagement arranged by Teesside University.
32. The Community Safety Partnership officer has continued to work closely with the cybercrimes team promoting an anti courier fraud message to community groups, care homes, third sector, hubs and libraries.
33. The Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) process is under constant review as we continue to streamline and really drill down on priority areas in order to get the most out of the meeting. Active Intelligence Mapping allows stakeholders to identify emerging trends, clusters and hotspots of crime, antisocial behaviour, fire and environmental crime.

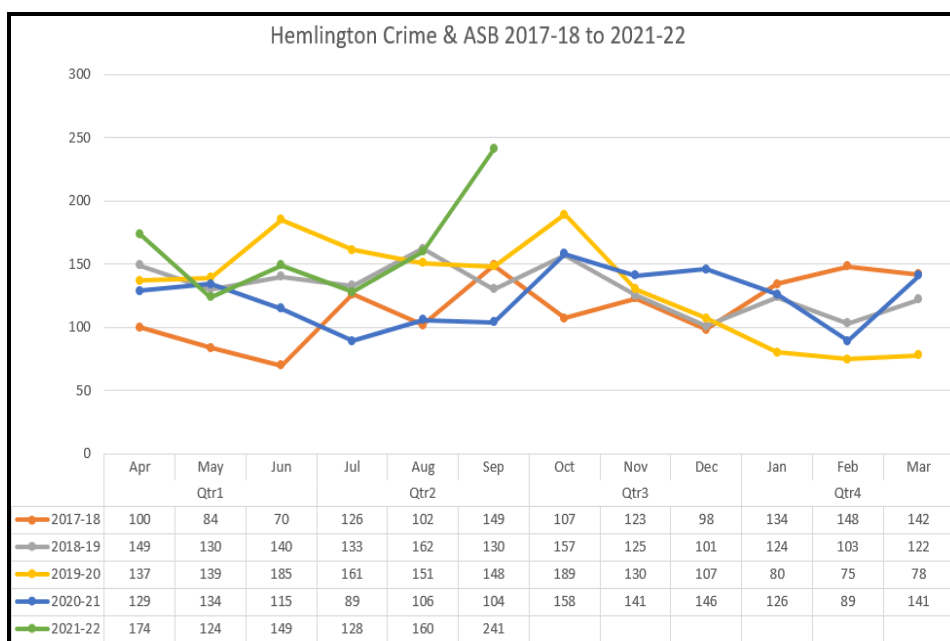
34. Work is underway to introduce Thirteen Housing environmental data and MBC fly tipping enforcement statistics, which will enhance joint working even further.

35. In recent months, AIM has focused on a number of priority wards across the town including Hemlington Crime and ASB. Main hotspots are; Cass House Road, Viewley Centre, and the D's estate, but is dispersed throughout the ward too. Crime and anti-social behaviour combined have continued to increase significantly over the last few months;

July combined total of 128

August combined total of 160

September combined total of 241



36. Discussions are ongoing to see if it is viable to close Cass House Road underpass, which historically has been a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

37. A funding bid has been submitted to the OPCC via the Proceeds of Crime Act requesting £30,000 for security upgrades at the Viewley Shopping Centre. There will also be increased police and street warden patrols and the use of youth outreach such as LINX or The Junction.

Strategic Cohesion and Migration

38. During the last week of September and the month of October, the Strategic Cohesion and Migration Team has been involved in a number of exciting initiatives.

39. They have continued to work with asylum seeking mothers and babies, supporting them to access mental health services and working together with other council departments to address property issues and support using the correct reporting lines.

40. The coffee morning is greatly appreciated by the mothers, who feel it is an opportunity for them to leave their house, learn about available services, and form a community.



41. In addition, the team worked together with the Newport Locality Team during a Community Skip Day, helping to keep Newport clean and tidy.



42. Two officers within the Cohesion Team are members of the Council's BAME Network and took part in the Black History Month walk in Albert Park. One of them, Sylvia Ochuba, provided an ad-hoc speech to discuss the art on display at the Dorman Museum to celebrate Black History Month.

43. In relation to the Afghan resettlement program, Middlesbrough has welcomed a further two families who have settled in well.
44. In the last week of September, the team also held a welcome and orientation session, which is aimed to be repeated quarterly or if and when further families arrive. The orientation session is an opportunity for new arrivals to understand more about life in the UK and Middlesbrough in particular, covering such topics as health services, how to be a good neighbour, parenting in the UK, equality and diversity and more.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
24.11.2021

Achievement Team

1. Actions to embed the Learning and Education Strategy are currently underway. Meetings with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Trusts and Head Teachers have taken place, with further meetings planned to secure collaboration across all schools and settings with a vision towards improving outcomes for all children and young people.
2. The discussions have focused on:
 - How the LA should undertake the statutory duty of intervening in under-performing schools through the Supporting Schools Policy.
 - How best practice is identified and support brokered.
 - Operational practice of local authority advisory team.

1

Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT)

3. MBC's Traveller Education Team has been commissioned to deliver support and targeted provision across Redcar and Cleveland. The Traveller Education team has built upon an existing LA relationship to support COVID recovery, remote education delivery on the Haven Traveller Site, and Post-16 support.
4. EMAT has continued to provide International New Arrival support for 5 families moving to the area via the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme. The UK Government established a bespoke resettlement scheme for former Locally Employed Staff in Afghanistan and their families. EMAT Family Support Workers liaise closely with the Stronger Communities team, Admissions and allocated schools to ensure a smooth and successful transition into education.

School Readiness

5. The team have supported three Afghan Refugee families who have been rehoused in Middlesbrough, registering them with the Children's Centre and providing Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) particularly around nursery entitlement.
6. The School readiness team are also working with the Digital Team to promote the work of the team to residents in the town. The first piece will include one of our local families inviting the people into her home to talk about her experiences of the School Readiness team and the impact on her family.
7. The team's work will feature in the Love Middlesbrough Magazine in the December issue.

¹ [Learning & Education Strategy.pdf](#)

Schools

8. Work to establish business-as-usual routines is going well. School visits are now underway allowing the team to further understand the key priorities of individual schools.
9. **The main focuses are:**
 - Curriculum development
 - Reading across the curriculum
 - Attendance
 - Interventions aimed at addressing gaps in learning
10. School Advisory Service support has also included:
 - Developing the Support -to-Talk website with the South Tees Speech and Language Team. The resource will provide parents and professionals with relevant information and guidance to support early speech and language development, with the aim of reducing the number of inappropriate referrals to the Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT).
 - 32 teachers from 26 Primary schools attended the first face-to-face English Lead Network since March 2020, and the key messages from the DfE's July 2021 Reading Framework were disseminated alongside the Ofsted Early Reading/Phonics/ Deep Dive messages.
 - Three 'Reading Deep Dives'/Reviews have been conducted, with a further three in discussion. Good practice has been observed across the schools, testimony to the excellent work being undertaken within schools in this area. Recommendations and areas for development have been identified; have been positively received by leaders, and actions taken to implement the suggestions.

Early Years Development

11. In preparation for the statutory roll out of the EYFS Reforms on September 1st, the EYD team delivered a series of briefings attended by over 300 early years practitioners across Middlesbrough. These included teachers, head teachers, PVI nursery managers, EY practitioners and childminders. Subsequently, relationships across the sector continue to go from strength to strength through regular email contact with all schools and nurseries and virtual meetings. Face-to-face support visits have proved to be highly valued and have a very positive impact on practice and confidence in implementing the new reforms. Collaborative relationships between other LA partners, including Stockton, Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool continue to grow, helping to share good practice and experiences. So far this term, the team have worked with 21 nurseries and 3 schools with many more scheduled for this half term.
12. Feedback from visits:

"Thank you for coming, it was greatly appreciated and was lovely to work with you, it was a very positive and reassuring experience especially never being through an Ofsted inspection as a manager it certainly helped me. I look forward to working with you again in the future, thank you again for all your help and offering of support it's greatly appreciated."

"Thank you so much to you both for supporting us with the deep dive on Monday, and for your hard work on completing the report for us. It has been very helpful to have an objective view of our school and our reading practices. I know our staff will be so happy to hear the feedback from the deep dive and will work hard to implement our next steps."

"Your name immediately sprung to mind as someone who we would like to work collaboratively with in order to further develop our EYFS."

“Really big thank you for yesterday. Your visit will make a big difference and I look forward to you coming back to visit again soon.”

“Thank you for your continued support and for the amazing visit we had. It filled my team and I with confidence and I really hope we get to work together again soon.”

Inclusion and Specialist Support Service

13. The SEND Strategy was launched in September 2021. The Strategy sets the key priorities across the local area to ensure that the needs of children and young people with SEND are met. There have been a number of briefing sessions, which have taken place in October and November with staff across Education, Health and Social Care regarding the strategy and key priorities. The Strategy has been published on Middlesbrough’s Local Offer and shared more widely with our families.
14. A number of service areas have been restructured within the Inclusion and Specialist Support Service. These changes came into effect in September 2021. These changes have provided additional capacity within a number of service areas through utilising funding differently. This includes increased capacity within the Annual Review Team who support with the reviews of the Education, Health and Care Plans, further changes within the Inclusion and Outreach Model to provide further support to schools and settings in meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities.

Middlesbrough Community Learning

Middlesbrough Council Youth Hub Launch

15. Middlesbrough jobseekers under the age of 25 will be able to access extra support in their search for work The Hub has been developed in partnership with Middlesbrough Community Learning and DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) and will be launched Thursday 4th November.
16. The hub, which is based at the Multimedia Exchange Building in Middlesbrough (opposite Jobcentre Plus), is part of the UK Government’s multi-billion-pound Plan for jobs, and is one of dozens of similar hubs being opened across the country.
17. Young jobseekers will be able to take advantage of a comprehensive service, with Youth Employability Coaches from Jobcentre Plus providing them with tailored support to find work or reskill for alternative careers and alerting them to available training opportunities in the locality.
18. The Middlesbrough hub will operate Monday to Friday, and partner organisations will also be able to offer guidance on wider issues related to unemployment, including budgeting, debt management and housing.

50 Futures Refresh

19. Over the last week, a number of briefings have been held for council staff to showcase the success of the 50 Futures Work Experience programme. To date over 186 residents have engaged with the programme. 126 completed a work experience placement within the Council which has led to 45 residents securing employment. Over the next few months, the programme will be rebranded and will begin to be rolled out to external partners to gain commitment to provide meaningful work experience for residents. An external launch will be scheduled for Jan 2022.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 24th November 2021

DECISIONS

The following papers went to Executive on 9th November:

Paper-lite Meetings

ECS Built Asset Investment

Strategic Plan 2021-24 Progress at Quarter Two

Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget Savings Proposals

Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Two
2021/22

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 with completion estimated for early November.

STRATEGIC

2. **Human Resources** - 360 feedback supports our culture of openness and transparency and is a powerful tool to enable greater self-awareness and help develop focussed personal development.
3. **Human Resources** - We have begun a project which will run over the next 12 – 18 months involving over 200 managers. They will complete a self-assessment and feedback from their line manager, direct reports, peers and others will be used to provide a report back to each manager delivered in a feedback session with a member of the OD Team.
4. **ICT** - ICT Services have commenced a re-procurement project, in conjunction with Legal Services and Procurement, to replace the Councils mobile phone SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card contract, currently provided by EE.
5. Mobile phones form a vital part of the Councils Communication and Technology Infrastructure and ICT Services manage approximately 2300 devices in use by Elected Members and staff across all Directorates. The current contract expires in January 2022 and work to select a new supplier is already at an advanced stage. ICT Services are currently working through detailed requirements capture to ensure that the new

provider is able to meet the ever evolving communication needs of the Council. Following the introduction of Microsoft 365 and Teams ICT Services will, over time, offer greater integration with the newly deployed communication tools on mobile devices and any new provider need to meet that need. It is anticipated that a new provider will be selected before the end of November 2021.

6. **ICT** - All Directorates across the Council rely on the availability and reliability of ICT systems in order to deliver services across the Town. To ensure these demands are met, ICT operate two Data Centres located separately across the Town but linked by private fibre connectivity. The Councils 300 Enterprise and line of business applications are spread across both Data Centres, in the event of a loss of one of these sites the remaining Data Centre will take over and support all the Councils ICT needs.
7. In order to ensure this resilience is maintained it is important to regularly service and test this capability. ICT are currently in the process of testing our Data Centre resilience systems. This involves simulating a loss of power in one location (effectively turning the mains electricity off) and then monitoring the transition of ICT services across to the remaining Data Centre. In addition ICT are mid-way through an annual programme of maintenance to ensure systems such as air conditioning, fire suppression and backup generators are working efficiently.
8. **Bridges and Structures** - Capita have completed the design for jacking up of A66 and concrete repair works required to Column 20b on A66 and expect the tender documents to be published on the NEPO portal within the next 2 weeks 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 with 32 completed inspections and 22 submitted reports which we are analysing for a future works programme.
9. **Green Strategy** - We are about to launch our internal training module for all staff to complete, focussed on climate change and carbon emissions reductions which is a key component of the strategy and one which all staff must subscribe to and play their part. Following this we will develop the role of Green Champions in Departments and Teams to take forward and drive our green ambitions internally.
10. **Street Lighting** - Inspections for structural and electrical testing are expected to commence in November and have the testing complete, and reports submitted, by July 2022.
11. **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. Tarmac have been appointed as main contractor for the surfacing programme following a tender process with all of the planned carriageway surfacing works scheduled to be completed prior to April 2022.
12. **Fleet Services** - They have taken delivery of 2 Electric Vehicles as part of a vehicle to grid trial. We have a further 3 vehicles on order which we expect to be delivered in December.

PERFORMANCE

13. Progress against Strategic Plan and Directorate priorities.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

14. **Commissioning and Procurement** - The Procurement Team Leader attended a Social Value volunteering day which was delivered by Wave as part of their social value commitment in being the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Water Retail Service contracted supplier. The event was open to all 12 North East Local Authorities and have over 30 volunteers attending. The day saw the volunteers cleaning up the Tees Barrage and was very successful.
15. **Human Resources** - We have now gone live with the new Electric Car Lease Scheme. This provides the opportunity for staff to lease a 100% electric car which complements the councils green agenda and offers staff a lower cost alternative to buy an electric vehicle through a salary sacrifice scheme. The monthly cost also includes comprehensive insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and tyres and the company can arrange for a charging point to be fitted for those with off street parking.
16. Using a salary sacrifice scheme allows employees to sacrifice part of their salary before Tax and National Insurance is deducted making a saving for them. We as the employer also make savings on reduced National Insurance and employers pension contributions. The scheme is open to permanent employees over the age of 21 as long as criteria for not taking an employee's salary below minimum wage is met.
17. **Human Resources** - Management Development Programme Launched - Our managers play a critical role in modelling, embedding and enabling the values and have a huge impact on the working culture. To enable and support our managers we have refreshed our Management Development Programme and created a programme that is more accessible and flexible allowing managers to access resources at a time that is right for them.
18. The refreshed programme aligns directly with the Values framework which encompasses the key behaviours and competencies that we expect from our managers. We have worked with the partner providers to provide a menu of choices including self-learning (videos, articles etc.) to introduce topics, focused short workshops and take away resources to support managers back in the workplace. The programme is now live on our new Learning Management System for all managers to access.
19. **Green Waste** - Middlesbrough's fortnightly green waste service is set to make its annual change to a monthly collection, with households receiving one collection per month in October and November. Residents are advised to consult their collection calendar which is available online or via the Contact Centre.
20. **Recycling** - A number of Recycling Roadshows have taken place, with more in the pipeline. The Roadshow team are visiting schools across the borough to promote the benefits of recycling, waste reduction etc...
21. **Electric Vehicles** - We have started to take delivery of 5 V2G Electric Vehicles. These vehicles will be used by the Environment Service teams. This is the first steps toward electrifying the Council's vehicle fleet.

22. Micro Forests & Urban Meadows - Environment Services are asking Ward Councillors to identify possible locations for both Micro forests & Urban Meadow areas, in readiness for planting this Autumn/Winter.

Councillor Eric Polano

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

DECISIONS

1. Middlesbrough Council Local Implementation Plan (LIP) - Consultation findings and adoption

Under the devolved powers of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), there is a requirement that each Local Authority within the region produces a LIP, in line with the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) produced by TVCA.

The LIP provides the local context and content as to how the local Highway Authority (Middlesbrough Council) will deliver local transport priorities and initiatives to ensure delivery of the overarching objectives of the STP.

Middlesbrough's draft Local Implementation Plan has been consulted upon and responses have been used to validate and compose the document. Any comments or concerns have been addressed or mitigated by the document and it will be recommended for approval in its drafted form.

The LIP is scheduled for Executive consideration on 7th December 2021. Subject to approval, the LIP will provide a core policy document for transport infrastructure across Middlesbrough.

STRATEGIC

2. High Street Task Force – Unlocking Your Place Potential

Middlesbrough has been selected as one of C.100 local authority areas to receive specialist advice and support on transforming the High Street Economy.

The support provides a diagnosis of the major barrier to transformation, based on an assessment of the area's need and capacity and the Institute of Place Management's 4Rs of Regeneration: Repositioning; Reinventing; Rebranding and Restructuring.

Middlesbrough Council held the first inception visit on 2 November 2021. This visit is the first step in the provision of direct support. It allows the allocated specialist to learn more about the issues the town is facing in order to recommend further subsequent bespoke support that can help to address this challenge. This service brings a Task Force-funded national Expert on place management to the town.

The support provided through 'Unlocking your Place Potential' will assist the Middlesbrough to develop Expressions of Interest for external funding opportunities as well as validating the strategic approach taken locally. Later rounds of the Future High Street Fund, if appropriate. The visit also recommends additional Expert products from the High Street Task Force, if relevant.

3. Selective Landlord Licensing - Ormesby dwelling closed

A house in the North Ormesby Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme area has been boarded up after the Council was granted a Closure Order under antisocial behaviour laws. The property on Cadogan Street was linked to suspected drug dealing, 19-hour-plus doorstep booze benders, flashing and violence – all just yards from a primary school.

The Council's application at Teesside Magistrates Court included evidence of anti-social behaviour from large groups of adults and young people. Reports made to the Council described bottles and windows being smashed, footballs being fired at cars and other properties, cannabis smoking, alcohol being drunk from 5am until past midnight and playing of loud music. Incidents of lewd behaviour, climbing of drainpipes, running along window awnings and clambering across chimney breasts were also described. Some visitors to the address had also been overheard talking about having guns and getting drugs. The closure order will prevent the property, which is close to St Alphonsus Primary School, being occupied for up to three months.

PERFORMANCE

4. Boho X – Ground Breaking

Mayor Andy Preston held the official ground breaking ceremony at Boho X on 19th October 2021. Supported by contractor Galliford Try and development management partner BCEGI, the event symbolises the progress of the construction of C. 60,000 sq.ft. of new office space for the digital sector.

Boho X is on target to be completed by late 2022.

5. Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Recovery Grants

Following full and compliant, spend of the ARG allocation Middlesbrough has been rewarded with an additional top up allocation of £670, 635. As such a new grant programme is now live.

The new allocation is designed to focus on economic recovery whilst mindful of the need for ongoing emergency support to businesses. As a finite resource funds must be strategically managed; demand will clearly outstrip grant funding available. It is prudent therefore to support those businesses with significant overheads that need further support to stabilize, to enable their return to pre pandemic capacity levels, rather than those that are in chronic distress and struggling to survive in today's marketplace.

It is proposed that start-up enterprises locating into new premises across all sectors will benefit, as well as consumer /professional /business to business (b2b) services such as car finishing, specialist repair, professional business services, engineering/manufacturing.

Businesses will be able to utilise the grant to carry out improvements to their business, cover fixed overheads, and manage operational change and improvement. Simple eligibility criteria and conditions will allow businesses to access fair and proportionate grant awards based on Rateable Value (RV) or Rental Values of £5K to £20K per grant. The programme is anticipated number of businesses supported 100 – 120.

6. Future High Street Fund (FHSF) – Business Support Covid Grants programme

As part of Middlesbrough's £14.1m Future High Streets Fund programme, £250,000 was allocated to the immediate support of town centre businesses needing to make adaptations to increase their resilience and recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic.

27 businesses received grants up to £10,000 and the programme was oversubscribed. Those not fortunate to received financial support from this programme have been referred (where eligible) to the Additional Recovery Grant (ARG) recovery programme (cited above).

This grant has been vital to help kick-start businesses back to effective trading and, when business investment is factored in, represents over £500k of new investment in Middlesbrough's high street economy.

7. Road Safety Tyre Checks

During October Council Road Safety staff supported Cleveland Road Safety Partnership during a week long campaign to highlight Tyre Safety Week. October is National Tyre Safety Month and half term gave a great opportunity for staff to engage with the public at locations such as Parkway Shopping Centre/Hartlepool Tesco Extra/Teesside Park using the campaign message 'What's stopping you?'

Regular tyre safety checks reduce the risks of a tyre related incident, but one-in-five drivers have never checked the tread on their tyres, which shockingly rises to one-in-three among young drivers. The partnership staff gave away hundreds of free tyre pressure gauges and tyre Tread Checkers along with leaflets to help drivers understand the importance of regular tyre checks.

8. Project EDWARD

Cleveland's Strategic Road Safety Partnership visited colleges throughout the area to deliver road safety advice to students during Freshers' Week in September.

The partnership comprises Cleveland Police, the police and crime commissioner for Cleveland, Cleveland Fire Brigade, National Highways (previously Highways England) and the four local authorities in the Cleveland area.

Its efforts to engage with students was also timed to coincide with Project EDWARD – the annual UK wide road safety campaign backed by government, emergency services, highways agencies, road safety organisations and businesses.

Project EDWARD aimed to provide a platform to showcase some of the best work being done around the UK to promote the five pillars of the 'Safe System' approach:

- Safe vehicles
- Safe road use
- Safe speed
- Safe roads and roadsides
- Post-crash care

Students were asked to sign the Project EDWARD pledge and confirm they are willing to play their part in creating a road environment that is free from death or serious injury.

Students who did make the pledge were invited to don 60s attire and jump aboard the Project EDWARD campervan for a photo.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

Page 39

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
13 Oct 2021	Executive Member - Regeneration	Tackling Eye Sore Sites	To ask the Executive to approve investment up to £1,000,000 to tackle eyesore sites.	Yes
9 Nov 2021	Executive	Middlesbrough Council Local Implementation Plan (LIP); Consultation findings	It is recommended that the Executive: Approve and adopt the draft LIP into a formal Council policy document; and, Acknowledges the broad satisfaction (of responses) of the draft LIP following the conclusion of public consultation.	Yes
9 Nov 2021	Executive	Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel's Final Report - Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools		No
9 Nov 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

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
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	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
9 Nov 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
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
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
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
9 Nov 2021	Executive	ECS Built Asset Investment	Executive approval is required for the ECS Capital Asset Strategy.	Yes

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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
17 Nov 2021	The Mayor - Executive Member for Children's Safeguarding and Adult Social Care and Public Protection	Health Determinants Research Collaboration bid	The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) spends over £1 billion a year on health and social care research. As part of the NIHR, the Public Health Research (PHR) Programme commissions research in non-NHS settings – primarily evaluating activity within Local Government across the UK. A recent development is the concept of Health Determinants Research Collaborations – NIHR PHR is looking to award five of these in 2022 the aim of which is to embed a culture of research within the host Local Authorities, each worth up to £1 million a year for five years. Each HDRC will lead to increased research activity and collaboration and better use of evidence in decision making. The proposal is that Public Health South Tees and Teesside University will collaborate on a bid, which will drive organisational change across the two Local Authorities to embed a culture of evidence based decision making and research activity.	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
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Highways Asset Infrastructure	Executive approval is required for the ECS Capital Highways Infrastructure Asset.	Yes
7 Dec 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
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
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Holiday Activities and Food Programme	Acceptance of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme Fund for 2022 and beyond	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Peer Review of the Virtual School	A panel of peers will be asked to scrutinise the work of the virtual school and identify any areas of good practise and areas of improvement	No
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Corporate Debt Write-Off Policy	A new policy to provide a corporate approach to the writing off of bad and irrecoverable debts in a fair and timely manner	Yes
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Members Small Scheme Allocation	Executive approval is required for the Members Small Scheme Allocation	Yes
7 Dec 2021	Executive	International Centre – Transfer of Freehold	To seek approval of the transfer of the Council's freehold interest in the International Centre to a community group	Yes
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Whorlton Road - Disposal [Part A and B]	Proposal to dispose of Council owned property	Yes
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2022/23	That the Executive endorses the Council Tax Base for 2022/23	Yes
7 Dec 2021	Executive	Increase to Charge for Cleaning Service to Schools 2022/23 and 2023/24	Executive approval is required for the increase to charge for cleaning services 2022/23 and 2023/24	Yes
11 Jan 2022	Executive	Council Tax Support Scheme for 22/23	That the Executive approves the Council Tax Support Scheme for 22/23.	Yes
11 Jan 2022	Executive	Metz Bridge - Site Management Arrangements	That Executive agree to the procurement of an external supplier to manage the Metz Bridge Traveller site.	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	Report outlining performance against the Strategic Plan at Quarter	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
		Quarter Three 2021/22	Three 2021/22	
TBC	Executive	'This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Executive. The revised date of the meeting at which this item will be considered, will be published on the Forward Work Plan in due course.' Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan	To adopt the Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan.	Yes

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Report title	Scrutiny Progress Report
Chief Executive or Director	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Date	24 November 2021

Summary

Proposed decision(s)

To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

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

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan

People	Place	Business
N/A	N/A	Members will be able to keep abreast of the work carried out through the Scrutiny Process

Ward(s) affected

No wards in Middlesbrough are directly affected.

What is the purpose of this report?

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

Why is this report necessary?

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

What decision(s) are being asked for?

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

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

The Overview and Scrutiny Board are scheduled to meet on 20 October 2021.

At the 9 November 2021 meeting, the Board will consider / receive information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance Update;
- Chief Executive's Update;
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates;
- The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19;

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 13 October 2021 and 10 November 2021.

At the 13 October 2021 meeting, the panel received information from Ageing Better Middlesbrough's Programme Manager and the Chief Executive Officer of Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind regarding work undertaken to date, and next steps for the future / legacy planning. The Council's Head of Strategic Commissioning and Procurement also provided an update in respect of Aster Care Home.

Following an addition to the panel's work programme to look at the topic of 'The Recruitment and Retention of Adult Social Care Staff', with particular focus upon Social Workers and Social Care Workers, the panel commenced the investigation at the 10 November 2021 meeting. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance to provide information. Owing to the urgency surrounding this topic, the panel requested that a draft report be produced in preparation for its next meeting on 8 December 2021.

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

At the last meeting, held on 8 November 2021, the Scrutiny Panel continued gathering evidence in respect of its current review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

At the meeting, a number of officers and representatives from early years settings were in attendance. The Scrutiny Panel was provided with an overview of how early years providers work with the Local Authority to identify and support children with SEN or disabilities and promote equality of opportunity for children in their care. Members received information in respect of:

- the SEND Code of Practice;
- the work of the Early Years and Primary Support Service;
- early years partnership working in Middlesbrough;

- identifying, assessing and meeting needs; and
- case studies from Green Lane Primary Academy, Caldicotes Primary Academy and Rosedene Nursery Easterside.

The Scrutiny Panel also received an update 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 25 October 2021. The Executive Director of Children’s Services, Director of Children’s Care and Head of Stronger Communities provided the Panel with further information in relation to its current scrutiny topic of ‘Locality Working from a Children’s Services Perspective’.

The presentation included details of the nine themes of locality working; staffing arrangements in relation to early help and children’s social care within the pilot hubs; a snapshot of progress to date; and the benefits of locality working.

The Panel also agreed its Terms of Reference for the review.

The Panel is scheduled to meet on 22 November where appropriate officers will be in attendance to provide further details about the work being undertaken by Early Help and Children’s Social Care staff within the locality hubs.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

The Culture and Communities Panel met on 21 October 2021 and received an excellent presentation from Marion Walker, Head of Stronger Communities and Dale Metcalf, Operational Community Safety Manager in respect to our community safety team and an update on the community safety partnership.

Since the new enforcement powers have been introduced, the panel were pleased to hear of the results but also the joint up working which is occurring in the Town. It seems that the Community safety partnership is growing from strength to strength and we hope this continues to do so.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure (EDEI) Scrutiny Panel met on 3 November 2021.

The Panel received a presentation from the Director of Environment and Community Services and the Operational Community Service Manager in relation to Fly Tipping and the Bulky Waste Collection Service.

The Panel also discussed and approved Terms of Reference for the scrutiny review of Middlesbrough Council’s Green Strategy.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 1 December 2021 and the Panel will receive an update Derelict and/or Eyesore Commercial Properties in the town from the Director of Regeneration. The Panel will also be continuing its review of the Green Strategy at this meeting.

Health Scrutiny Panel

The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 1 November 2021 where it received information from representatives of the Regeneration and Public Health departments. The Panel received information in relation to its continuing review into health inequalities. As part of that information the panel heard how Middlesbrough suffered from significant health concerns and there was a need to embed public health principles into regeneration initiatives. Work to achieve this objective had already begun, with collaboration between Public Health and Planning departments having been cited as an example.

The panel heard that the council was in receipt of funding from several sources that could assist with this process including the Towns Fund and the Future High Street Fund. While those funding streams were time limited it was important to explore with developers what possibilities were available.

There had been work carried out utilising these funding streams including future proofing new venues, investment in green spaces and improved cycling and walking routes. The Panel also heard how other areas, such as Bicester and Leeds, had been able to improve health inequalities through effective regeneration schemes.

The Panel also received an update in respect of COVID-19 from the Public Health Intelligence Specialist. During that update the panel discussed current Covid-19 infection rates and were advised that rates continued to fall in Middlesbrough albeit slowly. In terms of case numbers the average was 90 in the week of 24th October, however this did represent a gradual increase since the start of October. Demographically, there was a slight increase in Covid-19 rates within the 40-59 age group (16%). This was expected to rise as this was an age range of parents.

The panel was advised that not all school cases were being sent to the Public health team, but from the available data the rates stood at 428 cases. However this data gap was likely due to half term. On a Ward basis the Ward with the highest number of cases was Park, however when cases per population are considered Stainton and Thornton ward had the highest number of cases. However it was important to note that the numbers were spread evenly across all age ranges and were not high in their own right. South Tees Trust had 76 patients which was an increase from 66 the previous week. The NHS continued to be stressed.

At its next meeting on 6 December the Panel will hear evidence into how economic and regeneration initiatives can help to close gaps in health inequalities from Chair of the Tees Valley LEP.

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 4 November members of the TVCA OSC were invited to an Induction Course at Cavendish House to meet and converse with officers of TVCA. Presentations were given on Transport, Education, and Culture. After lunch members were taken on a tour of the Teesside Works land at Redcar. Members were shown the demolition that is taking place and the new wharf for the Freeport.

The next two meetings of the TVCA OSC will be held in December 2021 and they will both be draft budget consultation meetings.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

Since the last update to Council the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel's Final Report on Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools has been submitted to Executive and approved.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

5. No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

6. 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**

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Andy Preston - Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough Ian Wright - Director of Finance
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Submitted to:	Council, 24 November 2021
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Subject:	Medium Term Financial Plan Update
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)

- That the Council notes the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position for 2021-25.
- That the Council notes the proposed budget for 2022/23, and the proposed total Council Tax increase of 2.99% for 2022/23 (comprising of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1% Adult Social Care Precept).
- That the Council notes that the proposed budget and the proposed Council Tax increase for 2022/23 are subject to public consultation commencing on 25 November 2021 and ending on 23 January 2022.

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

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan

People	Place	Business
The revision of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021-25 plays a fundamental role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan is delivered effectively.		

Ward(s) affected

The proposed budget and Council Tax increase will potentially affect all wards.

What is the purpose of this report?

1. This report provides an update to Council of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period to 2024/25, reflecting and supporting delivery of the Strategic Plan.
2. The report sets out to Council the proposed budget and Council Tax increase for 2022/23, and notes that these will be subject to public consultation.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

3. The Council has a legal obligation in relation to setting a balanced budget and to meet the challenging financial targets faced in the MTFP. The setting of the budget is part of the policy framework and therefore requires Full Council approval.

Report Background

Medium Term Financial Plan to 2025

4. The "Refreshing the Strategic Plan for the 2021-24 period" report to Council on 24 February 2021 revised the Council's strategic priorities, with the revised priorities being as follows:
 - children and young people;
 - vulnerability;
 - crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - climate change;
 - Covid-19 recovery;
 - physical environment;
 - town centre;
 - culture; and
 - quality of service.
5. The Council maintains a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) that sets out the financial envelope that is necessary to achieve those aims and the savings necessary for living within those financial plans (budget savings). The MTFP :
 - accurately analyses the current financial climate and the medium-term horizon, including the range of spending pressures facing the Council;
 - addresses the budget savings requirements for the MTFP period;
 - focuses investment on growing the town's economic base to improve local prosperity, and secure a robust and independent income stream to fund the Council's services.
6. The Medium Term Financial Plan to 2024 was included as part of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report presented to Council on 24 February 2021. Since the report to Council in February 2021, there have been a number of changes which require the Council's MTFP to be updated. As reported previously in the 2021/22 Quarter One Projected Outturn report to Executive on 7 September 2021, and in the 2021/22 Quarter Two

Projected Outturn report to Executive on 9 November 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic is continuing to have and is likely to have in the future a significant impact on the Council's financial position.

7. A number of meetings have been held with political groups during August/September 2021 to provide all elected members with an overview of the MTFP and to brief them as to the areas requiring further work to refresh the MTFP.
8. This update report was presented to Executive on 9 November 2021, and is now brought forward for noting by this Council, as part of the usual annual budget setting process. The report details the anticipated changes to the Council's financial position in the period to 2024/25 since the budget report to Council in February 2021, along with the main assumptions and risks contained within the updated MTFP.
9. The table below summarises the updated position of the anticipated changes to the Council's financial position in the period to 2024/25 since the budget report to Council in February 2021, with further details being included in the paragraphs below.

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>Total 2022-2025</u>
		<i>(indicative only)</i>	<i>(indicative only)</i>	
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
Budget gap - February 2021	0.000	3.103	0.000	3.103
<i>Add:</i>				
Covid-19 Ongoing Pressures (car parking income, Town Hall income, SLM, "Covid scarring")	1.602	(0.934)	(0.046)	0.622
Spending Pressures (including increased NI contributions, energy inflation, Living Wage & Children's Social Care)	4.024	0.160	4.672	8.856
Additional Income (TAMP and Captain Cook Square)	(0.248)	0.000	0.000	(0.248)
Additional Investment (Community Safety & Environmental Enforcement staff, events, additional capital financing costs)	0.934	0.674	0.237	1.845
Technical Changes (removal of Fair Funding Review contingency)	(1.400)	0.000	0.000	(1.400)
Other Changes (Collection Fund, Council Tax Base Growth, 24/25 added)	(1.029)	(0.612)	(0.235)	(1.876)
	3.883	2.391	4.627	10.901
<i>Add:</i>				
Previous Years' Saving Removed (reduction in staff mileage rate)	0.180	0.000	0.000	0.180
Change to planned use of Reserves	0.593	(0.593)	0.000	0.000
Budget (surplus) / gap	4.656	1.798	4.627	11.081
Estimated additional local government funding (as announced in Autumn Budget & Spending Review October 2021)	(4.050)	0.000	0.000	(4.050)
Council Tax - Adult Social Care Precept of 1.00% applied in 2022/23 (making total Council Tax increase of 2.99%)	(0.606)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.630)
REVISED POSITION (SURPLUS) / GAP	0.000	1.786	4.615	6.401

10. It should be noted that an additional year (2024/25) has been added to the MTFP as part of this further update. This is only provided as an indicative guide at this stage due to the high level of financial uncertainty surrounding future local government funding, and at this stage no additional budget savings are proposed to cover the budget gap in 2024/25 until further information is received and estimates are more robust. The estimates and the potential requirement for any further budget savings in 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be reviewed again in the budget report to Council in February 2022.

11. Executive Members have held a number of discussions regarding the MTFP and the changes that have occurred, and the need for any potential additional budget savings and/or changes to the assumptions relating to the Council Tax increase in 2022/23, in order to enable a balanced budget to be set in 2022/23. Executive on 9 November 2021 endorsed a proposed increase in the Council Tax from the 1.99% increase assumed in the previous MTFP to a 2.99% total increase for 2022/23 (which includes 1% Adult Social Care precept for 2022/23). This is in line with Government expectations as announced in the Spending Review on 27 October 2021 (see paragraph 32 below for further details). This will mean that there will be no requirement for additional budget efficiency savings in 2022/23, and therefore there will be no effect on front line service delivery levels. Further detail on the proposed increase in Council Tax is provided in paragraphs 25 to 33. These proposals are brought forward for noting by this Council, after which public consultation on the proposed budget and the proposed total Council Tax increase of 2.99% for 2022/23 will commence.
12. The above approach demonstrates that the Council has considered the issues strategically and has a deliverable plan to ensure the Council's financial sustainability. However, it should be noted that due to Covid-19 and uncertainty around future Government funding this is a constantly moving situation, and this means that the financial position and Council Tax increase and the potential need for additional budget savings are subject to change. The reports to Executive and Council in February 2022 will provide a further update of the MTFP incorporating any further information which has become available, including the impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement which is expected to be provisionally received in early December 2021 and then finalised in February 2022.

Assumptions

13. The budget report to Council in February 2021 detailed the key assumptions made in the MTFP, and this report shows the major changes since February 2021, with the following paragraphs providing details.

Covid-19

14. The current update of the MTFP assumes the level of estimated financial pressure from Covid-19 and the assumed Government grant funding for Covid-19 in 2021/22 will be the same as detailed in the 2021/22 Quarter Two Projected Outturn report to Executive on 9 November 2021. It currently does not assume any further financial effect of a potential major further wave of Covid-19 locally or nationally, or takes account of any required future increased lockdowns locally or nationally.
15. In the updated MTFP it has been recognised that there is a potential continuing effect of Covid-19 and recovery beyond 2021/22. There are a number of service areas across the Council that could potentially see budget pressures as a result of the continuing effect of Covid-19 and recovery both in 2021/22 and beyond. Paragraphs 53 to 60 provide further details of the areas affected and the additional funding proposed. This is based on currently available information and this is an evolving situation and will be further updated in the budget report to Council in February 2022.

16. It is highly likely that there will be no further Government funding provided for the effects of Covid-19, and in this MTFP update none has been assumed.
17. There is also a potential risk to the Council's finances that the future economic climate caused by Covid-19 adversely affects the Council's finances, in particular the Council Tax and Business Rates Bases and the corresponding income received by the Council over the MTFP period, and that this is not compensated for by additional Government grant funding. In the MTFP update provided to Council in February 2021 an amount of £1.3m was provided in 2022/23 for the potential financial effect of this. Following further review, it is now likely that this will no longer be required in the longer term, and it is therefore proposed to transfer this to a more general "Covid scarring" contingency budget, as detailed in paragraph 60, for 2022/23 only. The position relating to Council Tax and Business Rates income and the effects on the Collection Fund will be closely monitored and updates will be provided in future reports. It should also be noted that the Government announced in the Spending Review on 27 October 2021 a number of measures relating to Business Rates in order to support businesses, and these are outlined below in paragraph 20. Local authorities will be fully compensated for all these measures, and these measures may help the Council to improve its collection rate for Business Rates.

Government funding

18. The Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 (SR21), published by the Government on 27 October 2021, set out the Government's spending plans for the lifetime of the parliament.
19. Whilst SR21 provided a number of indications of the level of funding that will be available for local government over the period (as detailed in paragraph 20), it did not provide full details of the funding mechanism, or confirm that a multi-year funding settlement would be provided to local authorities. It also did not provide individual funding allocations for each local authority. The amount of funding for local government will be confirmed and the allocation to individual local authorities will be announced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement which is expected to be provisionally published in early December 2021 (no date has yet been announced) and confirmed in February 2022. This level of uncertainty means that future funding still remains one of the most significant risks to the Council.
20. The following provides a summary of the major announcements that were made in the SR21 regarding future local government funding, and their potential estimated effect on the MTFP :
 - £3.6 billion will go directly to local government over the SR21 period to implement the cap on personal care costs and changes to the means test within adult social care. This funding will also help local authorities better sustain their local care markets by moving towards a fairer cost of care. No method of the allocation to individual local authorities was announced and this will be set out by the Government in due course. Currently it has been assumed in the updated MTFP that all income received from this additional funding will be fully utilised to cover the increased costs arising from this.

- £1.6 billion of new grant funding for local authorities in each of the next three years (£4.8 billion over SR21 period), on top of the funding to implement social care reform mentioned above. Approximately £0.1 billion of this relates to additional grant funding to Supporting Families programmes, cyber security challenges, and to strengthen local delivery and transparency. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have advised that from the remaining £1.5 billion per year local authorities will have to meet their own increased employee costs as part of the 1.25% increase in National Insurance contributions, increased supplier National Insurance costs (including those in Social Care), and the cost of the National Living Wage. A very rough estimate of the amount that Middlesbrough will receive from this is £4.050m in 2022/23; this has been calculated using the Council's Core Spending Power as a percentage of the total national Core Spending Power. This has currently been assumed in the updated MTFP along with the additional costs which will have to be paid from this additional funding. It should be noted that at this stage this is a very rough estimate and will be updated following the notification of the actual amount to be received by Middlesbrough, which should be received as part of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in early December.
- Public Health grant to be maintained in real terms. It has been assumed that any additional income received from this will be fully utilised to cover increased costs which are likely to arise.
- A number of announcements were made relating to Business Rates, following the conclusion of the Government's review of the Business Rates system. These include the freezing of the multiplier for 2022/23, a new one year Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Rates relief (of 50% rates relief, up to maximum of £110,000), and support for investment in property improvements and green technology. SR21 announced that local authorities will be fully compensated for all the measures announced in the review, and therefore there is no effect on the MTFP. These measures may help the Council to improve its collection rate for Business Rates.

21. Currently the following other assumptions regarding government funding have been made in the updated MTFP:

- That there will be no increase or decrease to the current levels of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and Business Rates Top Up Grant in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- That currently there are no changes to any other grant assumptions outlined in the report to Council in February 2021.

22. The estimates of government funding will be revised when further information is available from the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, which is expected in early December 2021, and will be updated in the 2022/23 budget report to Council in February 2022 upon receipt of the final confirmed Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23.

23. As mentioned in previous MTFP update reports the potential re-set of business rates retention of 75% (from the current 50%) and the introduction of a new “fair funding” formula for local government have been delayed. The Government have not yet formally announced when these will be implemented but it has indicated that that this will be further deferred to at least 2023/24, and potentially will be included as part of the Government’s “levelling-up” agenda when further details of this are provided. The key for Middlesbrough, as with other local authorities, will be the detail of the new systems and in how the new formulae are derived. The extent to which deprivation is recognised as a key cost driver for service need, in particular for adults and children’s social care and public health, will be vital. Current indications of the way forward by the Government suggest that there is low risk that Middlesbrough sees further reductions in funding both in real terms and in relation to other local authorities, and there is a potential for Middlesbrough to gain from such an approach. The MTFP presented to Council in February 2021 included a provision of £1.4m from 2022/23 for the potential impacts on Middlesbrough, however based on the current indications it has been determined that this will now not be likely to be required. This assumption will remain under review as further information emerges.
24. Notwithstanding the high levels of uncertainty regarding future Government funding, the Council’s budgetary assumptions are based on the most up to date reliable information.

Local funding increases

25. The Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report to Council on 24 February 2021 assumed that the Council would apply a 1.99% increase per year in the core general element of Council Tax in both 2022/23 and 2023/24.
26. In SR21 the Government have indicated that the Adult Social Care Precept, which was allowed in previous years, will apply again in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 (at a maximum increase of 1% per year). This in previous years has allowed Councils with Adult Social Care responsibility to increase their Council Tax by a set amount to help pay for the increased costs of Adult Social Care. This is in line with the plan contained in the Health and Social Care Act, alongside the increase in National Insurance contributions.
27. The 2021/22 Final Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) published on 4 February 2021 confirmed the continuation of the Adult Social Care Precept at 3%, and allowed it to be split over 2021/22 and 2022/23. Middlesbrough Council only increased Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept by 0.76% in 2021/22, and therefore there is still potentially 2.24% of the allowable Adult Social Care Precept of 3.00% announced in the 2021/22 LGFS, which could be applied to the 2022/23 Council Tax increase. However, at this stage, it is not proposed to utilise in 2022/23 the remaining 2.24% allowed from this.
28. Therefore following discussions regarding the Council Tax increase for 2022/23, Executive Members have indicated in the report to Executive on 9 November 2021 that their current recommendation is that the Council adopts a 1.99% increase in the core general Council Tax for 2022/23, and also an increase of 1% for the Adult Social Care Precept, meaning a total proposed Council Tax increase of 2.99% in 2022/23.

This is an increase from the previous assumption of a 1.99% increase, but is in line with Government expectations as announced in SR21.

29. Executive Members have made this decision in order to ensure that no additional budget savings are required to be made in setting the budget for 2022/23. Also it reflects the fact that the Government are likely to assume that the Council will increase its Council Tax by this amount in their calculation of the Council's Core Spending Power, which is a measure of how much the Government believes the Council can raise from Council Tax and that it has available to spend.
30. The proposed total increase in Council Tax to 2.99% in 2022/23 will mean that a balanced budget can be set in 2022/23 without the need to make any additional budget savings. It should be noted that each 1% increase in Council Tax produces estimated additional income to the Council of approximately £600,000.
31. The effect of the proposed total Council Tax increase to 2.99% in 2022/23 on the Middlesbrough Council only element of the Council Tax (excluding Fire, Police and Parish precepts) for Band A and Band D properties is shown in the table below:

Band	2.99% increase	
	Annual (£)	Weekly (£)
A	35.03	0.67
D	52.54	1.01

32. In SR21 the Government announced that the referendum threshold for increases in Council Tax is expected to remain at 2% per year for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. In addition, local authorities with social care responsibilities are expected to be able to increase the Adult Social Care precept by up to 1% per year over this period. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will set out full details of the Council Tax referendum principles and proposed approach to allocating grant funding through the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23. The proposed 2.99% total increase in Council Tax in 2022/23 is assumed to be within any referendum limits that may be set by the Government. Any change to this will mean that the level of proposed Council Tax increase for 2022/23 will have to be reviewed.
33. Whilst the indications are that there may be the ability for councils to apply an Adult Social Care Precept in 2023/24 and 2024/25, at this stage, no assumption has been made of the use of this in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The previous assumptions of a 1.99% increase in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 therefore currently remain unchanged. These will be reviewed at a later date.
34. There is estimated to be an increase in Council Tax income in 2022/23 and 2023/24 of approximately £1,300,000 per annum and £700,000 in 2024/25 due to a predicted increase in the Council's Tax Base resulting from projected Housing Growth over the period. These estimates have been reviewed from those contained in the previous MTFP, following information received as part of the Council Tax Base return submitted to Government in October 2021. These estimates will continue to be

reviewed on a regular basis in light of the potential effect of Covid-19 on delays to house building, and will be updated as part of the budget report to Council in February 2022 when further information is available.

35. At this stage for prudence purposes no inflationary increase or growth in the Local Share of Business Rates in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 has been assumed.
36. During 2020/21, there were a number of issues, which resulted in significant pressures on Council Tax and Business Rates income. Within the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report to Council on 24 February 2021 it was noted that the overall financial impact of Covid-19 on Council Tax and Business Rates income to the Council in 2020/21 was estimated to be £3.696m. It is normal practice that any arising deficit would need to be fully funded in 2021/22. However, the Government announced that this could be spread over the next three years meaning that it was estimated that there would be an effect of £1.232m per annum in 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24. The final outturn positions for Council Tax and Business Rates were much improved from the statutory amounts incorporated into the budget setting in February 2021 by £365,000 per annum over the 3-year spread period to 2023/24. The final amounts have been incorporated into this refresh of the Council's MTFP, therefore improving the financial position.

Pay awards and inflation

37. No agreement has yet been reached between the National Employers and the NJC Trade Unions as to the pay award for 2021/22 for Local Government Services employees effective from 1 April 2021. The National Employers have made a full and final offer of 1.75% for 2021/22. The current assumptions in the MTFP are for a 2% pay award each year, and based on current information these assumptions are still valid and have therefore not been changed. As well as the uncertainty caused by the delay in finalising the 2021/22 pay award, there is also a high level of uncertainty around local government pay awards in future years, and therefore the assumptions made in the MTFP for future years will be constantly reviewed. It should be noted that each 1% increase in pay equates to approximately £900,000 additional cost per annum.
38. As mentioned in paragraph 20 the Council will have to pay from 2022/23 increased National Insurance contributions for its own staff, and also any potential costs relating to this from its suppliers. It has been estimated that the cost of the increased National Insurance contributions for Council employed staff will be approximately £1m per annum. An amount of £1m per annum has also been provided in the MTFP for both the potential increased costs charged by suppliers for the effect of the increase in National Insurance contributions and other potential inflationary increases from suppliers, and it is proposed that this is held in a separate contingency budget until further information is received of the potential increased costs from suppliers.
39. Contractual inflation has been provided in the MTFP period. The level of contractual inflation will be reviewed again in the budget report to Council in February 2022. No provision has been made for inflation for general supplies and services; it is expected that any inflationary pressures in this area will be met from efficiency savings.

40. Income from fees and charges has been assumed to increase on average by approximately 1% per annum over the MTFP period. There is no increase currently assumed for car parking charges and statutory charges over the MTFP period. The level of income inflation will be reviewed again in the budget report to Council in February 2022. Due to Covid-19, a number of budget areas have suffered income losses and funding has been provided in this update of the MTFP in order to ensure that realistic achievable budgets are now set for these areas. Further details are provided in paragraphs 54 to 56. All income will be closely monitored for performance against income targets and reviewed as necessary.

Energy inflation

41. As extensively reported nationally there are currently hyper-inflationary increases in the cost of energy and this is likely to exist in the medium term. The extent to these increases is not yet fully known, but in light of this and using estimates based on latest available information, provision of £371,000 per annum has been made in the updated MTFP from 2022/23 for the potential effects of this.

Living Wage

42. Increases in the National Living Wage, will impact upon organisations – principally adult social care providers – who are contracted to carry out functions on behalf of the Council. Currently increases in the National Living Wage do not have an impact on Council employed staff as the current pay rates paid to Council staff are above the current National Living Wage rates.
43. In SR21 the Government announced that it remains committed to raising the National Living Wage in order so that it reaches two-thirds of median earnings, and that the National Living Wage will increase from £8.91 to £9.50 an hour effective from 1 April 2022 (a 6.6% increase). Following this announcement the amounts that are allocated in the MTFP to cover the increases in cost expected as a result of this have been revised, and it is currently assumed that the National Living Wage will increase incrementally to £10.50 by 2024/25, and an amount of £4.4m has been allocated for this over the MTFP period.
44. As with future pay awards there is a high level of uncertainty around this and whether the Government will further change the levels of increase for future years, and therefore this will reviewed again in the budget report to Council in February 2022.

Spending pressures –Children’s Social Care

45. As reported previously Children’s Social Care, remains the biggest area of financial concern for the Council. The Council has an Ofsted Improvement Plan in place, and the financial situation is being closely monitored jointly by the Service and Finance, and a three year plan has been drawn up to ascertain the estimated outturn position for the current and future financial years and therefore the potential MTFP impact.
46. Given the improvements required by Ofsted and the timescales for implementing these, a prudent financial planning approach has been taken, and a number of contingencies and reserves have been identified which should enable the pressure to be covered in the current and future financial years, assuming it stays at around the

same level. However, in the longer term, Children's Services will need to work towards balancing their budget from the end of 2023/24 onwards or there will be an MTFP impact.

47. Children's Services have requested additional funding which will be required from 2024/25 in order to achieve a steady state for the Service, and ensure that the improvements currently being made in Children's Social Care are not compromised, and also in order so that the Service is on a firm financial footing with an appropriate budget which can be managed within. The additional funding requested comprises of £910,000 for increased demand, £1.454m for increased staffing, and £1m to provide an appropriate agency budget to enable the Service to manage any temporary gaps in staffing. This additional funding is included in this MTFP update.
48. This will mean that the Ofsted Improvement Plan will be properly funded in the medium term. This will be closely monitored in real time and any amendments required to the level of funding provided will be made as appropriate.
49. It should be noted that this will mean that Children's Social Care will have reduced expenditure from over £9m projected spend in excess of their current budget in 2021/22 to just over £3m in 2024/25, approximately a £6m reduction in expenditure per annum by 2024/25.
50. As reported previously, in line with national trends Children's Social Care continues to be an area of financial pressure to the Council. The costs of these pressures in respect of increased level of need in relation to children in care and the increase in the cost of providing care is constantly being monitored.
51. Whilst the Local Government Finance Settlement in 2021/22 provided additional funding for Social Care there is still a significant risk of additional increased level of need in relation to children in care and the increased in the cost of providing care and that in the event of this, sufficient additional Government funding is not provided to mitigate this. Along with funding uncertainty, the continued pressure of demands on Children's Social Care is the most significant financial risk to the Council.
52. Further Children's Social Care demand increases and any delays to the implementation of the Council's Ofsted Improvement Plan continue to be a major potential risk to the Council and this is being constantly monitored, and further updates will be provided in future quarterly budget monitoring reports to Executive and in the budget report to Council in February 2022.

Covid-19 ongoing pressures

53. As outlined in paragraph 15, there are a number of service areas across the Council that could potentially see budget pressures as a result of the continuing effect of Covid-19 and recovery both in 2021/22 and beyond.
54. A major area where there is likely to be continuing effect is in income generating areas for the Council, such as parking, cultural and leisure facilities (as noted in paragraph 40). Provision has therefore made in the MTFP for the potential effects of this, with the following paragraphs detailing the additional funding provided to enable

these budget areas to cope with the financial ongoing effects of Covid-19, and ensure that realistic achievable budgets are now set for these areas.

55. As mentioned in the quarterly budget monitoring reports to Executive car parking income has reduced due to the effects of Covid-19 lockdown and the recovery period following the removal of lockdown restrictions. It is expected that this will continue in the medium term, due to effects of increased home working following lockdown and the reductions in people using the retail provision in the town centre. The pressure can be covered in 2022/23 from grant income received from the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) for the provision of 3 hour free parking across the Tees Valley. However, from 2023/24 there is an estimated pressure arising from this of £677,000 and a further £87,000 pressure in 2024/25, and these have been accounted for in this update of the MTFP.
56. Another budget area where income has suffered due to Covid-19 is cultural events and activities provided at the Town Hall. This has also been compounded by the potential effect on income due to the Globe Theatre opening nearby in Stockton. Provision of £230,000 per annum has been provided in the MTFP from 2022/23 for the effects of both these factors.
57. As detailed in 2020/21 and in the Quarter One and Two 2021/22 budget monitoring reports, significant payments have been made to SLM, the Council's provider of leisure facilities. Following the reopening of leisure facilities SLM have not been able to operate normally, with the effects of a restricted operation following the end of lockdown restrictions and the post Covid-19 recovery period impacting on their current levels of income. It is currently proposed that the Council do not provide any further subsidy support beyond 2021/22 relating to the Covid-19 ongoing impacts on SLM's income.
58. As part of the contract with SLM, the Council were due to receive funding from SLM in the form of a "profit share" in future years. However, in light of the recovery from Covid-19 and the proposed ending of the subsidy support payments outlined above, it is currently assumed that it will be difficult for SLM to achieve a profit in the medium term. Therefore, it has been assumed in this revised MTFP that it will not be possible for SLM to fully pay the "profit share" due under the contract in the medium term, and that an incremental approach is made to SLM achieving their contracted "profit share" by 2025/26. This has not had a negative effect on the MTFP, as the MTFP presented to Council in February 2021 had taken a prudent approach due to the potential ongoing effects of Covid-19, and did not include any assumptions of "profit share" payments from SLM for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
59. Detailed discussions are currently taking place with SLM in order to reduce as far as possible the financial pressure to the Council in both 2021/22 and in future years, and updates will be provided in future reports regarding this.
60. There is potential ongoing future "Covid scarring", in particular within the Care Sector. In this update of the MTFP, additional provision of £1,034,000 has been made for this in 2022/23, reducing to £856,000 from 2023/24. As mentioned in paragraph 17 this will be combined with the £1.3m previously set aside for the potential future impact of Covid-19 on Business Rates and Council Tax income for 2022/23 only, to create a

total contingency budget for the potential effects of "Covid scarring" of £2,334,000 in 2022/23 and £856,000 from 2023/24.

Other Spending pressures

61. As detailed in the Quarter Two 2021/22 budget monitoring report there are a number of ongoing spending pressures within Environment and Community Services, which are likely to continue in the future.
62. Firstly, there is a shortfall in income due to a decrease in the number of cremations following the opening of a crematorium in Stockton. This is expected to result in an ongoing financial pressure of £200,000 per annum to the Bereavement Services budget. The Service have however, proposed mitigation of £50,000 from efficiency savings resulting from the reduced volume of cremations, and therefore a total of £150,000 per annum has been built into the updated MTFP.
63. There is also an anticipated pressure currently estimated to be £500,000 per annum, as a result of the need to secure an alternative contractor to process kerbside recycling material following the previous contractor entering into administration, and this has been assumed in this updated MTFP. This may change following the tender process for a new contractor, which ended at the end of October 2021, with the results of the tender exercise currently being evaluated, and any revisions to the level of additional funding required will be included in the budget report to Council in February 2022.
64. In addition, there is also an ongoing pressure anticipated against the Integrated Transport Unit budget. This is due to anticipated increased numbers of children qualifying for home to school transport. In addition, there is a predicted increase in external contract prices caused by a shortage of drivers which is increasing wages, and also due to the increase in fuel prices. In some cases, external providers have pulled journeys, resulting in a requirement to seek more expensive alternative providers. £120,000 per annum from 2022/23 has therefore been provided in the updated MTFP for this. This budget will be closely monitored and updates provided in future reports.
65. Additional provision of £484,000 has been made within the Education and Partnerships budget for the funding of Inclusion/Specialist Support Services to young people. This has previously been funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which the Council receives, but following a review it has now been determined that this should be funded from Council revenue budgets in the future. In addition, following a review, it has also been determined that the level of Education contributions from DSG towards the cost of external residential agency placements is lower than it should be. Therefore, the additional costs arising from the above can be fully mitigated by £750,000 of predicted additional income from DSG for Education contributions. This was outlined in paragraph 27 of the Quarter Two budget monitoring report to Executive on 9 November 2021, and is due to the fact that the complexity of the Council's young people has increased along with the average placement costs, and therefore the Education (and Health) contributions should also increase appropriately.

66. Provision has been made in the updated MTFP from 2022/23 for the following service demand pressures which have been identified :
- £160,000 for ongoing increased costs in the Coroners Service due to a rise in the number of cases, and also an increase in pathology and post-mortem costs
 - £41,000 for an additional post within Education and Partnerships to develop and expand the Fifty Futures Programme
 - £76,000 for additional posts within the Freedom of Information (FOI) team to deal with an increase in the number and complexity of FOI requests received by the Council
 - £50,000 per annum for 3 years for Community Environmental Initiatives as approved by Executive on 5 October 2021
 - £100,000 additional per annum in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 for the potential additional costs arising from the Insurance Review

Additional income

67. Additional rental income above the current budget is estimated to be received from developments that the Council has made in the town. Additional annual income of £48,000 above that already assumed for 2022/23 (making a total of £330,000 additional income in 2022/23) is predicted due to the continued success of Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TeesAMP). In addition, additional unbudgeted income of £200,000 per annum from Captain Cook Square is assumed from 2022/23. Both these developments, along with the Centre Square Buildings 1 and 2 development, have provided additional income to the Council, after deducting capital financing costs, which has negated the need for the Council to make budget reductions to front line services.

Additional Investment

68. Additional revenue funding of £600,000 per annum has been provided from 2023/24 for additional Community Safety and Environmental Enforcement staff. This helps to continue the provision of these services following the end of a grant from the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), which has helped to provide these services.
69. Revenue funding of £200,000 has been provided for 2022/23 only to provide additional support for the provision of events in the town. This will help with the recovery of Middlesbrough following the Covid-19 pandemic.
70. The Mayor and Executive have expressed a desire to provide additional investment for front line services, principally within Environment and Community Services, but at this current time it is not possible to do so because of the financial constraints. This will be a high priority for the Mayor and Executive should further additional funding become available to the Council.
71. The following additional revenue provision has been made in respect of the estimated additional capital financing costs associated with potential projects, outlined in paragraph 89, which subject to approval by Executive will be added to the Council's agreed Investment Strategy in future years :

- Highways Maintenance Programme - £200,000 per annum in each of the years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 (total of £600,000 over the 3 years)
- Transporter Bridge structural improvements - £80,000 from 2022/23
- Built Assets Improvement Programme - £81,000 in 2022/23, £74,000 in 2023/24 and £37,000 in 2024/25 (total of £192,000 over 3 years)

72. It should be noted that the additional capital financing costs will be ongoing beyond the current MTFP period and these ongoing costs will be built in future MTFP updates.
73. Following approval by Council on 5 October 2021 of the Fountain Court Refurbishment and Fit-Out Budget report there is a requirement to provide additional revenue provision of £165,000 per annum to the Capital Financing budget for additional capital financing costs arising from the net additional increase of £4.138m in the budget for the project.
74. Following approval by Executive on 20 October 2021 of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy report there is a requirement to add additional revenue provision of £208,000 per annum to the Capital Financing budget for potential additional capital financing costs arising from this.
75. The Capital Financing budget will be closely monitored and any required changes will be reflected in future refreshes of the MTFP.

Adequacy and use of Financial Reserves

76. The Director of Finance has reviewed the proposed level of balances held in the General Fund Reserve and advised that he considers it is appropriate to currently continue to maintain a minimum of £11m over the medium term. This advice is based on an assessment of financial risks against criteria set out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the extent to which specific provisions are available to meet known and expected liabilities.
77. The current estimated level of the General Fund Reserve at the end of 31 March 2022 is £11m as reported in the Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Two 2021/22 report to Executive on 9 November 2021.
78. In the budget report to Council in February 2021, it was intended to use £593,000 of reserves to balance the budget in 2022/23. In order to keep the level of the General Fund Reserve to the minimum level this is no longer assumed in this update of the MTFP.
79. This updated MTFP, including the proposed Council Tax increase for 2022/23, should enable the level of the General Fund Reserve to remain above the minimum recommended level throughout the MTFP period.
80. The approval by Council on 20 October 2021 of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy report will allow the Council to potentially increase the level of reserves that the Council holds by a maximum of £5.2m, at this time of high financial uncertainty with minimal impact on the Council Tax payer. This will help support the significant and continued transformation work taking place within the Council, which will deliver

improvement and efficiencies. Further details of the effect on the level of reserves will be provided in the Quarter Three 2021/22 budget monitoring report.

81. Further work will be carried out on the appropriate level of reserves for 2022/23 onwards following the receipt of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in early December and the latest financial performance in 2021/22, and will be updated in the budget report in February 2022.
82. The Council intends to allocate an additional £100,000 in 2022/23 only to its Change Fund in order to support transformational activity to deliver its Strategic Plan. It is estimated that only a negligible amount will be remaining within the Change Fund from 2023/24, in light of the need to invest in transformational activity in the meantime.

Budget Savings requirement and proposals

Budget Savings already assumed in the current MTFP

83. As noted in paragraph 15 of the Quarter Two 2021/22 budget monitoring report to Executive on 9 November 2021 there is a £180,000 saving related to “reducing staff mileage rates across the Council” which will not be achieved in 2021/22 and has been replaced by alternative one-off savings for 2021/22 only. In light of the recovery from Covid-19 and the potential effect on staff, it is proposed that this saving is now removed from the MTFP from 2022/23.

Proposed Additional Budget Savings

84. As noted in paragraph 11 this refreshed MTFP identifies that there is currently no requirement for additional budget savings in 2022/23, due to the proposal to increase Council Tax by 2.99% in 2022/23, in order to protect front line service delivery.
85. However, as shown in the table in paragraph 9 there is still a projected £1.8m budget gap in 2023/24 and a projected £4.6m budget gap in 2024/25. As mentioned in paragraph 33 at this stage no decision has been made regarding further Council Tax increases in 2023/24 and 2024/25, and therefore potentially the budget gap may need to be funded from additional budget savings in the future. The requirement for any future years’ savings proposals will be outlined in future MTFP update reports and will be subject to full consultation.
86. During 2022/23, it is intended that a full and proper efficiency review is undertaken across all Directorates and Services within the Council. This review will be led by Finance and undertaken in conjunction with the Directors, and a timetable will be drawn up for this. The aim of the review is to ensure that the Council is operating as efficiently as possible, and the review will seek to identify potential future additional budget savings for consideration at a future date if required.

Investment Strategy

87. The Investment Strategy has been further revised as part of the Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Two 2021/22 report to Executive on 9 November 2021.

88. The Council's Investment Strategy is updated each quarter via the quarterly budget monitoring reports, and also a full revision of the Investment Strategy for the MTFP period, including 2024/25, will be included in the budget report to Council in February 2022.

89. As mentioned in paragraph 71 the following proposed projects are potentially to be added to the Council's agreed Investment Strategy in future years :

- Highways Maintenance Programme - £5m p.a. for 3 years (total £15m)
- Transporter Bridge structural improvements - £2m in 2022/23 only
- Built Assets Improvement Programme - £2.2m in 2022/23, £2.0m in 2023/24 & £1.0m in 2024/25 (total of £5.2m over 3 years)

90. The above projects will only be added to the Council's Investment Strategy following the submission to and approval by Executive of separate reports for each project. Executive approved the Built Assets Improvement Programme on 9 November 2021.

91. If approved these additions to the Investment Strategy will enable the Council to invest in its own assets and provide for adequate maintenance of assets in order to ensure that they remain fit for purpose in the future

What decision(s) are being asked for?

92. That the Council notes the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position for 2021-25.

93. That the Council notes the proposed budget for 2022/23, and the proposed total Council Tax increase of 2.99% for 2022/23 (comprising of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1% Adult Social Care Precept).

94. That the Council notes that the proposed budget and the proposed Council Tax increase for 2022/23 are subject to public consultation commencing on 25 November 2021 and ending on 23 January 2022.

Why is this being recommended?

95. To enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibility to set a balanced revenue budget and to ensure that a proper framework is in place for the medium term financial management of the Council, which will enable the Council to take a systematic, coherent and controlled approach to addressing ongoing financial challenges over the medium-term, while maximising its contribution to the Mayor's priorities for Middlesbrough.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

96. The Council has no option but to monitor its financial position, addressing any potential financial pressures and any budget savings required, to ensure the Council's financial position is balanced. The updated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2021-25 will provide the means to achieve this in a proactive and systematic manner, while

continuing to reshape the Council to lead the delivery of the priorities for Middlesbrough.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

97. The Council is required under legislation to set a balanced budget for each year. The Medium Term Financial Plan and revenue and capital budgets form part of the Council's policy framework, as set out in its constitution. The approach outlined within the document will enable the Council to operate within the resources available and continue to meet its many statutory duties.
98. Elected members (individually and collectively) have a fiduciary duty to local taxpayers and so duty to facilitate, rather than frustrate, the setting of a lawful budget, and not to do so would bring damaging legal, financial, operational and reputational consequences for the Council, and precepting authorities such as the police, fire service and local parish councils. It may also give rise to personal liability for individual members for misfeasance in public office, negligence or breach of statutory duty, should they be found to be purposely failing to set a lawful budget.

Financial

99. It is proposed that for 2022/23 Council Tax will increase by a total of 2.99% (comprising of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1% Adult Social Care Precept), and then by 1.99% in each of the years 2023/24 and 2024/25 (see paragraphs 25 to 33 for details).
100. The final proposed 2022/23 budget will be presented to Executive on 14 February 2022, and then to Council for approval on 23 February 2022.
101. In the event that significant changes to the Council's financial position come to light in the interim then the proposed Council Tax increase in 2022/23 may need to be revised ahead of the budget report to Council on 23 February 2022. In addition, there may be a requirement to revise the current requirement for no proposed budget savings for 2022/23.

Policy Framework

102. The revenue and capital budgets form part of the Council's Policy Framework and as such must be agreed by Full Council.

Equality and Diversity

103. The Council must ensure that, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, that any budget saving proposals or Council Tax increases thought to impact on those with protected characteristics are assessed, mitigated where possible and/or justified. As stated in paragraph 11 there are no additional budget savings proposed for 2022/23, and therefore the budget consultation will be regarding the proposed Council Tax increase only.

104. As such impact assessments for the budget and Council Tax increase will be completed prior to consideration by the appropriate decision-making body, where required. This will be prior to the presentation of the 2022/23 budget report to Council in February 2022.

Risk

105. The proposed approach will ensure that the Council has adequate governance processes in place (08-054) to ensure it complies with the statutory duties to set a balanced budget for the forthcoming year (08-055). The MTFP has been reviewed to ensure that the correct assumptions are made to ensure that there are no unforeseen/unmitigated funding gap (08-059) exists in future years.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

106. Consultation in respect of the proposed budget and Council Tax increase for 2022/23 will, following Council on 24 November 2021, commence on 25 November 2021 and conclude on 23 January 2022, with appropriate impact assessments undertaken considering responses to the consultation.

107. The budget consultation will be undertaken this year as part of an “annual conversation” with local communities and the Council’s stakeholders. This will build on the success of last years’ “Let’s Talk” annual conversation.

108. It is planned that the consultation will include:

- a dedicated internet page on the Council’s website;
- a general public survey on the Council’s website;
- a general consultation email address;
- an increased level of digital promotion and increased public engagement through social media;
- consultation with the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Board;
- consultation with the Council’s partners and the local business sector, including a specific consultation meeting with the town’s Chamber of Commerce; and
- involvement of elected members in the overall process.

109. The output of the consultation process will then be reported to Executive on 14 February 2022 and Council on 23 February 2022, which will:

- again refresh the MTFP following the Local Government Finance Settlement, set the 2022/23 budget and any required associated budget savings and targets, and set the Council Tax level for 2022/23;
- comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and set out any impacts identified from the proposals for 2022/23 and future years.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

24/02/21	Council	Strategic Plan 2021-24
24/02/21	Council	Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22
07/09/21	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter One 2021/22
20/10/21	Council	Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy
09/11/21	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Two 2021/22
09/11/21	Executive	Medium Term Financial Plan Update

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

**COUNCIL MEETING – 24 NOVEMBER 2021
NOTICE OF MOTION**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 53-60

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
150	Councillor M Storey	Councillor Branson	<p>Motion: ‘Fire and Rehire’</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 10 workers have experienced ‘fire and rehire’ – told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay, terms and conditions or face the sack, with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers, since March 2020(TUC research, January 2021). A quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut to their pay – since the pandemic began. • That while the prime minister has called the practice unacceptable he has continually refused to take action to outlaw the practice, raising concerns that he will not intervene in this race to the bottom as an escalating number of employers across all sectors using our weak employment protections to force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, leaving many having to work longer hours and for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families. • Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers – 3.8 million people – were already ‘insecure’ meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will, including those on zero hour contracts and agency workers. <p>Middlesbrough Council therefore resolves to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local residents are protected against such unscrupulous employers and will write to the Prime Minister demanding he outlaw fire and rehire and act now to keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions. • Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees’ standard of living and their wellbeing, work with our anchor institutions and key partners to bring forward

			<p>plans to ensure all have best practice employment and to work with recognised trade unions on this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write to the TUC to indicate support for the campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.
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Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services Councillor Barrie Cooper, Executive Member for Environment, Finance and Governance.
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Submitted to:	Council – 24 November 2021
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Subject:	Paperless meetings
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)

It is recommended that Council approves the following:

1. That Council adopt a “paperless” approach to meetings i.e. that Council approves the electronic delivery, by default, of all Council and Committee / Panel meeting papers with paper copies being provided only by exception (e.g. medical requirement for different format). Councillors can use their Council issued devices and the functionality of Modern Gov to access papers, printing off their own copies at home as and when required.
2. That officers continue to support councillors in the understanding and operation of their devices and the Modern.Gov app.
3. That the Council shall provide in respect of each meeting to which the public would be entitled to attend referred to in paragraph (1) above:
 - (a) one hard copy agenda for viewing by the public at the main reception of the Council offices following publication of the agenda, and
 - (b) two hard copy agendas for viewing by the public at any such meeting.
4. That the following amendment be made to the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution:

“Reference in these procedure rules to the making available or supply of copies of any agenda and reports, or any other written material submitted to the Council, Executive, Committee or Sub-Committee shall include the provision of such copies by electronic means.”

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	No	N/A	Non urgent

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
By reducing the amount of paper we use, we will ensure our town acts to tackle climate change, promoting sustainable lifestyles.	.	Transitioning to digital delivery will ensure we strive to deliver value for money and enhance the reputation of Middlesbrough
Ward(s) affected		
N/A		

What is the purpose of this report?

1. Following the successful trial of paperless meetings of the Executive, Individual Executive Member and pre Executive meetings, Executive Members wish to seek the necessary commitment from full Council to achieve paperless meetings for all Council, Executive or any other Council meeting, Panel or Working Group by embracing the current technology available to councillors and officers in order to meet our environmental and digital programme commitments .

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. The changes to the way in which councillors receive committee papers affects all Members of the Council.

Report Background

3. The Council currently provides, and delivers via courier, printed copies of Council and committee agendas to all councillors (or substitute members where appointed) of the committees to which they have been appointed. Spare copy agendas (approximately 4 per meeting) are also printed and made available for viewing by the public present or as spares. Printed agendas are also provided for certain directors, senior officers, and committee staff.
4. During the Covid-19 emergency, and due to limited access to reprographics and couriers, it became necessary to restrict printed papers to Councillors and even then, only post them out as necessary.
5. Officers were asked to work at home and therefore the internal post system was no longer an appropriate mechanism for distribution to staff. Officers were asked to view their reports electronically and have made the switch seamlessly. In a similar way, the press and public were asked to view documents through the Council's website. We are not aware of any adverse comments in relation to these arrangements. Officers have maintained the paperless approach with all Leadership and departmental managers meetings transitioning to using the Modern Gov app to access team meeting papers.
6. In common with other councils, Middlesbrough faces a number of significant challenges over the next few years particularly in respect of:

- (a) meeting our corporate responsibilities in addressing the climate emergency and the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral, and
- (b) finding sufficient resources to continue to provide services that meet the needs of our residents.

Climate Emergency

- 7. Middlesbrough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 in order to address its obligations in relation to climate change through adopting the ten principles of the One Planet Living approach to sustainable living. The Council have adopted One Planet Living and used this approach to influence decision making for over ten years and will continue to do so in order to reach carbon net zero by 2039
- 8. At the Council meeting on 2 September 2020, the Mayor reaffirmed the ambition of the Council to become carbon-neutral by 2029 and for the town to become carbon-neutral by 2039.
- 9. On 11 May 2021, the Executive approved the adoption of a Green Strategy following an extensive public consultation process. The Green Strategy is a very long term approach to tackling climate change within Middlesbrough and the first year (2021 to 2022) is being treated as a baseline year to gather all necessary baseline data required to set targets and measure success going forward.
- 10. Reducing paper consumption will mitigate (reduce) the impacts of climate change by;
 - lowering the greenhouse gas emissions generated by processing pulp into paper.
 - saving water - water is used in every stage of paper production, such as pulp making, processing, and paper manufacturing, plus the associated activities of cooking, bleaching, and washing,
 - using less paper individually will reduce the amount of paper being transported overall, thereby reducing carbon emissions.
 - reducing the amount of waste lessening the amount of material sent to landfills.

Courier and Printing Costs.

- 11. Each time a Committee is held, paper copies are produced for those councillors who have elected to receive paper copies of Committee papers. In addition, the paper copies are delivered by the courier to the home address of each councillor. The courier operates twice a week on a Tuesday and a Friday. Details of the costs incurred by the use of the courier and the costs involved in printing paper copies are included below:-

Courier Costs (Table 1)

2017-18	£1,670.16
2018-19	£1,937.39
2019-20	£3,892.88
2020-21	£230.88

Printing Costs (Table 2)

2017-18	£14,640.30
2018-19	£9,142.55
2019-20	£4,272.77
April 2021 to Sept 21 (Low because of Covid)	£1,996.38

Pros and Cons of paper documents

12. Having a bundle of papers hit the 'mat' is a nudge that there is reading to be done. A physical document would be a reminder of meetings to come and difficult to lose.
13. Some members prefer paper copies. Discussions with Members have highlighted that some Members prefer reading from paper documents for varying reasons. While the Council can't influence Members preferences and may not be able to go fully digital, we can work with Members and departments to proactively encourage the transformation to digital processes.
14. Readers often like to highlight passages or bookmark a page (fold over the corner). The use of a pen or highlighter is a great way to add thoughts to a document and a few years ago these simple tasks were beyond the ability of simple software solutions. However, as technology progresses such things are now possible.
15. Those who have embraced the paperless (or paper-less) world, would, however, counter that electronic documents:
 - (a) Can be searched saving the reader scouring long documents for a particular passage;
 - (b) Allows the user to highlight whole sentences and leave comments in the virtual margin;
 - (c) Allows the user to create multiple versions and track the changes;
 - (d) Allows the user to share thoughts with colleagues by emails and google docs;
 - (e) Saves storage space at home;
 - (f) Allows user to back up documents so they can't be lost (as easily);
 - (g) The font size can be increased to aid reading;
 - (h) Can be read out for those who find long documents difficult (for example those with dyslexia or other requirements);
 - (i) Allows user to copy and paste passages into other documents, notes or emails;
 - (j) reduces CO2 emissions; and
 - (k) reduces officer work load and time
16. Even with paper copies there is still risk of data protection issues and the potential for papers to be mislaid or lost. In the past, an envelope containing exempt committee papers has been mislaid. It is accepted that this is not a regular occurrence, but given the sensitivity of some of this information, one failure is perhaps one too many.

17. Disposal of paper copies can also be problematic in that Councillors may recycle documents (including annotations) which could then be intercepted. It would be best practice for all council documents to be shredded and this is already required for anything with notes, containing personal data or exempt/confidential reports. In respect of deleting electronic documents, password protected documents will remain protected regardless of deletion method.
18. Currently, exempt information is available on the Modern.Gov system for Councillors to view, using their login details, as appropriate.
19. Overall, the benefits of going paperless outweigh the drawbacks, and the Council will no longer be able to ignore the trend. In order to successfully transform from paper-based to digital, Democratic Services will offer additional support to those members that require it.

Hybrid Meetings

20. During the Covid pandemic, officers have also been required to facilitate hybrid committee meetings. There may be a requirement for hybrid meetings to remain in the future, to complement the Council's and other organisations' blended approach to working – allowing officers, witnesses and presenters to join the meeting remotely.
21. Viewing the papers and attending the meeting may cause some concerns of accessing two items from one screen, however digital solutions also allow documents to be shared on screen in real time ensuring that papers are viewable by all those attending.
22. The table below, gives an indication of the committees that are likely to utilise the facility of hybrid meetings and how often the facility might be utilised. Democratic Services are currently exploring a solution.

<p>Definitions:- Note information relating to meeting uplifts and hybrid likelihood should be seen as indicative only.</p> <p>Meeting up-lift - this is essentially an estimate about how many meetings <i>may</i> take place in addition to those scheduled.</p> <p>Hybrid meeting - those meetings where either a proportion of Members, or external stakeholders, participate in a meeting via remote means. To be hybrid it is assumed that those virtual participants can be seen and heard clearly by those in the physical meeting and can interact with proceedings as though they were there.</p> <p>Hybrid Likelihood - how likely those meetings would fully utilise hybrid facilities. High = Often; Medium = Occasionally; Low = rarely. This is highly subjective and likely to be subject to change</p>	<p>As found on Modern Gov</p>	<p>Meeting uplift based Dem Services input</p>	<p>Hybrid Likelihood based on Dem Services input</p>
<p>Committee</p>	<p>Meetings per year 2021/22</p>	<p>Meetings per year (assumed uplift)</p>	<p>Hybrid likelihood</p>
<p>Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>High</p>

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel	9	9	High
Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel	10	10	High
Children and Young People's Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel	9	9	High
Constitution and Members' Development Committee	3	3	Medium
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	6	6	Medium
Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group	1	4	Medium
Corporate Parenting Board	6	6	High
Council	12	12	Low
Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel	9	9	High
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member- Culture and Communities	1	3	Medium
Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel	10	10	High
Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance	2	3	Medium
Executive Member - Regeneration	3	3	Medium
Executive	10	10	High
Health Scrutiny Panel	10	10	High
Joint Archives Committee	2	2	Medium
Licensing Committee	15	15	Medium
Licensing Sub Committee A	6	6	Medium
Live Well South Tees Board	3	3	Medium
Overview and Scrutiny Board	10	10	High
Planning and Development Committee	10	10	Low
Staff Appeals Committee	1	3	Low
Standards Committee	5	5	Low
Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee	4	4	High
Teesside Pension Board	4	4	Medium
Teesside Pension Fund Committee	4	4	High
The Mayor - Executive Member for Children's Safeguarding and Adult Social Care and Public Protection	4	4	Medium
Works Council	2	3	Medium

Total	171	181	
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Paperless Meetings background and proposal

23. In 2013, a Scrutiny investigation was held in relation to the proposal to move towards the use of mobile devices for members. The proposal to move to paperless meetings was dependent upon councillors (and officers) having improved ICT devices with all the necessary functionality and software to enable them to read and annotate agendas electronically and, importantly, having the necessary training on how the devices and software operate. At that time, the Council's IT infrastructure was not as developed as it is today and it did not lend itself easily to mobile connectivity.
24. As part of the Council's recent investment in its ICT infrastructure, the Council procured new Dell laptop devices for all councillors, which were rolled out to them to ensure that all councillors have access to equipment to enable more streamlined digital services.
25. On 21 December 2020, the Council rolled out a new Committee Management System. Modern.Gov is the market leading provider of robust meetings management systems and it is used by 76% of councils in England and Wales. The Modern.Gov app ensures that councillors always have the latest meeting papers for the committees that they are interested in and allows them to highlight sections of reports and make annotations in exactly the same way as they would with a paper copy. Document navigation is made quick and simple via bookmarking and intuitive controls. It also enables the user to view information offline.
26. Councillors have been given support both by ICT and Democratic Services staff, including the Political Assistants in helping them to understand, and to become more confident in using their device and the Modern.Gov app that supports the principle of paperless meetings. In addition, individual and group training courses for councillors on the operation of the Modern.Gov app were and still are facilitated by the Political Assistants and Democratic Services Officers. This support will continue, until all councillors are confident in using the Modern Gov app.
27. The Modern.Gov app, which can also be downloaded by the public via our website, has a feature which allows councillors (but not the public) to view confidential papers which are exempt from publication.
28. A number of local authorities nationally have already adopted a paperless approach to committee meetings by the use of laptops/tablets by councillors, together with the associated app enabling them to view and annotate agendas. These authorities recognise the benefits, which can generally be summarised as follows:
- Devices are portable, convenient and easy to use once users become familiar with them.
 - Access to information can be improved – e.g. all meeting papers (current and previous) are easily available.
 - Information can be stored very securely, which is important when meeting papers contain sensitive, or exempt/confidential information.
 - Savings can be made on paper, printing and postage of meeting papers.

- An authority's carbon footprint can be reduced - paper and stationery usage is reduced, less energy is used to produce printed papers.

29. As a Council, we are increasingly encouraging residents to access our services electronically as much as possible. Members of the public are able to access meeting agendas, reports and minutes either directly via our website, or by downloading the Modern.Gov app on their phone or tablet.

30. The Council has already put in place measures to introduce paperless meetings at officer level; for example, the weekly meetings of the Corporate Management Team and Leadership Management Team are now fully paperless.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

31. It is recommended as follows:

- I. That Council adopt a "paperless" approach to Council and Committee meetings i.e. that Council approves the electronic delivery, by default, of all Council and Committee / Panel meeting papers with paper copies being provided only by exception (e.g. medical requirement for different format). Councillors can use their Council issued devices and the functionality of Modern Gov to access papers, printing off their own copies at home as and when required.
- II. That officers continue to support councillors in the understanding and operation of their devices and the Modern.Gov app and provide appropriate member development opportunities to improve charring skills and reading skills using digital resources and virtual/hybrid meetings.
- III. That the Council shall provide in respect of each meeting to which the public would be entitled to attend referred to in paragraph (1) above:
 - (a) one hard copy agenda for viewing by the public at the main reception of the Council offices following publication of the agenda, and
 - (b) two hard copy agendas for viewing by the public at any such meeting.
- IV. That the following amendment be made to the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution:

"Reference in these procedure rules to the making available or supply of copies of any agenda and reports, or any other written material submitted to the Council, Executive, Committee or Sub-Committee shall include the provision of such copies by electronic means."

Why is this being recommended?

32. To deliver on the Council's commitments to secure ongoing savings in its revenue budget and to assist in achieving the Council's corporate aspirations to reduce its carbon footprint, whilst still complying with legislation requiring the provision of copy agendas for inspection by the public.

Options considered

Option 1

33. To adopt a paperless approach to all meetings involving both councillors and officers. As part of this, officers will continue to support councillors in the understanding and operation of their devices and the Modern.Gov app. We will continue to comply with statutory requirements to make available a reasonable number of copies of an agenda at any meeting to which the public are entitled to attend.

Option 2

34. To make no change to our current arrangements.
At the Council meeting on 2 September 2020, the Mayor reaffirmed the ambition of the Council to become carbon-neutral by 2029 and for the town to become carbon-neutral by 2039. Failure to evolve would not contribute to this ambition.

35. For the reasons outlined in this report, Option 1 is recommended.

Conclusion

36. In conclusion, a number of councils have completed a transition to paperless meetings over the past three or four years and there is a clear direction of travel in this regard, such that over the course of the next few years it is expected to become standard practice in local government.

37. This Council is now at the point at which it can begin a transformation to radically reduce our reliance on, and use of, paper. This will not only save the Council a considerable amount of money each year, but also assist in reducing our carbon footprint and set an example to others.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

38. The Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the legal provisions governing the requirement to make available agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings and Executive meetings both to councillors and to the public.

39. In relation to full Council meetings, Schedule 12 to the 1972 Act requires us, amongst other things, to send to every member of the Council “a summons to attend the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting” at least five clear days before the meeting. This provision also applies to committee meetings by virtue of Section 99 of the 1972 Act.

40. In respect of Council and committee agendas, including the “connected” reports, Section 100B (1) of the 1972 Act requires that “copies of the agenda for a meeting” and “copies of any report for the meeting shall be open to inspection by members of the public at the offices of the council.”

Section 100B (6) of the 1972 Act requires us to make available for the use of members of the public present at the meeting “a reasonable number of copies” of the agenda and reports for the meeting.

41. In partial response to changing technologies, The Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 permits delivery of an electronic summons to Councillors, subject to the consent of the Councillor.

42. Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 requires us to make available for public inspection at least five clear days before a meeting of the Executive a copy of the agenda (including the reports) at the Council offices and on the website. Paragraph (6) of Regulation 7 requires us to make available for the use of members of the public present at the meeting “a reasonable number of copies” of the agenda and reports for the meeting.

Financial

43. The financial costs incurred by the Council for the printing costs and courier service associated with agenda/papers distribution are included at paragraph 29 of the report.

44. Annual savings in printing costs and courier delivery costs could be achieved if the Council adopted paperless meetings.

45. If the proposals in this report were introduced, there would still be a requirement to produce two hard copy agendas in respect of each meeting to which the public are entitled to attend. However, the cost would be a fraction of the current costs.

Policy Framework

46. The decision will not amend the Council’s policy framework. The decision is aligned with the Mayor’s priorities and the Strategic plan 2021 – 2024.

Equality and Diversity

47. It is envisaged that the main impact will be on elected members, some of whom may have medical reasons/visual impairments for requiring documents in a certain format, these requirements will be catered for wherever possible. An impact assessment has also been undertaken (see appendix 1). Two paper copies of the agenda papers will still be available to members of the public at each meeting. The Council website meets the WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard. This is the industry standard and if achieved means the website is accessible to all.

Risk

48. The key risks to the Council of not embracing the concept of paperless meetings are:

- (a) The opportunity of achieving financial efficiency savings would be missed.

- (b) The opportunity of demonstrating a willingness to reduce our carbon footprint, and effecting an actual reduction in CO2 emissions, would be missed.
- (c) Reputational damage to the Council as a consequence of (a) and (b) above.
- (d) Some Members may feel disenfranchised if unable to access physical reports and support isn't in place to access electronic data.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

49. Further ongoing training be delivered to those members that require it in relation to the use of Modern Gov.

50. That the following amendment be made to the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution:

51. "Reference in these procedure rules to the making available or supply of copies of any agenda and reports, or any other written material submitted to the Council, Executive, Committee or Sub-Committee shall include the provision of such copies by electronic means."

Background papers

52. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Contact: Sylvia Reynolds, Head of Democratic Services

Email: sylvia_reynolds@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Paperless Meetings			
Coverage:	Service specific			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p><i>Insert short description, using the following as sub-headings:</i></p> <p><i>Key aims, objectives and activities:</i></p> <p>Following the successful trial of paperless meetings of the Executive, Individual Executive Member and pre Executive meetings, Executive is requested to provide the necessary commitment to achieve paperless meetings for all Council, Executive or any other Council meeting, Panel or Working Group by embracing the current technology available to councillors and officers. In common with other councils, Middlesbrough faces a number of significant challenges over the next few years particularly in respect of:</p> <p>(a) meeting our corporate responsibilities in addressing the climate emergency and the Council’s commitment to be carbon neutral, and</p> <p>(b) finding sufficient resources to continue to provide services that meet the needs of our residents.</p> <p><i>Statutory drivers (set out exact reference):</i> The Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 permits delivery of an electronic summons to Councillors, subject to the consent of the Councillor.</p> <p><i>Differences from any previous approach:</i></p> <p>Councillors have always had the option to receive paper copies of agendas. Since the roll out of Modern Gov and the issue of new IT equipment to Members including laptops and tablets, Members are being encouraged to access their agenda papers via the Modern Gov App. They have been provided with the necessary training to use the App. Provision via modern.gov will be the default going forward.</p> <p><i>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate):</i></p> <p>The key stakeholders are MBC members and officers.</p> <p><i>Intended outcomes:</i></p> <p>This new way of working will reduce the costs of printing and delivering agenda papers to councillors.</p>			
Live date:	25 November 2021, (if approved by Council on 24 November).			
Lifespan:	From 25 November 2021, for the foreseeable future.			
Date of next review:	A review of how members are managing to access agendas electronically will be carried in May 2022			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p>Human Rights</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are no concerns that the proposals could impact adversely on human rights. 2 paper copies will be printed which will be available for the public to comply with Section 100A of the Access to Information Act 1985 which specifies that where a meeting of a principal council is required by section 100A to be open to the public during the proceedings or any part of them, there shall be made available for the use of members of the public present at the meeting a reasonable number of copies of the agenda and, subject to subsection (8), of the reports for the meeting.</p> <p>Evidence used to assess the impact of the proposed decision includes feedback to date, analysis of the accessibility standards for the modern.gov solution, consideration of the other additional equipment provided to members and members ability to access virtual meetings.</p>
<p>Equality</p> <p>Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires that when exercising its functions the Councils must have due regard to the need to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; • Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and • Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>In having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity, the Council must consider, as part of a single equality duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; • Taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it; and • Encouraging people who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation is low. <p>Service users – There will be a positive impact on those with disabilities i.e. those with sight problems as the new solution will ensure that members have the equipment to be able to manipulate committee papers to change size, contrast etc. - the electronic version of agenda papers allow members and service users to determine size of text and aids some disabilities = also that Members can still print out for themselves if required or where there is a medical need. Any member who requested a reasonable adjustment on the basis of disability would have their needs considered on an individual basis.</p> <p>The website is accessible. The council website meets the WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard. This is the industry standard and if achieved means the website is accessible to all.</p> <p>Evidence used to assess the impact of the proposed decision includes feedback to date, analysis of the accessibility standards for the modern.gov solution, consideration of the other additional equipment provided to members and members ability to access virtual meetings.</p>

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

Screening questions	Response	Evidence
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="background-color: #90EE90; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div style="background-color: #FFD700; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>	<p>Not applicable. There are no concerns that this proposal could have an impact on community cohesion.</p> <p>Evidence used to assess the impact of the proposed decision includes feedback to date, analysis of the accessibility standards for the modern.gov solution, consideration of the other additional equipment provided to members and members ability to access virtual meetings.</p>
<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed. 		

Assessment completed by:	Bernie Carr	Head of Service:	Sylvia Reynolds
Date:	25/10/2021	Date:	25/10/2021

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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services – Charlotte Benjamin The Mayor: Mr A Preston
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Submitted to:	Council: 24 November 2021
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Subject:	Update on Urgent Decisions
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
To provide Council with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

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

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
		To ensure that the business of the Council is open and transparent.
Ward(s) affected		
No wards in Middlesbrough are directly affected.		

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The report provides details of decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

Report Background

SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS

3. A special urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision cannot be given (i.e. it is not possible to give the five days public notice). A decision is defined as urgent where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the interests of the Council or the public. In terms of the Scrutiny

call-in procedure, agreement that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant Scrutiny Panel. Once this agreement is obtained, a copy of the notice is placed on the Council website. The decision taker must sign a form recording the decision and a record of that decision is then published. The information is available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website.

URGENT DECISIONS

4. An urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision can be given but due to urgent deadlines for implementing those decisions, the Scrutiny call-in procedure do not apply. Agreement is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or relevant Scrutiny Panel to exempt the proposed decision from the call-in process. The decision then becomes a public record. The information is also available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website.

SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS IN THE PERIOD MARCH 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2021

5. The following special urgent decisions were taken during this period:

Date:	25/03/2020
Decision Maker	Executive Member for Regeneration
Decision	Stainton Way Toucan Crossing
Reason for Urgency	There is no safe crossing connection for children attending the Kings Academy, coupled with a road traffic accident towards the end of 2020 and any delay could result in another road traffic accident.

Date:	14/07/2020
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park - Relocation of Option Site
Reason for Urgency	The prospective inward investor was required to determine whether or not to give notice on current lease by 15th July 2020.

Date:	12/10/2020
Decision Maker	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Decision	Test and Trace Support Discretionary Payment Scheme
Reason for Urgency	Response to Covid-19. Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme announced by Central Government end of September 2020. Scheme to be in place by 12 October 2020.

Date:	2/12/2020
Decision Maker	Executive Member Finance and Governance
Decision	Winter Grant Fund Payment & Financial Assistance Advice Payment.
Reason for Urgency	Response to Covid 19. Support provided by the DWP for financial assistance for vulnerable groups for such things like, food, energy, water etc. announced on 8 November 2020.

Date:	22/12/2020
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Residual Waste Collection.
Reason for Urgency	Decision to retain weekly bin collections would affect the Budget consultation process as if agreed it would need to be removed from the Budget consultation document.

Date:	19/01/2021
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	CONFIDENTIAL: Project Funding
Reason for Urgency	The Government had allocated funding – a decision which was communicated to the council by email on 13 January 2021, the purpose of which had been embargoed by the Government for the time being. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had to be returned to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') by 21 January 2021.

Date:	02/02/2021
Decision Maker	The Mayor
Decision	Middlesbrough Council Support for Tees Valley Bid for Freeport Status
Reason for Urgency	Urgent decision required as the bid needed to be submitted by 5 February 2021.

Date:	02/02/2021
Decision Maker	The Mayor
Decision	Extension of IT Provision in Schools for Virtual Learning
Reason for Urgency	Urgent decision required to support an initiative to ensure Middlesbrough's children and young people have access to IT hardware and internet connection to enable remote virtual learning during the Covid-19 lockdown.

URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE PERIOD MARCH 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2021

6. The following urgent decisions, with the agreement of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board, were taken:

Date:	18/05/2020
Decision Maker	The Mayor
Decision	Amendment to Section 13a Discretionary Hardship Policy
Reason for Urgency	COVID-19 response – financial support to those customers of working age in receipt of council tax reduction. It is hardship funding to those considered financially vulnerable. The funding will mean, to many Middlesbrough residents, a significant reduction in the amount of Council Tax payable and in many instances the awarding of £155.00 will reduce council tax bills to zero.

Date:	03/06/2020
Decision Maker	The Mayor
Decision	Approval of the discretionary grant policy and report.
Reason for Urgency	In response to COVID-19, extension of the business grant to allow local authorities the discretion to provide financial support to businesses through Central Government Funding.

Date:	01/07/2020
Decision Maker	The Mayor
Decision	Approval of the Discretionary Grant Fund – Phase 2.
Reason for Urgency	Response to Covid 19. Extension of the business grant scheme. Announced on 1 May 2020 to include Phase 2.

Date:	14/10/2020
Decision Maker	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Decision	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park – Plot 9 Yard Extension
Reason for Urgency	Property decision required by 16 th October 2020 in order to be operational by mid-February 2021, creating 40 jobs.

Date:	24/11/2020
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Re-procurement of Tees Integrated Sexual Health Service

Reason for Urgency	Tender planned to go out on 1st December 2020 for a start date of new service 1st August 2021.
Date:	10/12/2020
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Part of the Local Restrictions Support Grant Stream (LSRG)
Reason for Urgency	Delay will impact businesses who are already under pressure due to Covid restrictions
Date:	19/01/2021
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	CONFIDENTIAL: Project Funding
Reason for Urgency	The Government had allocated funding – a decision which was Communicated to the council by email on 13 January 2021, the purpose of which had been embargoed by the Government for the time being. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had to be returned to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') by 21 January 2021.
Date:	13/04/2021
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Changing Futures Funding Opportunity
Reason for Urgency	The submission deadline was 6th May 21 and there was a substantial amount of work to be done across the South Tees partnership (i.e. multiple organisations) in order to develop the costed delivery plan and final bid. If the decision was to be subject to call-in, any delay could result in missing the deadline for the submission of the bid.
Date:	27/05/2021
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health and Wellbeing 2021-22
Reason for Urgency	The tight timescale between notification of allocated funding (10 May) and requirement for submission of expressions of interest to Public Health England.
Date:	7 September 2021
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Audit to Excellence

Reason for Urgency	Children's Services will receive its next monitoring visit from Ofsted within the next few months perhaps in the New Year. Preparation including providing Ofsted with a suite of casework audits must be started in as timely a way as possible. Ofsted will publish the results of this visit on its website and negative comments from Ofsted carry a reputational risk and a risk that outcomes for vulnerable children are not improved as expected.
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Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

7. No other options considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

8. There are no legal implications.

Financial

9. There are no financial implications.

Policy Framework

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

Equality and Diversity

11. Report is for information only.

Risk

12. The report is for information only. The Mayor is required to report to Council, details of any urgent decisions.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

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

Background papers

14. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Report of:	The Monitoring Officer
Submitted to:	Council – 24 November 2021
Subject:	Council Committees and Outside Bodies - Vacancies

Summary

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

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

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Ward(s) affected
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 C

Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel

1 Vacancy – Open to Labour Councillors initially

Chief Officer Appointments Committee

1 Vacancy – Open to MIG Councillors initially

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors

Staff Appeals Committee

1 Vacancy – Open to MIG Councillors initially

Standards Committee

1 Vacancy – Open to MIG Councillors initially

Teesside Pension Fund Committee

1 Vacancy – Open to MIG Councillors initially

Works Council

1 Vacancy – Open to MIG Councillors initially

Outside Bodies

(ANEC) Resources Task and Finish Group

1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors

Cleveland Fire Authority

1 Vacancy – Open to MIG Councillors initially

North East Regional Employers' Organisation (NEREO)

1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors

Tees Valley Audit and Governance Committee

Each Constituent Authority to nominate one Member with current or recent experience on their own Audit and Governance Committee.

1 Vacancy – Open to all Councillors

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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