

## EXECUTIVE

<b>Date:</b> Tuesday 15th June, 2021
<b>Time:</b> 1.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
  2. Declarations of Interest
  3. Minutes - Executive - 24 May 2021 3 - 4
  4. Minutes - Executive - 27 May 2021 5 - 18
- THE MAYOR AND LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING,  
ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**
5. Domestic Abuse New Burden Funding - Provision of Support within Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services for 2021-2022 19 - 76
  6. Strategic Plan 2020-23 - Progress at Year-End 2020/21 77 - 96
  7. Update on the Holiday Activities Fund 2021 97 - 106
- EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE &  
GOVERNANCE**
8. Revenue and Capital Budget - Year-End Outturn Position 2020/21 107 - 138
- EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**
9. Ridgeway Connections Scheme: Public Consultation Exercise 139 - 150
  10. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Monday 7 June 2021

**MEMBERSHIP**

A Preston (The Mayor) (Chair) and Councillors B Cooper, S Hill, E Polano and M Smiles

**Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Chris Lunn / Georgina Moore, 01642 729742 / 01642 729711, [chris\\_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk) / [georgina\\_moore@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:georgina_moore@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

**EXECUTIVE**

A meeting of the Executive was held on Monday 24 May 2021.

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Smiles (Chair), B Cooper and E Polano

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor J Thompson

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor S Hill, Councillor C Hobson, Councillor J Hobson, Councillor T Mawston and A Metcalfe

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, S Bonner, R Brown, A Hoy, C Lunn, S Reynolds, E Scollay and J Weston

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** A Preston (The Mayor)

20/157 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

20/158 **MINUTES - EXECUTIVE - 13 APRIL 2021**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 13 April 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/159 **MINUTES - EXECUTIVE - 11 MAY 2021**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 11 May 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/160 **SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021**

The Executive Member for Culture, Communities and Education and Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval of new schemes to be added to the Schools Capital Programme for delivery in the academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Middlesbrough Council shared responsibility with governing bodies for the maintenance of 12 community and foundation school buildings across the town. The responsibility for general maintenance, repairs and minor capital works was devolved to schools. The Council was responsible for major capital schemes such as the replacement of substantial parts of buildings, the provision of new buildings and other high value, strategic schemes that would be unaffordable by schools on their own.

The Council was also responsible for ensuring there were sufficient school places across the town to be able to meet demand. Investment could be in both locally maintained schools and academies.

Schemes were selected to address maintenance, sufficiency and other strategic priorities. Schemes were prioritised to address those elements of schools with the most urgent need or to secure value for money as part of a larger programme of work.

Appendix 1 of the submitted report set out the programme proposed for delivery during the 2020/21 academic year, running into 2021/22. It included schemes aimed at improving the condition of schools - roof works, fire alarms, improvements to heating systems and structural works and investment to provide more school places.

## **OPTIONS**

The Executive could have chosen not to approve the schemes for inclusion in the Schools Capital Programme. In the short term, that could have led to elements of the buildings identified failing, resulting in lost teaching and learning time, inappropriate learning environments, Health and Safety risks and a shortage of school places.

In the longer-term, such an approach would have led to the gradual decline of the condition of the schools, children being out of school unnecessarily and escalating costs for both the schools and the Council.

## **ORDERED**

That the new schemes included in Appendix 1 be added to the Schools Capital Programme for delivery in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

## **REASON**

To ensure that the grant funding available was spent in a timely manner on improving teaching and learning environments and outcomes for young people.

To deliver the Council's statutory obligation to ensure there were sufficient school places to meet demand, in particular at secondary age or as a result of housing development, and to meet suitability and condition requirements.

There was no obligation for the Council to consult over those schemes. Schools named in the programme had been engaged on a tentative basis to ensure that, where a school contribution to the cost of schemes was required, that could be agreed.

The Schools Capital Programme had not been examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or by a Scrutiny Panel.

**The decision(s) will come into force after five working days following the day the decision(s) was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.**

**EXECUTIVE**

A meeting of the Executive was held on Thursday 27 May 2021.

**PRESENT:** A Preston (The Mayor) (Chair) and Councillors B Cooper, E Polano and M Smiles

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillors B Hubbard and J McTigue

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors C Hobson, J Hobson and S Hill

**OFFICERS:** M Adams, C Benjamin, G Cooper, G Field, A. Glover, R Horniman, T Parkinson, S Reynolds, E Scollay and I Wright

21/1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>Item/Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor E Polano	Non-Pecuniary	Item 10 - Middlesbrough Development Company (MDC): Finance, Ward Councillor
Mayor A Preston	Pecuniary	Item 10, Middlesbrough Development Company (MDC): Finance, Director of MDC.
Mayor A Preston	Pecuniary	Item 11, Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund, owns properties in Middlehaven.

**SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 5 - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**ORDERED** that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 5, the committee agreed to vary the order of business.

The Mayor advised that, given the pecuniary interests that he had declared in respect of agenda items 10 and 11, those items would be considered after item 14 at which point he would leave the meeting and proceedings would be chaired by Councillor Smiles.

21/2 **STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-24: APPROACH TO DELIVERY**

The Mayor and Lead Member for Children’s Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection and the Chief Executive submitted a report for the Executive’s consideration. Following approval of the refreshed Strategic Plan 2021-24 by Council on 24 February 2021, the purpose of the report was to seek the Executive’s endorsement of the Strategic Plan workplan and associated outcomes, to assure achievement of the Council’s strategic priorities for the 2021-24 period.

The proposed workplan was set out at Appendix 1 of the submitted report, for consideration and approval. In developing the workplan, consideration had been given to the outcome of the 2020 Let’s Talk consultation exercise, with further activity being added to improve the following, which in turn would contribute to improved performance against the aforementioned outcomes:

- residents feeling safe outside after dark;
- local satisfaction with road and pavement maintenance;
- local satisfaction with street cleaning; and
- residents speaking positively about the work of the Council.

Progress against delivery of the workplan would be monitored on a monthly basis and reported to all Members quarterly via all-member briefings and as part of the quarterly Strategic Plan update reports to the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

In November 2020, as a result of a surge in cases of COVID-19, nationally imposed restrictions and the resulting impact on the local approach to Recovery, the Executive approved the Council's revised approach to COVID-19 Recovery and noted the updated Recovery metrics and measures.

As one of the nine strategic priorities, it had been proposed that all associated Recovery works and activities would be subsumed within the Strategic Plan 2021-24 workplan.

## **OPTIONS**

**It was imperative that the Council effectively articulated and communicated an overarching plan which directed activity across Directorates towards the achievement of its strategic priorities. As such, no other options had been considered.**

## **ORDERED**

- 1. That the proposed Strategic Plan workplan and outcomes, to assure achievement of the Council's strategic priorities for the 2021-24 period, be approved.**
- 2. That the inclusion of all Recovery works and activities within the Strategic Plan 2021-24 workplan be approved and its proposed adherence to the monitoring and governance arrangements be noted, as outlined in the report.**
- 3. That the delegation of approval for minor amendments to in-quarter timescales to the Chief Executive be agreed. Any significant variation to approach or deliverables would be reported to, and seek approval via, the quarterly Strategic Plan progress reports to Executive.**

## **REASONS**

**To provide the necessary detail to demonstrate robust delivery plans of the Council's strategic priorities and assurance of the associated governance.**

21/3

## **REVISED FEE STRUCTURE FOR NEWHAM GRANGE FARM**

The Executive Member for Culture, Communities and Education and the Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval to increase existing entrance fees for Newham Grange Farm, in line with the enhanced facilities and increased programme, and amend the pricing structure for group bookings for the next 3 financial years.

Appendix 1 of the submitted report contained details of the existing and proposed charges increase for the next 3 financial years.

It was considered that the existing charges no longer reflected the true cost of providing the service. The revised charging schedule planned to bring the Council closer in line with that of neighbouring farm/tourist attractions within the Tees Valley and surrounding areas. Newham Grange Farm, however, would still remain significantly cheaper than the closest leisure farm. The comparison farm prices were contained at Appendix 2 of the submitted report.

## **OPTIONS**

**Three options had been considered:**

- 1. not to increase existing fees;**
- 2. introduce new fees as provided; and**
- 3. set fees in line with competitor farms.**

**Option 1 and 3 had been discounted. As stated in the body of the submitted report, fees did not reflect the on-going costs of providing the service and would not have contributed towards delivering the Council's business imperatives. Equally, setting the fees too high would not have allowed the Council to offer a high quality attraction to**

some residents in Middlesbrough.

## ORDERED

**That the increase in, and additional, fees and charges identified (Appendix 1) be approved.**

## REASON

**The level of charges being recommended reflected the costs of delivering the service and brought them more in line with those being charged by other farm attractions within the Tees valley.**

21/4

## TEESSIDE ARCHIVES

The Executive Member for Culture, Communities and Education and the Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to set out the future operating arrangements for Teesside Archives and to provide information on the funding required to facilitate them.

The Teesside Archives Service had been established in 1974 and acquired, preserved and made available archives created by the four local authorities it served (Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland) and other archives relating to the local area.

The storage of archives (excluding the front of house facilities) currently occupied approximately 700 cubic metres of space in Exchange Buildings, a Grade II listed custodian property in central Middlesbrough, owned under the historic 'custodian' arrangements by the four local authorities.

The Archives cost £241,800 p.a. to operate, which was funded by the four local authorities, with Middlesbrough's share equating to £44,400.

According to national standards, an Archives Service should ideally be housed in a building with stable temperate and humidity levels with no windows in storage areas, over one floor. Exchange House fundamentally failed to meet that requirement and the overall suitability of the building for housing an archive had been further compromised, as its condition had deteriorated over time.

Following an extensive search and costing exercise, a proposal had emerged as the most deliverable short to medium term solution. Information on the proposal, and the cost implications, was detailed at paragraphs 21 to 35 of the submitted report.

## OPTIONS

**Retaining Teesside Archives within the current building was no longer a viable option. The proposed option should not therefore be measured against the 'do nothing' option or current costed arrangements, but against the other alternatives currently available. As a result, the following options had been considered and discounted:**

1. **Refurbishing an existing building - No buildings had been identified that were surplus to requirements and had the size and configuration of space that would have met The National Archives accreditation standard. The requirement for significant floor loadings also ruled some potential buildings out. Ultimately, no suitable buildings had been identified.**
2. **Converting a larger industrial building - Plans had been considered for constructing appropriate storage within an empty industrial building, but the costs were prohibitive, with some options exceeding the costs of constructing a new purpose built facility.**
3. **New build facility - As identified above, the costs of constructing a new archive facility had been identified as prohibitive. The latest designs had been costed in excess of £7m, which would not have been possible to secure for a standalone archive.**

4. **Splitting the archive into four - Returning material to the original local authority area had been considered, and would have been achievable at a cost lower than building a single new facility, but not every authority could have accommodated the stock, and the costs of managing and storing four separate archives would have been prohibitive.**

#### **ORDERED**

1. **That the transfer of Teesside Archives stock to commercial storage be approved.**
2. **That the relocation of Teesside Archives staff to the Dorman Museum be approved.**
3. **That the use of up to £325,000 from any subsequent sale of Exchange House be used for relocation of Teesside Archives (subject to confirmation from the three other Custodian authorities).**
4. **That the pursuit of external funding, for the longer term development of new archive storage, attached to the Dorman Museum, be approved.**

#### **REASON**

**The proposed relocation to commercial storage and the Dorman Museum would enable the Teesside Archives to retain their accredited status with The National Archives. Remaining in Exchange House would not.**

21/5

#### **GREEN STRATEGY**

The Executive Member for Environment and Finance & Governance and the Director of Environment and Community Services submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the adoption of the Green Strategy, following the public consultation, and the Year One Action Plan.

A report was submitted to Executive on 1 September 2020 that outlined the proposed Green Strategy and sought approval, which was granted, to commence with consultation on the adoption of the emerging Green Strategy.

The Green Strategy had three main aims:

1. To make Middlesbrough Council net carbon neutral by 2029.
2. To ensure Middlesbrough as a town was net carbon neutral by 2039.
3. To make Middlesbrough a lead authority on environmental issues.

The public consultation was launched on 15 November 2020 for a six week period, which had then extended to 31 January 2021 to encourage more responses. The feedback gathered within the consultation was overwhelmingly in favour of adopting a Green Strategy and that Middlesbrough should become a lead authority on green issues. A document outlining feedback gathered during the consultation was included at Appendix 2 of the submitted report.

#### **OPTIONS**

**The other potential decision was to not adopt a Green Strategy. That was not recommended as the Council had a moral and legal responsibility to address climate change and reduce the carbon emissions of Middlesbrough and therefore taking no action and not adopting a Green Strategy was not a viable option.**

#### **ORDERED**

1. **That the adoption of the Green Strategy, following the public consultation, be approved.**
2. **That the Year One Action Plan be approved.**

#### **REASON**

**The Green Strategy set a programme to meet current Government targets for increasing recycling uptake to 40 percent and reducing Greenhouse gas emissions to**



net zero by 2050, which was a commitment that the UK made by signing the Paris Agreement which was contained within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The adoption of the Green Strategy was recommended as a vehicle to deliver the Council's obligations to address Climate Change. The implications of climate change were broad ranging and significant and the Council had a responsibility to ensure measures were put in place to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The overwhelming feedback from the Green Strategy public consultation process was that the majority of respondents (82%) agreed that Middlesbrough should be a lead authority on green issues, which the Green Strategy would achieve.

A summary of feedback from the Green Strategy consultation was as follows:

- 175 respondents in total.
- 145 (82.8%) respondents agreed with the Mayor's ambition that Middlesbrough should be a lead authority on green issues.
- 18 (10.2%) of respondents disagreed with the Mayor's vision, stating a number of reasons. For example, monies would be better being spent elsewhere, such as tackling crime (44%) and building on Green Spaces (20%).
- On average 162 (92.5%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the 10 OPL principles were perceived as important.
- 99 (56.5%) of respondents agreed that the proposed strategy would achieve the Mayor's ambitions.
- 97 (55.4%) of respondents provided suggestions about what else could be considered to include in the draft strategy. 24% of those respondents suggested that building on Green spaces ceases and 30% suggested other measures, including: electric vehicle charging points, clean air help with solar power, culture, local produce.
- 105 (60%) of respondents indicated that they were interested in finding out how they could help achieve the vision.
- 102 (58.2%) of respondents indicated what they were already doing, or planning to do, to contribute to the town's carbon neutral proposals.
- 79 (45.1%) of respondents felt that they either didn't know or felt that they needed more information, support or guidance to contribute towards the town's carbon neutral proposals.
- 50 additional comments were made by the respondents, when asked 'Do you have any other comments you wish to make on the draft strategy'.
- The demographic of all respondents was:
  - 145 (83.3%) of respondents - an individual resident of Middlesbrough;
  - 12 (6.8%) of respondents - a community group;
  - 3 (1.7%) of respondents - a business or agency;
  - 14 (8.2%) of respondents - as part of an organisation.

21/6

#### **TREE POLICY (AMENDED FEBRUARY 2021)**

The Executive Member for Environment and Finance & Governance and the Director of Environment and Community Services submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for Middlesbrough Council's Tree Policy (amended February 2021).

The previous Tree Policy had been adopted by the Council in 2016. The tree policy covered the management of trees within Middlesbrough and provided advice to residents on dealing with all arboricultural issues.

The existing Tree policy had been in use for 5 years and it was important that a review was conducted to ensure it remained effective/compliant with industry best practice.

The policy review looked at changes in legislation to ensure they were all current and still relevant to the policy. It also looked at any ambiguities from the previous policy and clarified the Council's position. The policy now also took into consideration any advancements in technology not included in the previous version, i.e. solar panels and modern telecommunications. There was also a new section on planning taking into consideration any

new housing developments. All amendments were detailed in paragraph 5 within the submitted report.

## **OPTIONS**

**Doing nothing was not an option, not having a Tree Policy in place would have placed Middlesbrough at serious risk and target setting opportunities could have been missed.**

## **ORDERED**

**That the Tree Policy (amended February 2021) be adopted.**

## **REASON**

**The Tree Policy had been reviewed and subsequently amended to ensure it remained in line with legislation, best practice and offered clear concise guidance to all users.**

21/7

## **JOINT DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

The Executive Member of the Regeneration and the Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to see approval to work in formal collaboration with Jomast Developments LTD and to explore development opportunities for key central Middlesbrough properties including Church House, Gurney House, the (former) Barclays Bank building on Albert Road and land on Bridge Street East detailed in Appendix A of the submitted report.

Whilst the joint venture did not amount to a financial relationship, external funding opportunities would be explored to enable investment in, and reuse of, prominent town centre properties. A joint venture relationship did not imply any undertaking for the Council to commit direct investment.

To align with Middlesbrough's strategic priorities and to maintain coherence of vision, Jomast Developments Ltd was keen to work closely with Middlesbrough Council to align visions, market compelling proposals for prospective tenants / investors and explore external funding support to aid commercial viability. The heads of terms agreement, at Appendix A of the submitted report, outlined the purpose and framework of the proposed relationship, although that did not amount to a financial relationship or exclusivity option for any Council-owned land.

Appendix A of the submitted report set out the full scope and conditionality of a collaboration agreement / joint venture.

## **OPTIONS**

**Do not enter into a Joint Venture - The Council was not obliged to formalise a relationship with Jomast Developments Ltd, however, missing an opportunity for strategic alignment of priorities and promoting the refurbishment and reuse of properties may have taken much longer to deliver.**

**Enter into a Joint Venture - Historical collaborative working with the organisation had proved to rapidly progress mutual regeneration objectives for both parties. The properties in scope of that agreement were of local note and were symbolic to the local population. Bringing those properties back into use would provide a significant injection into the urban market for commercial space and residential opportunities, aiding the recovery of our local economy and building on the momentum of recent commercial and residential priorities.**

## **ORDERED**

1. **That the entering into a collaborative joint venture with Jomast Developments Ltd (Jomast) be approved, for the purposes of exploring development opportunities, and external funding, for key town centre assets - as set out in Appendix A.**
2. **That the recent progress made in regenerating and occupying commercial space on Albert Road North be noted.**

**REASON**

**Private sector input was key to support the future aspirations of Middlesbrough. Church House and Gurney House were of particular local interest and had been vacant for many years. They were prominent properties on Middlesbrough's skyline and were in dire need of investment, activity and animation. Bringing such property back into use would aid the economic ambitions for the area and provide a major boost in raising perceptions in the area.**

**The proposed relationship represented no financial commitment or obligations and, as such, was of minimal risk to the Council, whilst the strategic benefits could be extensive.**

21/8

**LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY 2 (LAD2) GRANT APPLICATION AND SCHEME DELIVERY**

The Executive Member for Regeneration and the Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the acceptance of the Local Authority Delivery 2 funding award and the procurement of EON as the Council's delivery partner, if the application was successful.

The Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (LAD2) Scheme aimed to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, help to reduce fuel poverty, phase out high carbon fossil fuel heating and deliver progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.

Phase 2 comprised £300m allocated through Local Energy Hubs for regional delivery up to December 2021. The North East Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub had secured £51.95m in LAD2 funding from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Middlesbrough Council had applied for the full £1,091,161 allocation which BEIS had calculated based on Middlesbrough's fuel poverty figures. That allocation included a maximum 11% allocation for the costs of running the scheme of £108,133.

Middlesbrough Council had been working with the 4 other Tees Valley authorities and all 5 were in discussions with EON to negotiate a contract to deliver the majority of the scheme.

LAD2 would be mainly aimed at homeowners in fuel poverty.

**OPTIONS**

**The alternative would be to not accept the LAD 2 funding of £1,091,161 if the application was successful. The money would have then been offered to other local authorities who felt able to expand their schemes. That would have meant the least energy efficient residential properties in Middlesbrough not receiving energy improvement works, resulting in households remaining in fuel poverty.**

**ORDERED**

**That the Local Authority Delivery 2 funding award be accepted and EON be procured as the Council's delivery partner, if the application was successful.**

**REASON**

**Due to tight timescales for delivery and lack of internal capacity, appointing a delivery partner was the only way to ensure the Council met the requirements of the grant and avoided any clawback of funding. The 5 Tees Valley local authorities had worked collaboratively with Operational Leads, Procurement, Finance and Legal to ensure the proposed procurement route was compliant with Standing Orders.**

**The application for LAD2 funding and the delivery of a scheme, if successful, had not been the subject of the Overview and Scrutiny Board or a Scrutiny Panel.**

21/9

### **FINAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL - PEST CONTROL SERVICES - SERVICE RESPONSE**

The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of Pest Control. A copy of the full report was attached.

The scrutiny panel made three recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Executive Member for Environment and Finance & Governance and the Director of Environment and Community Services submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the Action Plan was attached.

The Vice-Chair of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel presented the final report to the Executive. The Executive Member for Environment and Finance & Governance presented the service response.

#### **ORDERED**

1. **That the content of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel's Final Report, on Pest Control, be noted.**
2. **That the Action Plan, developed in response to the scrutiny panel's recommendations, be approved.**

#### **REASON**

**It was a requirement that Executive formally considered the Scrutiny Panel's report and confirmed the Service Area's response to the Panel's accompanying plan.**

21/10

### **FINAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL - OPIOID DEPENDENCY - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? - SERVICE RESPONSE**

The Health Scrutiny Panel had undertaken a review of Opioid Dependency: What Happens Next? A copy of the full report was attached.

The scrutiny panel made 15 recommendations upon which a response was sought from the relevant service area. The Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection and the Director of Public Health submitted a service response to the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the Action Plan was attached.

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel presented the final report to the Executive. The Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection presented the service response.

#### **ORDERED**

1. **That the content of the Health Scrutiny Panel's Final Report, on Opioid Dependency: What Happens Next?, be noted.**
2. **That the Action Plan, developed in response to the scrutiny panel's recommendations, be approved.**

#### **REASON**

**It was a requirement that Executive formally considered the Scrutiny Panel's report and confirmed the Service Area's response to the Panel's accompanying plan.**

21/11

### **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

The Chair agreed for an urgent item to be considered in light of the inquorate meeting of the Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection that had been scheduled to take place on 27 May 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**Project: Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health and Wellbeing 2021-**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the receipt of national investment via an Expression of Interest submission to support Public Mental Health Interventions and to request delegated powers for the Director of Public Health, in the future delivery of interventions to the value of £273,214.00.

The report outlined that on 27 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published the COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan for 2021 to 2022 to mitigate and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. To support implementation of the Plan, national funding of £15 million had been allocated to preventing mental ill health and promoting good mental health in the 40 most deprived upper tier local authorities in England.

Middlesbrough had been selected as an area eligible to submit an Expression of Interest to receive funding which would be distributed as a section 31 grant (Local Government Act 2003) subject to appropriate approvals. There was a need to submit an Expression of Interest form, together with a project plan and proposed budget, to Public Health England by 11.59pm Friday 28 May 2021.

The single year fund was designed to incentivise investment in prevention and promotion interventions for better mental health in the most deprived local authorities. Specifically, to mitigate mental health impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, reduce widening mental health inequalities by targeting at risk and vulnerable groups and ensure adequate distribution of funding to support minority ethnic communities. The impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the social and economic consequences of the pandemic had meant that tackling mental health at a population level had never been more important. COVID-19 had been recognised as a public mental health emergency that exacerbates existing mental health inequalities.

The proposed interventions and associated finance were aligned to the services that Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) mental health trust and Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (TVCCG) were developing as part of the Covid-19 Mental Health Recovery Plan. In summary, the proposal planned to support additional public mental health resilience and capacity to develop and deliver:

- programmes to support emotional health and wellbeing of children young people and families;
- a Wellbeing Network to connect mental wellbeing assets, frontline practitioners and activities;
- perinatal and maternal wellbeing;
- peer mentorship programmes in schools and communities;
- building the capacity and capability across the workforce to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health within everyday practice;
- promoting wellbeing in the workplaces; and
- promoting parental resilience.

### Options

**Retaining the status quo and not accepting the funding would have denied Middlesbrough residents the opportunity for significant investment to improving the levels of mental health and wellbeing of the population, to mitigate the mental health impacts of Covid-19 for those at greatest risk of poor mental health and prevent further harm.**

### ORDERED

1. **That the progression of an Expression of Interest to receive funding from Public Health England – Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health, for the period of July 2021 to March 2022, be approved.**
2. **That the Director of Public Health and Director of Finance be delegated authority to allocate available grant for Middlesbrough of £273,214.00**

## REASONS

The decisions were supported by the following reasons:

1. **PHE Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health presented an opportunity to build on existing programmes across the borough to improve the mental health outcomes for those at risk of poor mental health.**
2. **Spending on public mental health was not currently mandated in the public health grant and its importance could be overlooked locally. However, mental health prevention, promotion and early intervention could reduce pressures on NHS services, social care, education, criminal justice and employers, resulting in economic benefits even in the short-term.**
3. **Mental well-being was fundamental to achieving a healthy, resilient and thriving population. Mental health and well-being were inextricably linked as both a cause and a consequence of physical health, educational attainment, employment and productivity, relationships, community safety, community cohesion and quality of life. Factors that protected mental well-being included - individual control and community ownership, individual resilience and community assets, participation and inclusion. It was likely that all of those factors may have been impacted upon as a result of the Council's national response to COVID-19.**
4. **There were particular challenges in relation to mental health for Middlesbrough. The baseline assessment for Middlesbrough (Mental Health and Wellbeing PHE JSNA data, 2019) had highlighted that mental health disorders (including suicides) were poor when compared to rates across the North East and England. That included a range of risk factors such as children in low-income families, inability to work, and poverty. Protective factors for mental health, including level of employment and physical activity were also lower than average rates. Most, if not all of those factors could be envisaged to be exacerbated under conditions linked to the coronavirus response. Simultaneously, the ability to maintain key protective factors for mental health would also be challenged. The funding could save lives and contribute to improving the mental health and wellbeing of the population and for those at greatest risk of poor mental health.**

21/12

### **MIDDLESBROUGH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (MDC): FINANCE**

Following a declaration of interests in respect of the following items, the Mayor left the meeting at this point. For the remainder of business, Councillor Smiles chaired proceedings.

The Executive Member for Regeneration, the Executive Member for Environment and Finance & Governance, the Director of Regeneration and Culture and the Director of Finance submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for an additional capital allocation to Middlesbrough Development Company (MDC), to meet a funding shortfall caused by a lower than anticipated Homes England grant allocation and increased costs.

In December 2019, the Executive approved the use of £3.5m of allocated funding for the development of land at Rievaulx Drive, known locally as Tollesby shops.

The report had informed the Executive that the vacant parade of shops had been causing significant problems for the local community and were viewed to be 'blighting the area'. It was proposed that MHome (now Middlesbrough Development Company) would acquire the site and utilise an existing scheme, for which planning permission had already been secured by the then owner, to redevelop the site and provide 21 units of affordable residential accommodation and two commercial units.

Since the approval of the December 2019 Executive report, the existing buildings had been demolished and MDC had completed the purchase of the site from the private owner.

The MDC Board approved a Project Plan for the development, which included the

appointment of a professional team to redesign the project and directly appoint a construction contractor, with MDC acting as the developer. The Project Plan included a cash flow and viability assessment for the project, which assumed a total development cost of £4.986m and an Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) grant of £1.5m from Homes England.

A new scheme design provided retail units on the ground floor and a total of 24 flats for affordable rent on the first and second floors, with associated car parking and access provision.

The revised scheme was submitted to Homes England for consideration for funding from the 2016 to 2021 AHP and a grant allocation of £936k was subsequently confirmed.

The MDC Project Plan assumed a scheme cost of £4.986m. The total cost of the project was now estimated to be £5.4m (including a £100k contingency) as a consequence of the factors set out below.

- a) The scheme, which achieved planning was significantly different from the original draft design.
- b) The build costs were now largely based on actual contractor / consultant prices.
- c) Unforeseen costs associated with complex foundation requirements and a new electricity sub-station.
- d) A 2.5% increase in labour and material costs since the original Project Plan was produced.

In order to allow construction to commence, it was recommended that Executive approved additional funding of up to £1,200,000, which would be provided to MDC in part from £700,000 of Section 106 contributions and £500,000 from Council resources, with the latter being provided as a commercial loan.

## **OPTIONS**

**In respect of the recommendation for the Council to borrow additional capital in order to fund the Tollesby development, other potential decisions had been considered and were summarised in the following paragraphs.**

- 1. Do nothing - In the absence of an additional capital allocation the development would have been undeliverable in its current form. Considerable expense had been incurred in acquiring the site and achieving planning consent, which may not have been recovered.**
- 2. Reduce the scale/quality of the development - The scheme could have been re-designed to bring it within the original budget approval. Considerable expense had again been incurred to gain planning approval for the scheme and the proposals had been subject to consultation with the local community and had been discounted as an option for that reason.**

## **ORDERED**

- 1. That additional funding of up to £1,200,000 to MDC, to facilitate the delivery of the Tollesby development, be approved. The funding would be provided from £700,000 of Section 106 4 contributions and £500,000 of Council resources, with the latter being provided in the form of a commercial loan (subject to sign off from the Council's Section 151 Officer). Both amounts sat within the current approved Investment Strategy allocation to MDC so there would be no additional requirements in that regard;**
- 2. That the Council's Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to approve the transfer of residual funds held within MDC accounts to the Tollesby project, subject to MDC Board approval.**

## **REASON**

**The approval of the additional funding planned to enable the regeneration of the now cleared site to commence in late May/early June 2021, which would:**

- a) enable MDC to develop a high quality scheme of apartments and commercial units and secure a long-term future for a site;**
- b) generate a long-term rental income stream for MDC;**

- c) **support local residents, who campaigned for the removal of a significant blight on the area; and**
- d) **secure income, which would be received from Council Tax and Business Rates.**

21/13

## **TOWNS FUND AND FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND**

The Executive Member for Regeneration and the Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report for the Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to set out the funding allocations and delivery framework for the recently allocated £14.1m from the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF). A significant proportion of that was proposed to be spent within the Council owned asset, the Captain Cook Square shopping centre, along with strategic investment in urban living, cultural activities, business support, transport and accessibility.

The purpose of the report was to seek the formal approval to deliver the FHSF interventions, in line with the strategic business case and funding criteria, as set out in the successful bid.

The report also set out Middlesbrough's Towns Fund programme, as determined by the Town Deal Board and approved by HM Government. That established the delivery framework for funded project interventions and set out how a coherent investment programme which deployed a combination of Council Capital (previously approved), Private Sector leverage, Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund would deliver transformational change for Middlesbrough's businesses and residents.

Middlesbrough Council had bid for £20.5m in funding and had successfully secured £14.1m from the FHSF in the budget March 2021. The programme had been adjusted to match the funding offer and that had been approved by MHCLG. The programme now included (see Appendix A of the submitted report):

- i. £3.5m for residential property;
- ii. £1.05m for transport adaptations and improving safety / security of town centre areas;
- iii. £270,352 for cultural animation and experiences;
- iv. £250k for businesses adaptations for covid mitigations; and,
- v. £9.1m for the transformation of Captain Cook Square for leisure uses, incentives, decant compensation, remodelling units, contribution to fit out and adapting public spaces.

Middlesbrough aimed to commence investment immediately and would deliver a programme over the next three years.

### **ORDERED**

1. **That the funding offer for Middlesbrough Council's funding bid, for the investment of the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) allocation, be approved - equating to a total of £14.1m, as detailed within Appendix A.**
2. **That Middlesbrough's Town Deal funding programme totalling £21.9m, as determined by Middlesbrough's Town Deal Board, be endorsed - as detailed in Appendix B.**
3. **That Middlesbrough Council take responsibility as the accountable body for the Towns Fund.**
4. **That the Director of Regeneration and Culture and the Director of Finance be delegated approval to vire allocations beneath the £14.1m FHSF allocation, insofar as the objects of the programme and the outputs be consistent with the objectives of the bid, and subject to grant conditions and change control processes.**
5. **That the Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund delivery objectives, as aligned with the Town Centre Strategy and the Council's Strategic Plan, be noted.**

### **REASON**

**Acceptance of the (combined) funding offer of £36m from the Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund, would enable Middlesbrough to invest in a transformational change in its high street economy, economic base, skills and communities. That would provide**



a sound underpinning to create new opportunities for Middlesbrough businesses and residents, alike.

The decision(s) will come into force after five working days following the day the decision(s) was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures. The report entitled 'Project: Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health and Wellbeing 2021-22' was considered as an urgent item and is therefore exempt from call-in procedures.

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<b>Report of:</b>	Andy Preston - The Mayor and Lead Member for Children’s Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection Erik Scollay - Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 15 June 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Domestic Abuse New Burden Funding - Provision of Support within Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services for 2021-2022

**Summary**

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Executive approves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment is undertaken so we can commission and ensure provision of support for victims and children in safe accommodation which enables Middlesbrough Council to meet new statutory duties and report back to central government confirming we have met the obligations</li> <li>ii. The terms and conditions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and that delegated authority is granted to the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration to sign this on behalf of the Council</li> <li>iii. That the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, in consultation with the Executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, receives delegated authority to allocate the £394,865 funding as per commissioning intentions/ decision identified by Needs Assessment.</li> </ul>

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
Decision	Yes	No	No –Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise the working relationship and expectations relating to authority’s allocated funding was required by 18 March 2021. This was completed by Andrew Humble Head of financial Planning and

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

			Support on 16 March 2021 (Appendix 1). Email received from MHCLG with the Grant determination letter on 8 April 2021 (Appendix 6) Needs Assessment based on guidance should be completed by August 2021
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<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Head on</li> <li>• We will continue to promote the welfare of our children, young people and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm, abuse and neglect.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giving local communities a real say in the future of the town, and how our services are developed and delivered.</li> </ul>

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
All wards are affected by this proposal

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

1. To request delegated powers for the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, and Chair of the Domestic Abuse Strategic partnership in consultation with the Executive member for Adult Social Care to undertake a needs assessment and revise strategy ( See Appendix 2) and allocate funding as per intervention/decisions to meet the statutory duties outlined in Domestic Abuse Bill <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-overarching-documents>.

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

2. This decision is a key decision, affecting all wards in Middlesbrough and with financial implications over the key decision threshold of £150,000.

## Report Background

3. The Domestic Abuse Bill is currently before Parliament, but may not receive Royal Assent by April. Nevertheless, it is Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) expectation that from 1 April 2021, local authorities should start to fulfil their relevant functions as if the new duty were in force, and continue to fulfil these functions in line with the duty once it is commenced (subject to Parliamentary approval).
4. The government is introducing new statutory duties on local authorities ensuring that all victims, including children have access to safety and support within safe accommodation when they need it. In March Middlesbrough share of the New Burden funding was announced and published. Funding allocation methods: new domestic abuse duty - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (See Appendix 4)
5. This funding is awarded specifically to meet the cost of provision and support in safe accommodation for victims and children and the administrative new burden relating to local authority costs of delivering the new functions under the duty. Local authorities are expected to finalise plans for implementation of the duty, which will mean that victims should not be turned away from refuge and safe accommodation and be enabled to access life-saving support to help them recover and rebuild their lives.
6. To do this Middlesbrough Local authority, with support from Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, will conduct a needs assessment to determine the level of need for domestic abuse support for victims /survivors residing in safe accommodation and publish a revised version of Preventing Domestic Abuse strategy by August 2021.
7. The New Burden funding covers the estimated cost of providing unmet need for support in safe accommodation to victims and their children, as well as needs previously supported through MHCLG short-term challenge funds, which provided funding for the Middlesbrough element of the Regional Domestic Abuse Navigator Project. The needs assessment and strategy will inform how the funding should be spent and inform immediate and long term commissioning intentions.

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

8. That Executive approves:
  - i. The local needs assessment based on the expectations set out in the Needs Assessment Template (Appendix 2)
  - ii. The terms and conditions outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix 1)
  - iii. That the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration, in consultation with the Executive member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, receives delegated authority to sign off the needs assessment and strategy and allocate funding for the project up to £394,865 per intervention/decision.

## **Why is this being recommended?**

9. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration is the Chair of the Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Partnership and the officer who will be responsible for undertaking needs assessment and revising the preventing Domestic Abuse strategy reports to Head of Prevention Access and Provider Services in Adult Social Care.

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

### ***Legal***

10. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, when it comes into force creates duties on Local Authorities, specifically at section 15-17 with regard to duties in relation to the Commissioner, and Part 4 of the Act referencing support. Therefore provision must be in place to support the coming into force of the Act.

### ***Financial***

11. The new burden funding is additional funding which does not impact on the Council's baseline financial position. The additional income is specifically to ensure authorities meet new burden associated with Domestic Abuse Bill and there will be no adverse impact on existing Council services.

### ***Policy Framework***

12. Approval of the recommendations will not affect any part of the Council's Policy Framework.

### ***Equality and Diversity***

13. A needs assessment will be completed which requires review and consideration of impact of Domestic Abuse on protected groups

### ***Risk***

14. The strategic risk register had already identified risk in relation to the council not meeting statutory duties outlined in Domestic Abuse Bill and this is being managed through Pentana.

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

15. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will review membership to ensure it is convened with members from a range of agencies and services across the authority that perform specific functions. Board members representing each function should be able to support officer conducting needs assessment in accessing specific data sets and information relating to their function. This work undertaken during needs assessment will report to Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Partnership and the joint Adult Social care and Public Health DMT.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1- Middlesbrough Memorandum of Understanding signed  
Appendix 2- Needs Assessment Form and Guidance  
Appendix 3- Needs Assessment Q&A  
Appendix 4- MHCLG Funding Announcement Q&A  
Appendix 5- Grant determination

## **Background papers**

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

**Contact:** Claire Moore Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Lead  
**Email:** Claire\_moore@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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## **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has determined under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 that a grant of £125 million should be paid to the local authorities detailed at Annex A.

The Treasury has consented to payment of this grant.

### **Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalise the working relationship and expectations relating to the payment from MHCLG to Councils to enable them to fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation outlined at Section A for preparation and continuity.

This MoU has been drafted to set out the principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between MHCLG and local authorities listed at Annex A with regard to delivering the new statutory duty (as described above).

While this document is not a legal or binding agreement, all parties enter into the MOU committed to honouring all their obligations within it.

### **About the Grant**

1. The Secretary of State has determined that to ensure that local authorities are able to continue funding support to victims and their children until the commencement of the new statutory duty<sup>1</sup>, and to keep up the momentum (achieved through the 2020/21 £6 million Domestic Abuse Capacity Building Fund) enabling preparation so that local authorities are as ready as they can be, (see Annex A for the overview of the new duty) the grant funding for 2021/22 is to be paid on 1 April based on the understanding that:

- a) The grant only covers revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in the new statutory duty (within the Domestic Abuse Bill) on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation;
- b) The grant is distributed to Local Authorities for the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 for the purpose of and the expectation that they start to prepare and fulfil their relevant functions under the duty from that date as if the new duty were in force and continue to fulfil these functions in line with the duty once it is commenced (subject to Parliamentary approval).
- c) The Bill will put in place a statutory framework for the delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation. Tier 1 Local Authorities will be required to appoint a multi-

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of drawing up the agreement the new statutory duty is still subject to Parliamentary approval.

agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions. These will be:

- **Assess the need** for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross border support.
- **Prepare and publish strategies** for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
- **Give effect to strategies by making commissioning/de-commissioning decisions to meet the support needs of victims and their children.**
- **Monitor and evaluate local delivery of the strategy.**
- **Report back to Central Government; expected to include:**
  - Reporting on local delivery – setting out how the functions have been executed under the new duty (including reporting on strategy, as well as how partnership working has been approached working across key agencies and across neighbouring areas;
  - Evidence that adequate needs assessments have been undertaken;
  - Evidence that local strategies are in place and working effectively;
  - Evidence that local commissioning decisions have been informed by needs assessments and that there is adequate suitable provision;
  - An evaluation of the impact of decisions locally including service delivery outcomes;
  - Evidence on spend and feedback on delivery, including challenges faced and best practice.

(d) Tier 2 authorities will be required to cooperate with the Tier 1 authority, so far as is reasonably practicable.

(e) To ensure continuity in provision, where existing domestic abuse safe accommodation support services (which are meeting a need in that area) are already commissioned by Tier 2 Local Authorities, Tier 1 Local Authorities commit to either contract services directly or pass the appropriate funding to Tier 2 Local Authorities to maintain equivalent commissioned services until the needs assessments have been completed and the new strategies are in place on which future commissioning decisions can be based.

(f) Subject to Royal Assent of the Domestic Abuse Bill, and consultation, MHCLG expects to set out in regulations that Tier 1 authorities should finalise and publish their first strategy, based on a robust needs assessment, by August 21.

## **B. Definitions**

2. In this MoU :

‘MHCLG’ means the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government;

‘Bill’ means the Domestic Abuse Bill;

‘Tier 1 Local Authorities’ means county and unitary councils (other than London Boroughs), the Greater London Authority and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

'Tier 2 Local Authorities' means district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs.

'LPB' means the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board described in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Bill;

3. The 'new statutory duty' is: the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation as set out in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

4. 'Eligible expenditure' means the payment of amount set out at Annex A.

5. 'Funding Period' means the period commencing on 01 April 2021 and ending on 31 March 2022.

6. 'Grant Recipient' means Local Authorities in England.

### **C. Amount of Grant until the end of March 2022**

7. The maximum amount of grant payable for the funding period between 01 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 is set out at Annex A of this MoU.

### **D. Eligibility criteria**

8. Payment of grant cannot be offered unless the Grant Recipient is a local authority in England.

**SIGNED** for on behalf of

The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Name Cathy Page

Position Deputy Director, Housing with Care and Support



Signature

**SIGNED** for on behalf of

Local Authority: MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Name ANDREW HUMBLE

Position HEAD OF FINANCIAL PLANNING & SUPPORT

Signature



Date

16/3/21

**Annex A**

<b>Tier One Authorities</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>DA duty 2021/22 allocation</b>
E08000016	Barnsley	£586,210
E06000022	Bath and North East Somerset	£311,380
E06000055	Bedford	£335,779
E08000025	Birmingham	£3,263,007
E06000008	Blackburn with Darwen	£382,118
E06000009	Blackpool	£411,598
E08000001	Bolton	£682,592
E06000058	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	£750,257
E06000036	Bracknell Forest	£203,767
E08000032	Bradford	£1,381,565
E06000043	Brighton and Hove	£606,288
E06000023	Bristol, City of	£1,079,426
E06000060	Buckinghamshire	£854,917
E08000002	Bury	£401,365
E08000033	Calderdale	£455,966
E10000003	Cambridgeshire	£1,140,318
E06000056	Central Bedfordshire	£470,255
E06000049	Cheshire East	£648,332
E06000050	Cheshire West and Chester	£647,714
E06000052	Cornwall	£1,173,569
E06000047	County Durham	£1,167,170
E08000026	Coventry	£849,930
E10000006	Cumbria	£995,779
E06000005	Darlington	£222,365
E06000015	Derby	£601,194
E10000007	Derbyshire	£1,471,203
E10000008	Devon	£1,421,907
E08000017	Doncaster	£732,742
E06000059	Dorset	£650,730
E08000027	Dudley	£663,972
E06000011	East Riding of Yorkshire	£573,444
E10000011	East Sussex	£1,069,272
E10000012	Essex	£2,763,458
E08000037	Gateshead	£459,609

N/A	GLA	£20,688,230
E10000013	Gloucestershire	£1,105,661
E06000006	Halton	£326,978
E10000014	Hampshire	£2,300,222
E06000001	Hartlepool	£237,071
E06000019	Herefordshire, County of	£361,911
E10000015	Hertfordshire	£2,013,659
E06000046	Isle of Wight	£292,040
E06000053	Isles of Scilly	£63,000
E10000016	Kent	£3,103,909
E06000010	Kingston upon Hull, City of	£732,844
E08000034	Kirklees	£918,922
E08000011	Knowsley	£459,768
E10000017	Lancashire	£2,493,526
E08000035	Leeds	£1,846,117
E06000016	Leicester	£857,364
E10000018	Leicestershire	£1,127,205
E10000019	Lincolnshire	£1,454,133
E08000012	Liverpool	£1,507,751
E06000032	Luton	£502,704
E08000003	Manchester	£1,652,996
E06000035	Medway	£592,126
E06000002	Middlesbrough	£394,865
E06000042	Milton Keynes	£535,189
E08000021	Newcastle upon Tyne	£735,668
E10000020	Norfolk	£1,806,177
E06000012	North East Lincolnshire	£373,916
E06000013	North Lincolnshire	£342,616
E06000061	North Northamptonshire	£664,295
E06000024	North Somerset	£378,304
E08000022	North Tyneside	£420,523
E10000023	North Yorkshire	£1,041,769
E06000057	Northumberland	£641,149
E06000018	Nottingham	£871,229
E10000024	Nottinghamshire	£1,540,091
E08000004	Oldham	£578,516
E10000025	Oxfordshire	£1,141,151
E06000031	Peterborough	£477,374
E06000026	Plymouth	£589,824
E06000044	Portsmouth	£496,809
E06000038	Reading	£341,986
E06000003	Redcar and Cleveland	£315,512
E08000005	Rochdale	£565,637

E08000018	Rotherham	£617,969
E06000017	Rutland	£63,000
E08000006	Salford	£677,601
E08000028	Sandwell	£841,812
E08000014	Sefton	£605,595
E08000019	Sheffield	£1,325,868
E06000051	Shropshire	£578,549
E06000039	Slough	£340,781
E08000029	Solihull	£422,417
E10000027	Somerset	£1,041,540
E06000025	South Gloucestershire	£467,971
E08000023	South Tyneside	£354,521
E06000045	Southampton	£587,012
E06000033	Southend-on-Sea	£372,090
E08000013	St. Helens	£436,525
E10000028	Staffordshire	£1,554,370
E08000007	Stockport	£576,435
E06000004	Stockton-on-Tees	£422,596
E06000021	Stoke-on-Trent	£647,559
E10000029	Suffolk	£1,411,844
E08000024	Sunderland	£666,874
E10000030	Surrey	£1,916,964
E06000030	Swindon	£430,326
E08000008	Tameside	£547,627
E06000020	Telford and Wrekin	£389,533
E06000034	Thurrock	£366,530
E06000027	Torbay	£308,541
E08000009	Trafford	£432,696
E08000036	Wakefield	£799,867
E08000030	Walsall	£690,150
E06000007	Warrington	£399,956
E10000031	Warwickshire	£1,040,132
E06000037	West Berkshire	£250,101
E06000062	West Northamptonshire	£765,078
E10000032	West Sussex	£1,498,174
E08000010	Wigan	£715,786
E06000054	Wiltshire	£830,051
E06000040	Windsor and Maidenhead	£240,380
E08000015	Wirral	£749,820
E06000041	Wokingham	£247,376
E08000031	Wolverhampton	£650,902
E10000034	Worcestershire	£1,092,703
E06000014	York	£334,506

## Tier Two Authorities

E07000223	Adur	£32,529
E07000026	Allerdale	£32,057
E07000032	Amber Valley	£32,898
E07000224	Arun	£32,105
E07000170	Ashfield	£31,994
E07000105	Ashford	£33,583
E07000200	Babergh	£32,619
E09000002	Barking and Dagenham	£34,707
E09000003	Barnet	£36,159
E07000027	Barrow-in-Furness	£33,047
E07000066	Basildon	£34,097
E07000084	Basingstoke and Deane	£35,125
E07000171	Bassetlaw	£31,917
E09000004	Bexley	£33,794
E07000129	Blaby	£33,291
E07000033	Bolsover	£32,248
E07000136	Boston	£31,477
E07000067	Braintree	£32,264
E07000143	Breckland	£31,450
E09000005	Brent	£35,701
E07000068	Brentwood	£34,750
E07000144	Broadland	£33,077
E09000006	Bromley	£34,892
E07000234	Bromsgrove	£32,832
E07000095	Broxbourne	£34,104
E07000172	Broxtowe	£32,937
E07000117	Burnley	£31,778
E07000008	Cambridge	£37,089
E09000007	Camden	£42,403
E07000192	Cannock Chase	£31,739
E07000106	Canterbury	£33,176
E07000028	Carlisle	£32,315
E07000069	Castle Point	£32,437
E07000130	Charnwood	£32,295
E07000070	Chelmsford	£34,177
E07000078	Cheltenham	£33,524
E07000177	Cherwell	£34,385
E07000034	Chesterfield	£32,300

E07000225	Chichester	£34,060
E07000118	Chorley	£31,035
E09000001	City of London	£48,589
E07000071	Colchester	£33,646
E07000029	Copeland	£34,823
E07000079	Cotswold	£33,790
E07000163	Craven	£32,614
E07000226	Crawley	£35,672
E09000008	Croydon	£34,919
E07000096	Dacorum	£34,151
E07000107	Dartford	£34,997
E07000035	Derbyshire Dales	£32,383
E07000108	Dover	£33,017
E09000009	Ealing	£35,735
E07000009	East Cambridgeshire	£33,982
E07000040	East Devon	£31,959
E07000085	East Hampshire	£34,038
E07000242	East Hertfordshire	£34,089
E07000137	East Lindsey	£31,752
E07000193	East Staffordshire	£33,386
E07000244	East Suffolk	£32,438
E07000061	Eastbourne	£32,736
E07000086	Eastleigh	£33,837
E07000030	Eden	£33,354
E07000207	Elmbridge	£35,896
E09000010	Enfield	£35,028
E07000072	Epping Forest	£35,510
E07000208	Epsom and Ewell	£34,207
E07000036	Erewash	£31,317
E07000041	Exeter	£33,240
E07000087	Fareham	£34,603
E07000010	Fenland	£31,814
E07000112	Folkestone and Hythe	£32,479
E07000080	Forest of Dean	£31,748
E07000119	Fylde	£33,196
E07000173	Gedling	£31,945
E07000081	Gloucester	£32,639
E07000088	Gosport	£31,587
E07000109	Gravesham	£33,090
E07000145	Great Yarmouth	£32,365
E09000011	Greenwich	£35,099
E07000209	Guildford	£36,930
E09000012	Hackney	£37,505



E07000164	Hambleton	£32,685
E09000013	Hammersmith and Fulham	£39,583
E07000131	Harborough	£33,548
E09000014	Haringey	£35,655
E07000073	Harlow	£34,339
E07000165	Harrogate	£32,987
E09000015	Harrow	£35,201
E07000089	Hart	£34,691
E07000062	Hastings	£31,843
E07000090	Havant	£33,339
E09000016	Havering	£35,067
E07000098	Hertsmere	£35,337
E07000037	High Peak	£31,987
E09000017	Hillingdon	£37,190
E07000132	Hinckley and Bosworth	£32,730
E07000227	Horsham	£34,005
E09000018	Hounslow	£38,038
E07000011	Huntingdonshire	£32,903
E07000120	Hyndburn	£30,865
E07000202	Ipswich	£32,715
E09000019	Islington	£41,039
E09000020	Kensington and Chelsea	£43,806
E07000146	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	£32,863
E09000021	Kingston upon Thames	£36,120
E09000022	Lambeth	£38,320
E07000121	Lancaster	£31,346
E07000063	Lewes	£32,839
E09000023	Lewisham	£35,605
E07000194	Lichfield	£32,606
E07000138	Lincoln	£32,219
E07000110	Maidstone	£33,334
E07000074	Maldon	£34,275
E07000235	Malvern Hills	£31,885
E07000174	Mansfield	£31,238
E07000133	Melton	£32,338
E07000187	Mendip	£32,464
E09000024	Merton	£35,693
E07000042	Mid Devon	£32,455
E07000203	Mid Suffolk	£31,832
E07000228	Mid Sussex	£33,632
E07000210	Mole Valley	£35,994
E07000091	New Forest	£33,235
E07000175	Newark and Sherwood	£31,055

E07000195	Newcastle-under-Lyme	£32,215
E09000025	Newham	£36,047
E07000043	North Devon	£32,638
E07000038	North East Derbyshire	£31,482
E07000099	North Hertfordshire	£33,488
E07000139	North Kesteven	£32,617
E07000147	North Norfolk	£32,138
E06000061	North Northamptonshire1	£128,655
E07000218	North Warwickshire	£34,867
E07000134	North West Leicestershire	£32,571
E07000148	Norwich	£32,679
E07000219	Nuneaton and Bedworth	£31,944
E07000135	Oadby and Wigston	£32,301
E07000178	Oxford	£36,788
E07000122	Pendle	£31,493
E07000123	Preston	£32,722
E09000026	Redbridge	£33,353
E07000236	Redditch	£32,761
E07000211	Reigate and Banstead	£34,761
E07000124	Ribble Valley	£33,351
E09000027	Richmond upon Thames	£37,166
E07000166	Richmondshire	£33,697
E07000075	Rochford	£32,641
E07000125	Rossendale	£31,150
E07000064	Rother	£32,450
E07000220	Rugby	£34,240
E07000212	Runnymede	£37,053
E07000176	Rushcliffe	£32,229
E07000092	Rushmoor	£35,541
E07000167	Ryedale	£32,298
E07000168	Scarborough	£32,026
E07000188	Sedgemoor	£32,059
E07000169	Selby	£32,831
E07000111	Sevenoaks	£34,246
E07000246	Somerset West and Taunton	£32,038
E07000012	South Cambridgeshire	£36,601
E07000039	South Derbyshire	£32,752
E07000044	South Hams	£32,261
E07000140	South Holland	£32,038
E07000141	South Kesteven	£31,920
E07000031	South Lakeland	£33,072
E07000149	South Norfolk	£33,335
E07000179	South Oxfordshire	£33,540

E07000126	South Ribble	£31,881
E07000189	South Somerset	£32,452
E07000196	South Staffordshire	£32,633
E09000028	Southwark	£39,552
E07000213	Spelthorne	£36,086
E07000240	St Albans	£34,754
E07000197	Stafford	£32,783
E07000198	Staffordshire Moorlands	£31,297
E07000243	Stevenage	£34,566
E07000221	Stratford-on-Avon	£34,416
E07000082	Stroud	£32,440
E07000214	Surrey Heath	£34,283
E09000029	Sutton	£34,058
E07000113	Swale	£32,709
E07000199	Tamworth	£32,713
E07000215	Tandridge	£33,913
E07000045	Teignbridge	£32,264
E07000076	Tendring	£31,684
E07000093	Test Valley	£33,296
E07000083	Tewkesbury	£34,815
E07000114	Thanet	£32,011
E07000102	Three Rivers	£36,200
E07000115	Tonbridge and Malling	£34,242
E07000046	Torridge	£32,106
E09000030	Tower Hamlets	£41,944
E07000116	Tunbridge Wells	£33,361
E07000077	Uttlesford	£34,857
E07000180	Vale of White Horse	£35,167
E09000031	Waltham Forest	£34,573
E09000032	Wandsworth	£36,860
E07000222	Warwick	£34,498
E07000103	Watford	£33,957
E07000216	Waverley	£34,908
E07000065	Wealden	£32,355
E07000241	Welwyn Hatfield	£35,734
E07000047	West Devon	£32,083
E07000127	West Lancashire	£32,916
E07000142	West Lindsey	£31,785
E06000062	West Northamptonshire1	£100,946
E07000181	West Oxfordshire	£33,422
E07000245	West Suffolk	£32,829
E09000033	Westminster	£47,970
E07000094	Winchester	£34,386

E07000217	Woking	£36,992
E07000237	Worcester	£32,916
E07000229	Worthing	£32,749
E07000238	Wychavon	£31,988
E07000128	Wyre	£31,277
E07000239	Wyre Forest	£31,053

## Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation - Needs Assessment Form & Guidance

<b>Authority Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	
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<p><b>1. Background</b></p> <p>It is critical to provide life-saving safe accommodation and support for those victims and their children that need it following domestic abuse and as they rebuild their lives after the trauma of domestic abuse. As set out in the Domestic Abuse Bill, local authorities are required to assess (or make arrangements for the assessment of) the need for support in their area for all victims of domestic abuse (including their children) [who need to reside] in relevant accommodation [also referred to as safe accommodation in this document and the Statutory Guidance]. This includes those that require highly specialist support as well as cross-border support.</p> <p>Not all domestic abuse victims will need support in safe accommodation, but this form will help to assess the needs of those who need to reside in such provision, such as refuge. For further information on the duty please see the Statutory Guidance document - Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse and their Children in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services.</p>
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<p><b>2. This Form</b></p> <p>This standardised form has been created alongside the statutory guidance to support local authorities in undertaking local needs assessments. This form is intended to be a helpful tool to help capture relevant data to inform evidence-based strategies. Conducting local needs assessments in line with the guidance, and following this form with an analyst, will help create consistency across the country and better ensure authorities are considering the needs of all domestic abuse victims from within the area and from outside the area.</p> <p>This form is not mandatory however, by collecting the data requested (as best you can), answering (or considering) the questions posed and exploring domestic abuse support within safe accommodation, you should be able to determine the met needs and unmet needs of your area, providing evidence for strategic planning. Please feel free to explore further sections deeper if you think relevant and helpful.</p>
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<p><b>3. When</b></p> <p>Needs assessments are an important precursor to developing local strategies. A full local needs assessments should be conducted at a minimum every 3 years, with a refresh being undertaken on an annual basis to ensure any change in demand or support requirements, following annual report figures and other data, are adequately captured.</p> <p>For further information on strategies following the needs assessment, please refer to the Statutory Guidance document.</p>
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<b>Prev. Needs Assessment Full Assessment Date:</b>		<b>Next Needs Assessment Full Assessment Date:</b>	
<b>Previous Refresh Date:</b>		<b>Next Refresh Date:</b>	

<b>4. Who</b>
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<b>Source 3:</b>	Local IDVA Data	<b>Source 4:</b>	Statutory Homeless in England/H-CLIC Data
Source Used:		Source Used:	
<b>Source 5:</b>	Housing Data	<b>Source 6:</b>	Social Care Data - Adult/Child
Source Used:		Source Used:	
<b>Source 7:</b>	Local Service Provider and User Data	<b>Source 8:</b>	Local Helpline Data (if available)
Source Used:		Source Used:	
<b>Source 9:</b>	Other Local Data Set	<b>Source 10:</b>	Other Local Data Set
Source Used:		Source Used:	

**6. Demographic Composition/Population Features of Victim/Survivors**

What are the demographics or population features of victims/survivors identified in your local authority and accessing services the local authority?

To complete this section, you will need to access a range of local data sets such as crime data from local police force area reports and housing data from homeless reports such as H-Clic. Please add further local data on demographics and socio-economics if helpful to you and further understanding DA in your area.

Please enter the number of victims/survivors for each category. Space has also been provided for the addition of key information for demographics and socio-economics for stand out information and any emerging patterns identified in data collection.

Local data sets should be available Local Authority level and Local Partnership Board representatives able to assist in accessing relevant data. We understand that some of the below may not be available in exactly the same breakdown as listed below but these categories are important to explore in data gathering when looking at domestic abuse and the local response. We suggest that authorities complete as much as possible with the support of members from Local Partnership Boards and where there are gaps, look to how this can be addressed for future years.

<b>7. Age</b>	<b>Police &amp; Crime Data</b>	<b>MARAC/IDVA Data</b>	<b>Health Data</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Homeless Data</b>	<b>Social Care Data</b>
0-5yrs:					
6-11yrs:					
12-15yrs					
16-18yrs:					
19-24yrs:					
25-34yrs:					
35-44yrs:					
45-54yrs:					
55-64yrs:					
65-74yrs:					
75yrs and Over:					

<b>8. Gender Identity</b>	<b>Police &amp; Crime Data</b>	<b>MARAC/IDVA Data</b>	<b>Health Data</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Homeless Data</b>	<b>Social Care Data</b>
Male:					

Female:					
Non-Binary:					
Trans-Gender/Trans-Sexual:					
Other/Unknown:					

9. Marital Status	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Married/Civil Partnered:					
Cohabiting:					
Single:					
Separated:					
Divorced/Legally Dissolved					
Widowed:					

10. Sexual Identity	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Heterosexual/Straight:					
Gay/Lesbian:					
Bisexual:					
Other/Unknown:					

11. Disability	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Disabled:					
Not Disabled:					
Unknown:					

12. National Identity/Ethnic Group	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
White:					
Asian or Asian British:					
Black or Black British:					
Mixed:					
Gypsy/Roma/Traveler:					
Other:					

Key Info:	Please note stand out data or points of interest/areas to explore after gathering the above data on demographics.
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### Socio-economic Characteristics

13. Household Structure	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Single Adult and Child(ren):					
Adults and Child(ren):					
Adult(s) and no Child(ren):					

14. Occupation	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Employed - Full Time/Part Time::					
Unemployed:					
Student:					
Looking After Family/Home:					
Retired:					
Economically Inactive/Long or					

15. Household Income	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Less than £10,400 p/a:					
£10,400 to less than £20,800 p/a:					
£20,800 to less than £31,200 p/a:					
£31,200 to less than £41,600 p/a:					
£41,600 to less than £52,000 p/a:					
£52,000 or more p/a:					
No income stated or not enough					

16. Education	Police & Crime Data	MARAC/IDVA Data	Health Data	Housing & Homeless Data	Social Care Data
Degree/Diploma:					

A/AS Levels/Apprenticeship:					
GCSEs/O Levels:					
Other:					
None:					

Key Info:	Please note stand out data or points of interest/areas to explore after gathering the above data on socioeconomics.

**17. Domestic Abuse - Incidents & Homicides**

Please use police and crime data to note the numbers for each of the categories below in the local area. You may have your own local data on the below or you may wish to use the ONS tool online, the "Domestic abuse in England and Wales - Data Tool". This is useful for data on incidents and areas comparable by size. We understand that, in some cases, data may not be available by specific LA boundaries. In these incidences, MHCLG recommends detailing information for the region your area fits within.

	Total England & Wales	Local Area	Comparable Area 1	Comparable Area 2
DA Incidents Reported:				
DA Incidents Homicides:				

Does this data fit with existing knowledge? How does the area compare to others?

**18. Domestic Abuse Victims by Local Authority Area/Ward**

Is there any data to suggest that domestic abuse is more or less prevalent in any particular parts/areas/wards of the local authority?

Please use the area below to note any point of interest e.g. is there more DA in an area of low employment, or an area of certain employment type? Is there anything notable about DA in certain parts of **the authority**? Are there hot spots/cold spots? Is there domestic abuse that is being hidden or not captured? Is there any local knowledge or intelligence of local areas where domestic abuse is happening?

**19. Domestic Abuse - Out of Area**

Many domestic abuse victims/survivors will move across the country - and therefore LA boundaries - to escape abuse. It is therefore extremely important to capture data on where victims/survivors are likely to come from and create an understanding of need across areas/ boundaries/boroughs/districts/counties so that the local authority can ensure it is fully meeting the needs of victims/survivors who flee their home area.

Please use referral data to complete this section, noting down at least the top 5 areas/boroughs/districts/counties where domestic abuse victims/survivors (including their children) are currently/likely to come in from outside the local authority area. Local safe accommodation providers and local domestic abuse helplines should be able to support in gathering this information.

Area 1	Name:		Estimated no. of Referrals:	
	Notable demographics and socioeconomics of victims coming from this area:			
Area 2	Name:		Estimated no. of Referrals:	
	Notable demographics and socioeconomics of victims coming from this area:			
Area 3	Name:		Estimated no. of Referrals:	
	Notable demographics and socioeconomics of victims coming from this area:			
Area 4	Name:		Estimated no. of Referrals:	
	Notable demographics and socioeconomics of victims coming from this area:			
Area 5	Name:		Estimated no. of Referrals:	
	Notable demographics and socioeconomics of victims coming from this area:			

Key Info:	Please note stand out data, themes and patterns noticed from capturing the data above on DA victims in areas that victims are currently being referred from.
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<p><b>20. Service Mapping</b></p> <p>In this section we will be looking at service mapping, noting the safe accommodation that currently exists in the local authority area. Local authorities may wish to liaise with local safe accommodation services in obtaining this data and information on the services they provide.</p> <p>Exploring the services in the local authority area and understanding what they can provide is crucial to planning to meet unmet need. 5 boxes have been provided but we understand there may be many more than 5 services in the local authority area, please feel free to explore more and attach extra sheets or notes in your assessment. Notes boxes have been included for any further information on the services including, commissioning dates/cycles, funders/funding sources or consortium partner information.</p> <p>For further information on types of safe accommodation and quality standards, please see the Statutory Guidance</p>
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Do you currently provide any domestic abuse safe accommodation services in your LA?	Yes / No
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<b>21. Who Provides Safe Accommodation Services in Your Area</b>			
<b>Service 1</b>	<b>Commissioned:</b>	Yes	No
Name:			
Type of Safe Acc Service (eg. refuge/dispersed accommodation etc):			
Specialist Service Provided:	Yes / No	By and For Service:	Yes / No
Type of Specialism:			
Quality Standards Met	Yes	No	
Name of Quality Standards Met:			
Notes:			

<b>Service 2</b>	<b>Commissioned:</b>	Yes	No
Name:			
Type of Safe Acc Service (eg. refuge/dispersed accommodation etc):			
Specialist Service Provided:	Yes / No	By and For Service:	Yes / No
Type of Specialism:			
Quality Standards Met	Yes	No	
Name of Quality Standards Met:			
Notes:			

<b>Service 3</b>	<b>Commissioned:</b>	Yes	No
Name:			
Type of Safe Acc Service (eg. refuge/dispersed accommodation etc):			

Specialist Service Provided:	Yes / No	By and For Service:	Yes / No
Type of Specialism:			
Quality Standards Met	Yes	No	
Name of Quality Standards Met:			
Notes:			

<b>Service 4</b>	<b>Commissioned:</b>	Yes	No
Name:			
Type of Safe Acc Service (eg. refuge/dispersed accommodation etc):			
Specialist Service Provided:	Yes / No	By and For Service:	Yes / No
Type of Specialism:			
Quality Standards Met	Yes	No	
Name of Quality Standards Met:			
Notes:			

<b>Service 5</b>	<b>Commissioned:</b>	Yes	No
Name:			
Type of Safe Acc Service (eg. refuge/dispersed accommodation etc):			
Specialist Service Provided:	Yes / No	By and For Service:	Yes / No
Type of Specialism:			
Quality Standards Met	Yes	No	
Name of Quality Standards Met:			
Notes:			

Key Info:	Please use this space to describe the current safe accommodation services the local authority area has commissioned and not commissioned and notes on the reasons why. Also include any further information on funding and if services are solely reliant on any one type of funding.

**22. Identification, Disclosures and Referrals**

The aim of the next section is to explore the types of referrals the local authority gets (from inside and outside your area) as well as the reasons referrals aren't currently successful. From this data you should be able to identify patterns or trends, and should be able to spot gaps in support and where more referrals could be successful if such support were in place.

It will require information from providers on the numbers of people referred to different types of safe accommodation and the numbers of people denied support at those types of accommodation.

<b>23. Referral Sources</b>			
Do you know how domestic abuse victims/survivors are making contact with/requesting/accessing support within domestic abuse safe accommodation?			
Where are referrals coming from and what directs victims/survivors to the help they need, please select "Yes" or "No" against each type of referral below. (Please circle).			
Please also indicate, what level of risk they present as when seeking / being referred to domestic abuse safe accommodation services.			
National Domestic Abuse Helpline:	Yes / No	Local Helpline:	Yes / No
Professional Referral - Medical	Yes / No	Professional Referral - Police/Criminal Justice:	Yes / No
Professional Referral - Local Authority	Yes / No	Professional Referral - Housing:	Yes / No
Professional Referral - MARAC	Yes / No	Professional Referral - 3rd Party:	Yes / No
Self-Referral:	Yes / No	Website:	Yes / No
Other (please state):			
Level of Risk (include avg. no. of victims of each option)		High	Medium
Standard			
Key Info:	Please use this space to describe further the types of referrals made and how your domestic abuse victims/survivors (and their children) are contacting services.  Consider if there is there any standout information in the data above. Where possible, please also include data on the number of referrals received for each of the routes identified.		

<b>24. Referral Numbers</b>
Does the authority know how many referrals they are receiving, accepting and/or rejecting to different types of accommodation? How many referrals are being to successfully met and how many need some work before being successfully met? How many don't get met at all? Are referrals coming in far outweighing supply for different types of supported accommodation? Are you able to meet the demand of current referral levels? By exploring referral numbers, further insight should be gained into the demands on services and how the authority is responding to demand.

	Refuge/Safe Accommodation (shared house/self-contained with shared elements etc.)	Specialist Safe Accommodation	Dispersed, Self-Contained Accommodation with Support	Sanctuary Schemes	Other (including temporary accommodation)
Total Number of Referrals					
Number of Referrals from Inside Area					

Number of Referrals from Out of Area					
Number of Successful First Time Referrals					
Number of Successful Referrals Following Being Turned Away from Another Provision (referrals that were at first unsuccessful, but after trying different avenues, were then successful)					
Number of Unsuccessful Referrals/Access Denied. (Unable to be supported at all)					
Most common reasons for Being Denied Access to Services					
Average Number of Referral Attempts Made for Victim/Survivor to Gain Access to Relevant / safe Accommodation					
Average length of stay in days					

Key Info:	Please use this space to describe further the numbers of referrals made. Is there any standout information in the data above? Is the local authority able to meet the demand/needs currently? Are referrals coming in far outweighing supply for different tyoes of accommodation? Is the local authority able to meet the demand of current referral levels? Do these numbers show you areas of demand and need that could be better met? Is there currently a large proportion of victims in your area being placed in temporary / accommodation not considered Relevant Accommodation under the duty?
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**25. Domestic Abuse - Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Victims/Survivors Seeking Support within Safe Accommodation and Demand on Safe Accommodation Services**

This section will be focusing on domestic abuse victims/survivors, their characteristics and their needs, looking at the demands on your safe accommodation services (see description of safe accommodation in the statutory guidance for information on accommodation types included in DA safe accommodation).

Please explore the numbers of people for each category that access your safe accommodation services and also the number of people that are turned away by your services and why they were unsuccessful in gaining the support they need.

This section is the part that will help determine need. Gathering the data on refused referrals and reasons why these referrals could not be met, will show you the current unmet demand. It should demonstrate where levels of provision aren't adequate and support in ensuring future commissioning decisions put in place suitable support for the needs of victims in your area.

		Number Accessed Safe Accommodation Services	Number Supported through Alternative Accommodation (e.g. in temporary accommodation under the Homelessness Duty)	Number Completely Denied Access to Accommodation Services
<b>26. Age</b>	0-5yrs:			
	6-11yrs:			
	12-15yrs:			
	16-18yrs:			
	20-24yrs:			
	25-34yrs:			
	35-44yrs:			
	45-54yrs:			
	55-64yrs:			
	65-74yrs:			
	75yrs and Over:			
Is age showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions for all ages, including young children and	Notes			



<b>27. Gender Identity</b>	Female:			
	Male:			
	Non-Binary:			
	Trans-Gender/Trans-Sexual:			
	Other/Unknown/Prefer Not to Say:			
	Is gender identity showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions suitable for different gender identities?	Notes		
<b>28. Sexual Identity</b>	Heterosexual/Straight:			
	Gay/Lesbian:			
	Bisexual:			
	Other/Prefer Not to Say:			
	Is sexual identity showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions for different sexual identities, not just heterosexual/straight?	Notes		
<b>29. Housing</b> (victim/survivor previously resided in)	Private/Owner Occupier:			
	Private Renter:			
	Social Housing:			
	Temporary Accommodation:			
	Other Supported Housing:			
	Is the victim/survivor's housing showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area?	Notes		
<b>30. Family</b>	0 Child Household:			
	Pregnant:			
	1 Child Household:			
	2 Children Household:			
	3+ Children Household:			
	Is the number of children or pregnancy showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions for people with babies, or multiple children? Do you have provisions for those with large families, as well as single people?	Notes		
<b>31. National Identity/Ethnic Group</b>	White:			
	Asian or Asian British:			
	Black or Black British:			
	Mixed:			
	Gypsy/Roma/Traveller:			
	Other Isolated/Marginalised community/Prefer Not to Say:			
	Is national identity or ethnic group	Notes		

	showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions for people of different backgrounds and identities?			
<b>32. Immigration Status</b>	Family Visa (eg. partner or parent visa):			
	Work/Student/Visit Visa			
	Asylum Seeker (public funds not accessible but asylum support available)			
	Refugee (public funds accessible)			
	No Immigration Leave or Expired Leave			
	Other/Unknown/Prefer Not to Say:			
	Is immigration status showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions for people with insecure immigration status and/or those with NRPF?	Notes		
<b>33. Language</b>	Translator/Interpreter Needed:			
	Low Literacy:			
	Is language showing as a barrier to safe accommodation services in your area? Do you have provisions for those who don't speak English as a first language? Do you have provisions for those that may struggle to read and/or write?	Notes		
<b>34. Culture/Faith</b>	Unable to stay with male children aged 13-18:			
	Other religious reason			
	Is faith/religion/cultural difference showing as a barrier to services in your area? Do you have provisions for those of different religions and beliefs?	Notes		
<b>35. Violence Against Women and Girls</b>	Honour Based Violence:			
	Forced Marriage:			
	Female Genital Mutilation:			
	Other VAWG:			
	Is VAWG such as HBV, FM or FMG showing as a barrier to services in your area? Do you have provisions for those who have experienced VAWG?	Notes		
<b>36. Employment</b>	Employed (including self employed):			
	Unemployed:			

	Is employment showing as a barrier to services in your area? Do you have provisions for those employed and unemployed?	Notes		
<b>37. Income</b>	Receiving Benefits:			
	Not Receiving Benefits:			
	Less than £10,400 p/a:			
	£10,400 to less than £20,800 p/a:			
	£20,800 to less than £31,200 p/a:			
	£31,200 to less than £41,600 p/a:			
	£41,600 to less than £52,000 p/a:			
	£52,000 p/a or more:			
	No income stated or not enough information provided:			
	Is income showing as a barrier to services in your area?	Notes		
<b>38. Disability/Health</b>	Physical Disability/Mobility Impairment (inc. Wheelchair Access Required):			
	Sensory Impairment:			
	Deaf/Hearing Impairment (including Sign Language User or Interpretation Required):			
	Visual Impairment (including Braille or Other Visual Support Required):			
	Speech Impairment or Communication Difficulties			
	Learning Difficulty:			
	Mental Health Issues:			
	Austism, Asperger's or Other Neuro-Di			
	Personal Care Requirements:			
	Other Long-Term Health Condition:			
	Children with Health Condition/s:			
	Is disability/health showing as a barrier to services in your area? Do you have provisions for a range of disabilities/healthcare needs for victims/survivors and their children?	Notes		
<b>39. Additional Support Needs</b>	Care Leaver:			
	Service Personnel/Armed Forces:			
	Offending History:			
	Homeless:			
	Rough Sleeper:			
	Alcohol Misuse:			
	Drug Misuse:			
	Sex Work:			

	Legal Support:			
	Financial Support:			
	Other:			
	Are additional support needs showing as a barrier to services in your area? Do you have provisions for those with complex/extra needs and those with multiple additional needs?	Notes		

Key Info:	Please use this space to analyse the data above. By recording the statistics for each category above, what have you noticed? What barriers have DA victims faced in your area? What has stopped them being able to access safe accommodation more easily?

<b>40. Gaps in Safe Accommodation Provisions</b>
Please use this space to note findings from referrals and barriers, alongside the demographic data under prevalence. From exploring the two sections, what gaps have you identified? Do you have enough support to accommodate the numbers of referrals now and in the future? Do you have the right types of services commissioned with the right types of support, to meet the types of referrals received? What could be commissioned to make referrals more successful and overcome barriers that have existed previously? What can you do to breakdown barriers so that more victims/survivors have access to the support they need? See the Statutory Guidance document.

<b>41. Housing Options</b>
Please note here the housing options available in your area. These could be found via your Housing Officers/Providers and/or Move On providers and should include all move on and secondary housing options for victims/survivors who no longer need support within emergency safe accommodation and are ready for the next stage of rebuilding their lives following domestic abuse and freeing up refuge space for those that require emergency support in safe accommodation. This is important to help understand the barriers providers face when attempting to move victims/survivors on from safe accommodation.

<b>42. Pathway Mapping - End to End Support Journey</b>
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Please carry out some pathway mapping, exploring the end to end journey taken by DA victims/survivors, and their children, in trying to access DA support within safe accommodation in the last 12 months. Use the data that you have to provide details of what a current pathway of support looks like, from victims/survivors needing support to accessing and receiving support and then to moving on from support.

We recommend you look at at least 5 differing case studies (or simulated scenarios if case studies aren't at all available), walking through the process from seeking help to establishing safe independent living (crisis to recovery at various levels/entry points/needs). You should ensure a range of victim types are captured, including those from BAME backgrounds, male victims, those that identify as LGBTQ+, disabled [not limited to]. Please add extra case studies if useful. Please take care to not include personal information that could breach GDPR rules.

**Case Study/Scenario 1**

Identification/Entry Point:	
Victim/Survivor Needs within Safe Acc.:	
Support Given:	
or Reason for Service Denial:	
Follow On Support:	
Outcome:	

**Case Study/Scenario 2**

Identification/Entry Point:	
Victim/Survivor Needs within Safe Acc.:	
Support Given:	
or Reason for Service Denial:	
Follow On Support:	
Outcome:	

**Case Study/Scenario 3**

Identification/Entry Point:	
Victim/Survivor Needs within Safe Acc.:	
Support Given:	
or Reason for Service Denial:	
Follow On Support:	
Outcome:	

**Case Study/Scenario 4**

Identification/Entry Point:	
Victim/Survivor Needs within Safe Acc.:	
Support Given:	
or Reason for Service Denial:	
Follow On Support:	
Outcome:	

**Case Study/Scenario 5**

Identification/Entry Point:	
Victim/Survivor Needs within Safe Acc.:	
Support Given:	
or Reason for Service Denial:	
Follow On Support:	

Outcome:	
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**43. Survivor Engagement - Personal Experiences of Support**

In this section please detail information gained from direct consultations with victims/survivors of domestic abuse, or with service providers that can represent victims/survivors, and what their experience was in accessing support within safe accommodation. This is to understand what victims/survivors have been through during the process of gaining support.

Please add the type of support they received and detail their experiences and thoughts on those experiences, the strengths and weaknesses they noticed in the services they received. Please include experiences that haven't gone well as well as those that have and include information on lessons learned from those experiences. What was done well and what could've gone better and met the needs of that individual more? How accessible were the services? How culturally sensitive were they (eg. were they respectful of beliefs and cultural/religious practices)? Were victims/survivors treated with respect and were they satisfied with their experience; were their needs met? You may want to use this section to capture the experiences of those that were denied access to safe accommodation, by speaking to services that have refused safe accommodation and following the path back up from referral point to refusal and finding where they are now. Please do not include specific names or personal details.

**Safe Accommodation Victim/Survivor 1**

Services:	
Experience:	

**Safe Accommodation Victim/Survivor 2**

Services:	
Experience:	

**Safe Accommodation Victim/Survivor 3**

Services:	
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Experience:	
-------------	--

**Safe Accommodation Victim/Survivor 4**

Services:	
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Experience:	
-------------	--

**Safe Accommodation Victim/Survivor 5**

Services:	
-----------	--

Experience:	
-------------	--

What have you learned from the experiences of domestic abuse victims/survivors experiences with safe accommodation?

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**44. Summary**

By following the sections suggested in this needs assessment form, you should now have a set of data that shows you the types of people in your area, their background, their needs and their experiences. You will also have learned about the services in your area and what has worked well in domestic abuse safe accommodation, and what hasn't worked so well. You should be able to see the barriers that victims/survivors can face in accessing safe accommodation support and the gaps where services need to be added or improved to meet needs better.

**45. Next Steps & Strategy**

By completing this form and exploring the data in each section, you should have a good understanding of the characteristics of domestic abuse victims/survivors and their needs, existing services available, housing options available and case studies, and should be ready to create a strong evidence-based strategy to provide victims/survivors with support tailored to their needs. For further information on strategy and strategy publishing please see the Statutory Guidance.



## Needs Assessment Q&A

### Background and General Questions

MHCLG have developed a standardised form to support authorities in undertaking a local needs assessment to meet the duty for providing support within safe accommodation for all victims and their children. The form acts a useful tool to aid data capture and to promote consistency across the country, better ensuring authorities are considering the needs of all victims in their area. The draft standardised Needs Assessment Form has been emailed to our LA contacts and will be added alongside the Statutory Guidance [here](#).

This Q&A has been created to help local authorities in the completion of the assessment form.

### Questions on Form

Q: How does the form help us?

- The Needs Assessment forms follow a structure that highlights useful data sets and is a tool to help you further understand the make-up of Domestic Abuse in your area, in order for you to appropriately estimate the needs on domestic abuse safe accommodation.
- The form will aid in the exploration of:
  - Local population make up, including DA prevalence
  - Safe accommodation mapping
  - Identification of victims/survivors and referrals, including understanding their journey's into safe accommodation
  - Demand for, and barriers in accessing, support within domestic abuse safe accommodation
  - Housing options
  - Survivor / victim experience
- By gathering data for each category, a solid evidence base should have formed, which will help in the creation of a robust, evidence-based strategy, that meets the demand for support within the authority area.

Q: Who needs to complete the Needs Assessment?

- Tier One authorities, with support from their Local Partnership Boards, must conduct a local needs assessment to determine the level of need for domestic abuse support for victims /survivors residing in safe accommodation in their area.
- Tier Two authorities must, so far as reasonably practicable, comply with a request to cooperate with Tier One authorities in the completion of this form.

Q: Do Tier 2 LAs need to complete the form?

- The requirement to complete a needs assessment sits at Tier 1 level, and we do not expect all tier 2 authorities to complete their own forms.

Q: Do I need to use the form?

- The form has been created as a useful tool to aid your data capture for your local needs assessment, which will inform your local strategies.

- Use of this form will assist you to meet the requirements of the new duty to undertake a comprehensive assessment of need for support in safe accommodation in your area.
- However, it is not compulsory to use this form, provided an adequate needs assessment is undertaken which meet the requirements of the duty and takes account of the accompanying statutory guidance.

Q: When does the first Needs Assessment need to be done by?

- MHCLG asks that tier one authorities publish their first local strategy by August 2021.
- The Needs Assessment will inform the local strategic approach. Therefore, it is expected that the assessment is completed in good time, ahead of the formation of the strategy.

Q: Do we need to submit the Needs Assessment to Government?

- No. Local authorities will not be required to submit their needs assessments. The duty requirement is to create and publish an evidence-based local strategy. The basis for this will be your needs assessment, which will need to be completed and recorded, but not formally published.
- However, there is a duty to report back to Government on the delivery of the duty, including demonstrating that authorities have undergone robust needs assessments, as well as how these needs have been met.
- Local authorities will be required to consult locally ahead of publishing their strategies, including with their Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. You may wish to refer to information in your Needs Assessment Form to evidence the demands on services, as justification for your local approach.

Q: Is there funding available to cover the cost of the Needs Assessment?

- £125 million new burden funding is being provided to local authorities to cover the costs of the new duty. This includes the costs of administration, including preparation of needs assessments and strategies.
- In the spirit of the New Burdens Doctrine, the new duty will be funded in future years.

Q: I can't find the local data for demographics, what do I do?

- The duty requires that Local Partnership Boards be convened up with members from a range of agencies and services across the authority, that perform specific functions.
- Board members representing each function should be able to support the authority in accessing specific data sets and information relating to their function.

Q: What if we can't find all the data requested?

- The form sets out Government's expectations on the level and kind of data LAs should be considering as part of their needs assessment under the duty.
- We understand some information may be more difficult to collect for the first year or so – this is the level we expect local authorities to work to in future years.

- As the duty embeds, authorities will need to ensure the appropriate mechanisms at a local level are developed and put in place to support them in the delivery of their duty.
- The more you can gather, the more evidence and reasoning you will have for effective tailored local strategies, that meet the needs and demands placed on your area.

Q: What time period does this form cover? What time period should we look at for data gathering?

- When gathering data, the latest figures and data sets should be used, as these would provide the most accurate picture.

Q: When you refer to “Area” what do you mean?

- Area refers to the geographic make up of a Tier One local authority unless stated otherwise.

Q: How do you define disabled?

- The definition of disability used by ONS is consistent with the core definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010. A person is considered to have a disability if they have a long-standing illness, disability or impairment which causes difficulty with day-to-day activities.

Q: What does By and For mean?

- Safe accommodation that provides dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs can also be known as a ‘by and for’ service. This is where the personnel running and / or working in the service has the same demographics and or experience as the victim types group they specialise in supporting.
- By and For safe accommodation can include specialist refuges for BAME, LGBT, and disabled victims and their children. Please see the Statutory Guidance for further information.

Q: Are socio-economic characteristics really relevant? Do we need to know about victim’s finances or education?

- All data requested in this form will give a picture of the domestic abuse landscape, the more data you can gather, the better informed the strategy, and the more victims/survivors helped.
- Knowing more about victims can give more background and information on trends which can help forecast demand and help plan for future provisions, making safe accommodation support more accessible to the people who need it.

Q: What are the quality standards?

- The MHCLG Quality Standards were developed together with the Domestic Abuse sector and a link can be found in the Statutory Guidance.

Q: Why don't we just look at the numbers of victims/survivors placed in temporary or other accommodation following being turned away from domestic abuse safe accommodation, to assess need?

- It is important to understand the numbers of victims/survivors that can and can't access domestic abuse safe or other accommodation.
- By exploring referral numbers for each type of accommodation listed, including temporary accommodation, you should be able to see how many referrals are being met and unmet from inside and outside your area and also, how many referrals struggle to be met and how long the duration of stay is for each type of accommodation.
- This data will provide great insight into the referrals that are going well and those areas that may need further attention to make further successful routes for victims/survivors to access domestic abuse safe accommodation.
- Exploring data on the make-up of DA will also support you in understanding and anticipating future demand on services, and will take account of those victims that for whatever reason, have not come forward to date and therefore will not be captured by data on victims being turned away.

Q: The Housing Options section is missing references to local housing market conditions and profile, PRS and social housing availability, rent levels and affordability etc.

- This needs assessment is specifically for Part 4 of the DA Bill which focuses on domestic abuse and support within safe accommodation.
- The section on housing options has been added to aid local authorities to assess the options available for move-on and secondary accommodation following the intense, short term accommodation in places such as refuge.
- Local authorities are free to do further exploration of local housing markets and add this to their assessment, if helpful.

Q: How do we capture data on other areas that aren't our own?

- We encourage local authorities to collaborate and communicate when developing their needs assessments, sharing data to help create a joined-up approach. Under the duty, all Tier 1 authorities will be required to conduct a needs assessment and therefore should have the required information available in order to share.

Q: Pathway mapping, is that per Tier 2 level or as a whole?

- This will need to be agreed by Tier 1 authorities and their respective Tier 2 authorities. At a minimum it will need to be across the Tier 1 area as a whole, but naturally, pathways at Tier 2 level will inform this.

Q: Are we required to assess the sustainability of services when conducting service mapping?

- When mapping services, it will be useful to understand and record details on who they are, the support they currently provide or could provide, quality standards etc. If you wish to explore sustainability as part of this exploration, please do and add this to the notes.

Q: Referrals and barriers: this may be difficult to collate and may require a trawl of paperwork and qualitative analysis to fully understand the reasons applicants are refused, making it an extremely time-consuming process.

- It is important to explore referrals of victims/survivors and the process undertaken when accessing support within safe accommodation.
- It is crucial to know how victims/survivors are identified and referred on to support and, if they are able to successfully access the support they need, when they need it. If they aren't able to access support, why is that? By understanding this, unmet need will become apparent.
- Local strategies can then start to meet this unmet need and help more victims/survivors rebuild their lives after the trauma of domestic abuse.
- We recognise that this process may take time and resource. This is why £125m of New Burdens funding has been allocated to cover both, the cost of unmet need in support within safe accommodation and, the extra administrative burden.

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## DA Funding Allocation Q&A for the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office

### Top lines

- The Domestic Abuse Bill, currently before Parliament, includes a new duty on Tier One local authorities to assess the need for and commission support to victims and their children in domestic abuse safe accommodation in England.
- Subject to the successful passage of the bill, the new duty will come into force in 2021, backed by £125 million funding
- Following consultation on how to distribute the funding, MHCLG is today announcing individual local authority allocations for 2021/22.
- Local authorities can now finalise plans for implementation of the duty, which will mean that in future those victims currently turned away from refuges and safe accommodation will be able to access life-saving support in future to help them recover and rebuild their lives.

### Q&A

#### **Will the new duty only be funded for one year?**

- Following the outcome of Spending Review, £125 million new burden funding is today being allocated to local authorities, to cover costs of the new duty to provide support in safe accommodation for 2021-22.
- In the spirit of the New Burdens Doctrine, the new duty will be funded in future years.
- We encourage local authorities to look into longer term commissioning for these services.

#### **Will funding begin from April? What if the Bill does not receive Royal Assent in time? Existing MHCLG funding expires on 31 March and some services are at risk of closure if there is a gap.**

- Funding will commence in April 2021, and local authorities are being asked to start implementing the new duty from then, even if the legislation is not in force at that point.
- There is no reason why local authorities cannot re-commission existing services to ensure victims can access support in safe accommodation while they work with local partners to undertake full local needs assessments and develop their future domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy.

#### **Funding for X area isn't enough, Government needs to change the allocation formula to include X (any other factor).**

- MHCLG consulted on the allocation of funding for the duty, and carefully considered all responses to the consultation before finalising the allocation formula.
- As set out in the government response, MHCLG is committed to undertaking a post implementation review of the funding for the duty two years from commencement, including the allocations methodology.

#### **How do you know the level of funding is enough? (Women's Aid estimated the costs of refuge provision to be £173 million)**

- MHCLG engaged with local authorities and service providers in estimating the costs of the new duty, to ensure the duty is funded appropriately.
- This funding covers the estimated cost of providing unmet need for support in safe accommodation to victims and their children, as well as needs previously supported through MHCLG short-term challenge funds. The Women's Aid estimate included costs of all services, including those with existing funding.
- On the basis of evidence, we estimated the costs at £125 million for 2021-22.

- MHCLG will undertake a post implementation review to assess the delivery of the duty, including the level of funding and allocation method.

**What happens to services that are currently commissioned by Tier 2 authorities, with contracts ending in March? Providing support cost funding to Tier 1s will cause these services to close.**

- MHCLG is clear in that it does not expect local authorities to stop funding these services as a result of the introduction of the duty. Authorities will receive funding for support costs for the first year of delivery and it is therefore our expectation that this funding supports any transitional period needed at a local level.
- Tier 1 authorities should make arrangements to appropriately fund Tier 2 authorities, in two tier areas, to ensure victims can continue to access services while needs assessments and strategies are in development.





Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Our Ref: **31/5486.**

08 April 2020

Dear Colleague,

**New Burdens Funding for New Statutory Domestic Abuse Duty (2021-22): agreement to pay local authorities under the power in s31 of the Local Government Act 2003 No. 31/5486.**

Thank you for your authority's continued work to provide core support for refuges and other safe accommodation and your efforts to prepare for the new statutory duty. You will be aware that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) secured £125 million to cover the cost of new burdens placed upon local authorities in England as you meet (and prepare to meet) the new statutory duty relating to the provision of support within domestic abuse safe accommodation during 2021/22 (which is contained within the Domestic Abuse Bill which is making its way through Parliament).

The new duty will come into force subject to the Domestic Abuse Bill successfully completing its passage through Parliament and following subsequent consultation on the underpinning statutory guidance and relevant regulations. However, the Secretary of State has determined that local authorities should be able to fulfil the functions of the new duty from 1 April 2021, even in the event that the duty itself does not formally commence until later during 2021. The Department is now able to issue a Determination to local authorities covering this new burden funding.

The purpose of this funding is set out in detail within the Memorandum of Understanding. We would be grateful if you would sign and return at your earliest convenience.

In October 2020 we consulted on the approach to allocating this new burdens funding. Individual allocations to tier one and tier two local authorities across England are made following the allocation methodology set out within the MHCLG Funding Allocation Methods: New Domestic Abuse Duty: Consultation Response.

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I enclose a Determination made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, for the purpose of providing grant support to the local authorities listed in Annex A in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in meeting the new statutory duty relating to the provision of support within domestic abuse safe accommodation, and to enable them to fulfil the functions of the duty ahead of commencement from April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Page

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Page". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line crossing through the bottom of the letters.

**Deputy Director of Housing with Care and Support**

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**New Burdens Funding for New Statutory Domestic Abuse Duty (2021-22) No. 31/5486.**

The Minister for Housing (“the Minister”) in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 hereby makes the following determination:

**Citation**

- 1) This determination may be cited as the New Burdens Funding for New Statutory Domestic Abuse Duty (2021-22). No. 31/5486.

**Purpose of the grant**

- 2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them.

**Determination**

- 3) The Minister determines as the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid as set out in Annex A of this determination.

**Treasury consent**

- 4) Before making this determination in relation to local authorities in England, the Minister obtained the consent of the Treasury

## Annex A

<b>Name</b>	<b>DA duty 2021/22 allocation</b>
Barnsley	£586,210
Bath and North East Somerset	£311,380
Bedford	£335,779
Birmingham	£3,263,007
Blackburn with Darwen	£382,118
Blackpool	£411,598
Bolton	£682,592
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	£750,257
Bracknell Forest	£203,767
Bradford	£1,381,565
Brighton and Hove	£606,288
Bristol, City of	£1,079,426
Buckinghamshire	£854,917
Bury	£401,365
Calderdale	£455,966
Cambridgeshire	£1,140,318
Central Bedfordshire	£470,255
Cheshire East	£648,332
Cheshire West and Chester	£647,714
Cornwall	£1,173,569
County Durham	£1,167,170
Coventry	£849,930
Cumbria	£995,779
Darlington	£222,365
Derby	£601,194
Derbyshire	£1,471,203
Devon	£1,421,907
Doncaster	£732,742
Dorset	£650,730
Dudley	£663,972
East Riding of Yorkshire	£573,444
East Sussex	£1,069,272
Essex	£2,763,458
Gateshead	£459,609

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GLA	£20,688,230
Gloucestershire	£1,105,661
Halton	£326,978
Hampshire	£2,300,222
Hartlepool	£237,071
Herefordshire, County of	£361,911
Hertfordshire	£2,013,659
Isle of Wight	£292,040
Isles of Scilly	£63,000
Kent	£3,103,909
Kingston upon Hull, City of	£732,844
Kirklees	£918,922
Knowsley	£459,768
Lancashire	£2,493,526
Leeds	£1,846,117
Leicester	£857,364
Leicestershire	£1,127,205
Lincolnshire	£1,454,133
Liverpool	£1,507,751
Luton	£502,704
Manchester	£1,652,996
Medway	£592,126
Middlesbrough	£394,865
Milton Keynes	£535,189
Newcastle upon Tyne	£735,668
Norfolk	£1,806,177
North East Lincolnshire	£373,916
North Lincolnshire	£342,616
North Northamptonshire	£664,295
North Somerset	£378,304
North Tyneside	£420,523
North Yorkshire	£1,041,769
Northumberland	£641,149
Nottingham	£871,229
Nottinghamshire	£1,540,091
Oldham	£578,516
Oxfordshire	£1,141,151
Peterborough	£477,374
Plymouth	£589,824

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Portsmouth	£496,809
Reading	£341,986
Redcar and Cleveland	£315,512
Rochdale	£565,637
Rotherham	£617,969
Rutland	£63,000
Salford	£677,601
Sandwell	£841,812
Sefton	£605,595
Sheffield	£1,325,868
Shropshire	£578,549
Slough	£340,781
Solihull	£422,417
Somerset	£1,041,540
South Gloucestershire	£467,971
South Tyneside	£354,521
Southampton	£587,012
Southend-on-Sea	£372,090
St. Helens	£436,525
Staffordshire	£1,554,370
Stockport	£576,435
Stockton-on-Tees	£422,596
Stoke-on-Trent	£647,559
Suffolk	£1,411,844
Sunderland	£666,874
Surrey	£1,916,964
Swindon	£430,326
Tameside	£547,627
Telford and Wrekin	£389,533
Thurrock	£366,530
Torbay	£308,541
Trafford	£432,696
Wakefield	£799,867
Walsall	£690,150
Warrington	£399,956
Warwickshire	£1,040,132
West Berkshire	£250,101
West Northamptonshire	£765,078
West Sussex	£1,498,174

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Wigan	£715,786
Wiltshire	£830,051
Windsor and Maidenhead	£240,380
Wirral	£749,820
Wokingham	£247,376
Wolverhampton	£650,902
Worcestershire	£1,092,703
York	£334,506

<b>Name</b>	<b>DA duty 2021/22 allocation</b>
Adur	£32,529
Allerdale	£32,057
Amber Valley	£32,898
Arun	£32,105
Ashfield	£31,994
Ashford	£33,583
Babergh	£32,619
Barking and Dagenham	£34,707
Barnet	£36,159
Barrow-in-Furness	£33,047
Basildon	£34,097
Basingstoke and Deane	£35,125
Bassetlaw	£31,917
Bexley	£33,794
Blaby	£33,291
Bolsover	£32,248
Boston	£31,477
Braintree	£32,264
Breckland	£31,450
Brent	£35,701
Brentwood	£34,750
Broadland	£33,077
Bromley	£34,892
Bromsgrove	£32,832
Broxbourne	£34,104
Broxtowe	£32,937
Burnley	£31,778
Cambridge	£37,089

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Camden	£42,403
Cannock Chase	£31,739
Canterbury	£33,176
Carlisle	£32,315
Castle Point	£32,437
Charnwood	£32,295
Chelmsford	£34,177
Cheltenham	£33,524
Cherwell	£34,385
Chesterfield	£32,300
Chichester	£34,060
Chorley	£31,035
City of London	£48,589
Colchester	£33,646
Copeland	£34,823
Cotswold	£33,790
Craven	£32,614
Crawley	£35,672
Croydon	£34,919
Dacorum	£34,151
Dartford	£34,997
Derbyshire Dales	£32,383
Dover	£33,017
Ealing	£35,735
East Cambridgeshire	£33,982
East Devon	£31,959
East Hampshire	£34,038
East Hertfordshire	£34,089
East Lindsey	£31,752
East Staffordshire	£33,386
East Suffolk	£32,438
Eastbourne	£32,736
Eastleigh	£33,837
Eden	£33,354
Elmbridge	£35,896
Enfield	£35,028
Epping Forest	£35,510
Epsom and Ewell	£34,207
Erewash	£31,317

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Exeter	£33,240
Fareham	£34,603
Fenland	£31,814
Folkestone and Hythe	£32,479
Forest of Dean	£31,748
Fylde	£33,196
Gedling	£31,945
Gloucester	£32,639
Gosport	£31,587
Gravesham	£33,090
Great Yarmouth	£32,365
Greenwich	£35,099
Guildford	£36,930
Hackney	£37,505
Hambleton	£32,685
Hammersmith and Fulham	£39,583
Harborough	£33,548
Haringey	£35,655
Harlow	£34,339
Harrogate	£32,987
Harrow	£35,201
Hart	£34,691
Hastings	£31,843
Havant	£33,339
Havering	£35,067
Hertsmere	£35,337
High Peak	£31,987
Hillingdon	£37,190
Hinckley and Bosworth	£32,730
Horsham	£34,005
Hounslow	£38,038
Huntingdonshire	£32,903
Hyndburn	£30,865
Ipswich	£32,715
Islington	£41,039
Kensington and Chelsea	£43,806
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	£32,863
Kingston upon Thames	£36,120
Lambeth	£38,320

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Lancaster	£31,346
Lewes	£32,839
Lewisham	£35,605
Lichfield	£32,606
Lincoln	£32,219
Maidstone	£33,334
Maldon	£34,275
Malvern Hills	£31,885
Mansfield	£31,238
Melton	£32,338
Mendip	£32,464
Merton	£35,693
Mid Devon	£32,455
Mid Suffolk	£31,832
Mid Sussex	£33,632
Mole Valley	£35,994
New Forest	£33,235
Newark and Sherwood	£31,055
Newcastle-under-Lyme	£32,215
Newham	£36,047
North Devon	£32,638
North East Derbyshire	£31,482
North Hertfordshire	£33,488
North Kesteven	£32,617
North Norfolk	£32,138
North Northamptonshire <sup>1</sup>	£128,655
North Warwickshire	£34,867
North West Leicestershire	£32,571
Norwich	£32,679
Nuneaton and Bedworth	£31,944
Oadby and Wigston	£32,301
Oxford	£36,788
Pendle	£31,493
Preston	£32,722
Redbridge	£33,353
Redditch	£32,761
Reigate and Banstead	£34,761
Ribble Valley	£33,351
Richmond upon Thames	£37,166

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Richmondshire	£33,697
Rochford	£32,641
Rossendale	£31,150
Rother	£32,450
Rugby	£34,240
Runnymede	£37,053
Rushcliffe	£32,229
Rushmoor	£35,541
Ryedale	£32,298
Scarborough	£32,026
Sedgemoor	£32,059
Selby	£32,831
Sevenoaks	£34,246
Somerset West and Taunton	£32,038
South Cambridgeshire	£36,601
South Derbyshire	£32,752
South Hams	£32,261
South Holland	£32,038
South Kesteven	£31,920
South Lakeland	£33,072
South Norfolk	£33,335
South Oxfordshire	£33,540
South Ribble	£31,881
South Somerset	£32,452
South Staffordshire	£32,633
Southwark	£39,552
Spelthorne	£36,086
St Albans	£34,754
Stafford	£32,783
Staffordshire Moorlands	£31,297
Stevenage	£34,566
Stratford-on-Avon	£34,416
Stroud	£32,440
Surrey Heath	£34,283
Sutton	£34,058
Swale	£32,709
Tamworth	£32,713
Tandridge	£33,913
Teignbridge	£32,264

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Tendring	£31,684
Test Valley	£33,296
Tewkesbury	£34,815
Thanet	£32,011
Three Rivers	£36,200
Tonbridge and Malling	£34,242
Torridge	£32,106
Tower Hamlets	£41,944
Tunbridge Wells	£33,361
Uttlesford	£34,857
Vale of White Horse	£35,167
Waltham Forest	£34,573
Wandsworth	£36,860
Warwick	£34,498
Watford	£33,957
Waverley	£34,908
Wealden	£32,355
Welwyn Hatfield	£35,734
West Devon	£32,083
West Lancashire	£32,916
West Lindsey	£31,785
West Northamptonshire <sup>1</sup>	£100,946
West Oxfordshire	£33,422
West Suffolk	£32,829
Westminster	£47,970
Winchester	£34,386
Woking	£36,992
Worcester	£32,916
Worthing	£32,749
Wychavon	£31,988
Wyre	£31,277
Wyre Forest	£31,053

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Andy Preston - The Mayor and Lead Member for Children’s Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection Tony Parkinson - Chief Executive
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 15 June 2021
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<b>Subject:</b>	Strategic Plan 2020-23 - Progress at Year-End 2020/21
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**Summary**

**Proposed decision(s)**

- That the Executive notes progress in implementing the Council’s Strategic Plan 2020-23 at Year-End 2020/21 and the ongoing impact of COVID-19.
- That the Executive approves the proposed changes and amendments to COVID-19 Recovery Action Plans following Lockdown 3 (Appendix 1).
- That in light of the position outlined in the report, the Executive notes the Council’s updated Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 2.
- That the Executive notes that future quarterly updates will report progress on the revised Strategic Plan for 2021-24, approved by Council in February 2021, and that COVID-19 Recovery activity will be subsumed with the workplan underpinning the revised Strategic Plan, approved by the Executive on 27 May 2021.

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

**Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan**

People	Place	Business
Quarterly monitoring, review and action planning plays a central role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan is delivered effectively.		

**Ward(s) affected**

None.

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

1. This report advises the Executive of progress against the 2020-23 Strategic Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Plan, and outlines strategic risks at Year-End 2020/21.
2. The Council refreshed its Strategic Plan during Quarter Four for the 2021-24 period to ensure that it remained current and reflective of major developments in the past year, in particular COVID-19 and the ongoing impact of Britain's exit from the European Union.
3. This therefore will be last progress update on the 2020-23 plan, with future quarterly reports updating on progress against the new plan for 2021-24.

## **Why does this report require a member decision?**

4. The Council's Scheme of Delegation gives the Executive collective responsibility for corporate strategic performance, together with associated action.
5. This report provides the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its performance management responsibilities, setting out:
  - a progress update against the 2020-23 Strategic Plan, summarising the actual and likely future impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council's strategic objectives, where they are known at this stage;
  - an update on the Council's Strategic Risk Register; and
  - actions that the Council has taken and plans to take to address the issues raised.
6. The 2020/21 financial outturns are presented separately to this meeting of the Executive, and so not repeated here. Where performance has had a significant impact on finances this is highlighted in both reports.

## **Report Background**

### **COVID-19 Recovery Plan update**

7. At its meeting of 24 November 2020, Executive approved the Council's revised approach to COVID-19 Recovery and noted the updated Recovery metrics and measures, as a result of nationally imposed restrictions and the resulting impact on the local approach to Recovery.
8. Also agreed was the delegation of approval for minor amendments to in-quarter timescales against Recovery metrics and measure timescales via the Recovery Group, with any significant variation to approach or deliverables, to be reported to and seek approval via the quarterly Strategic Plan progress reports to Executive.
9. Following this approval, work was undertaken to ensure revised metrics were reflective of the longer-term considerations for Recovery. As such, a decision was taken by the Recovery Group on 7 January 2021 in-line with its delegated authority to pause all Recovery sub-group meetings and associated activities in the coming quarter, until the impact of national lockdown upon Middlesbrough was fully understood, at which point Recovery approaches and priorities will be revisited / revised, where appropriate and brought back to Executive for approval as part of the

Year-End Strategic Plan progress report, as advised at its meeting of 16 February 2021.

10. The current overall Red RAG status of the plan reflects the previously approved pause in Recovery activities and the impact of Lockdown 3 and subsequent focus on related exit activities.

Strategic Plan aim	Recovery workstream	Headline actions	RAG			Current Q4 RAG	Proposed change control RAG
			G	A	R		
People	Health and Wellbeing	3	3	0	0	G	G
	Children's Care	3	0	0	3	R	G
	Adult Social Care	4	3	1	0	A	G
	Education and Skills	3	2	1	0	G	G
Place	Environment and Infrastructure	3	2	0	1	R	G
	Business, Economy and Town Centre	5	4	1	0	G	G
Business	Council Services and Priorities	4	1	2	0	R	G
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>G</b>

11. As such and following an assurance exercise against existing Recovery plans, a summary of proposed changes and amends are included at Appendix Two for Executive approval, which will see the overall Recovery RAG status shift to Green.
12. As one of the nine strategic priorities, going forward all associated Recovery works and activities will be subsumed within the Strategic Plan 2021-24 workplan approved by the Executive on 27 May 2021, and subject to the same governance process, with progress reported via quarterly Strategic Plan update reports to Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Board. As such as further update on progress will be included as part of the Quarter One Strategic Plan 2021-24 progress report and quarterly thereafter.

### Progress against strategic priorities at Year-End 2020/21

13. The following paragraphs set out in brief the key headlines at year-end relating to the Council's 2020-23 strategic priorities, including where available current estimates of the impact of COVID-19 and future plans.

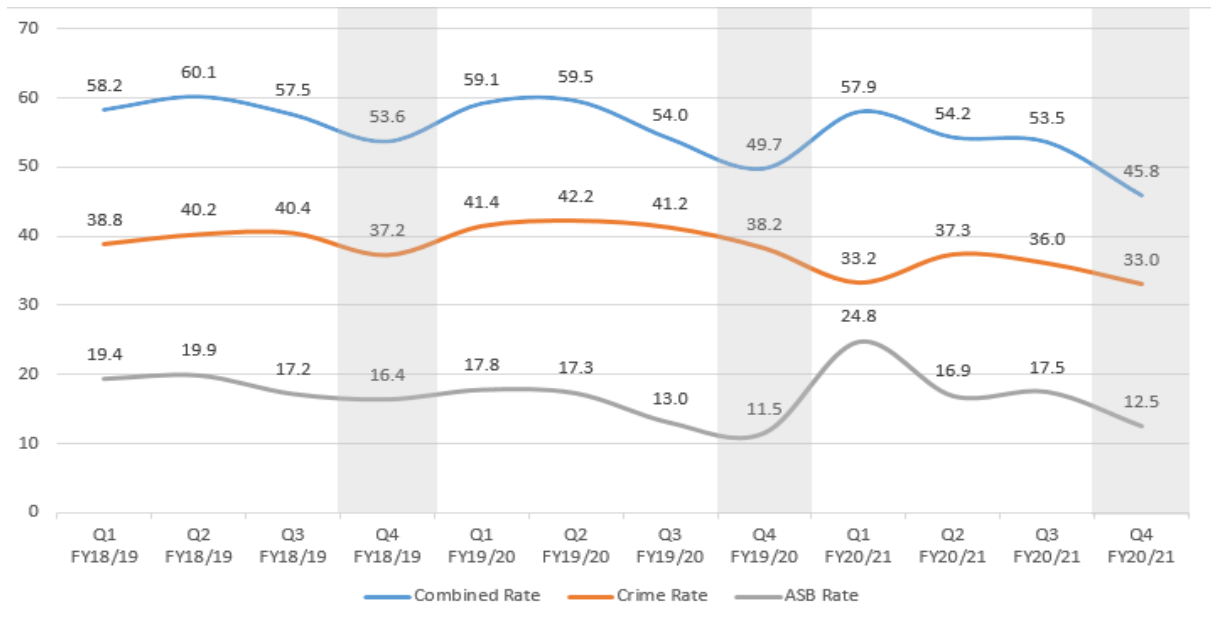


#### People

##### ***Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour head on (Mayoral priority)***

14. The impact of COVID-19 on crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), both nationally and within Middlesbrough, remains significant.
15. At 46.2 incidents per 1,000, the combined recorded crime and ASB measure in Middlesbrough showed a 14% decrease at the end of Quarter Four 2020/21 from the end Quarter Three.

16. The rate at Quarter Four was also 7% below the rate for the same period in 2019/20, and 14% lower than 2018/19. The quarterly movement of crime and ASB rates since the start of 2018/19 is shown in the graphic below, showing the fall in crime and rise in ASB (due to COVID-19 infractions) in the immediate lockdown periods in Quarter One and from Christmas at the end of Quarter Three, and throughout Quarter Four.



17. Six wards demonstrated an increased combined rate at Year-End, primarily driven by an increase in ASB, though for Kader and Marton East Crime is the key driver:
- Kader increased by 39% / 36 incidents (following a reduction of 13% / 13 incidents in the previous quarter);
  - Marton East increased by 23% / 25 incidents (following a reduction of 8% / 10 incidents in the previous quarter);
  - Acklam increased by 17% / 19 incidents (following a reduction of 4% / 4 incidents in the previous quarter);
  - Trimdon increased by 15% / 12 incidents (following a reduction of 29% / 34 incidents in the previous quarter);
  - Brambles and Thorntree increased by 11% / 45 incidents (following a reduction of 27% / 162 incidents in the previous quarter); and
  - Ayresome increased by 4% / 8 incidents (following a reduction of 21% / 53 incidents in the previous quarter).
18. The Council continues to implement a range of actions to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the town in partnership with Cleveland Police and other agencies, with street wardens issuing 1,281 warnings and 303 Fixed Penalty Notices in total during 2020/21. January and February 2021 saw a crackdown on properties involved in drug dealing in Newport ward.
19. Concern about the potential longer term impact of COVID-19 on mental health and substance misuse has been well-reported nationally. The new commissioning model for complex needs launched in April 2021 and will seek to address these issues by improving outcomes for people with complex, multiple needs.



### ***Ensuring Middlesbrough has the very best schools (Mayoral priority)***

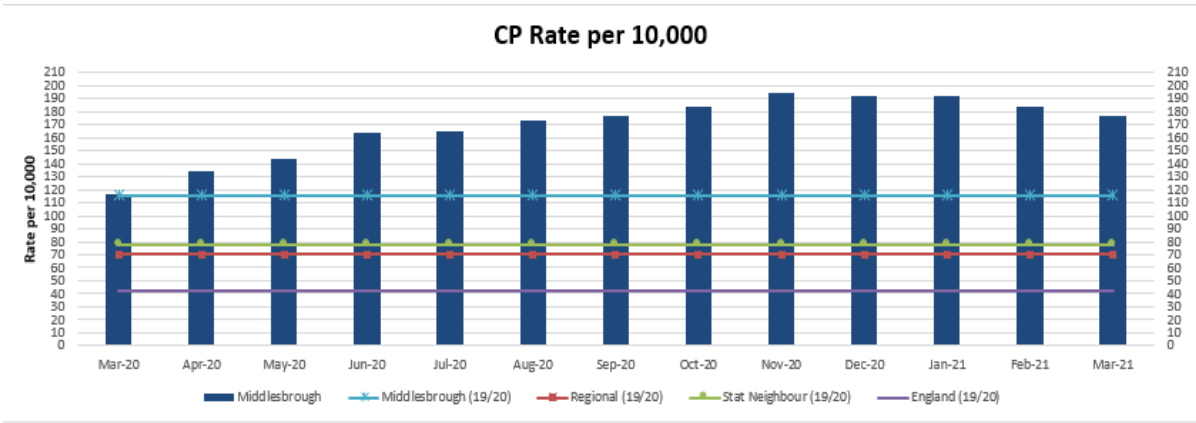
20. The DfE has announced that exams in 2021 will not go ahead as normal due to the ongoing pandemic. As in 2019/20, GCSEs, AS and A Levels will be awarded grades based on teacher assessment.
21. Outwood Academy Riverside, Middlesbrough's first new secondary school in a generation, moved into its temporary base at Russell Street during February 2021. Work on the school's permanent campus next to Middlesbrough College is due to start early next year, and it is now expected to open its doors in early 2024.
22. It is commonly acknowledged that months of lost time in school and longer-term changes to schooling arrangements are likely to have a significant detrimental effect on pupil attainment (particularly that of disadvantaged groups) in future years. The impact of COVID-19 on inequalities in educational outcomes continues to be a key focus of the Council's Recovery Plan.
23. During Quarter Four Middlesbrough pledged to be the first town or city in the UK to ensure every child will have access to an internet device to support their education. The Council will spend £350,000 on laptops and tablets to support more than 1,000 children.

### ***Ensuring our town is an absolute leader on environmental issues (Mayoral priority)***

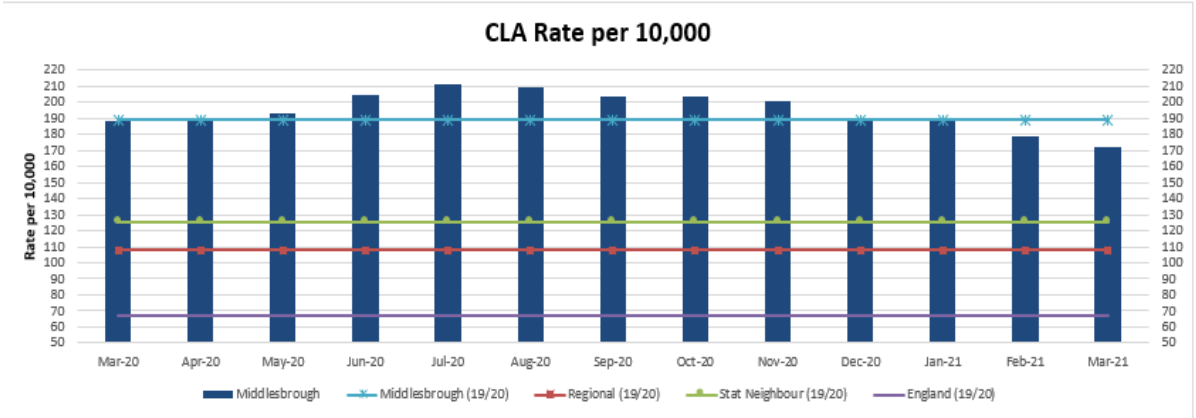
24. In Quarter Four Middlesbrough was named a "Tree City of the World" by The Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in recognition of its commitment to urban forestry.
25. Household recycling is reported in arrears so the Year-End 2020/21 result will be reported at Quarter One 2021/22.

### ***Promoting the welfare of and protecting our children, young people and vulnerable adults / Transforming Children's Services***

26. The Child Protection (CP) Plan rate decreased from 192.1 per 10,000 at Quarter Three to 176.9 at Year-End, while the rate of children looked after (CLA) by the Council decreased from 190.6 per 10,000 at Quarter Three to 171.7 (as shown in the graphs below). While the decrease in the rate of both CP and CLA within Middlesbrough is positive, and CLA has fallen below our rate at the end of March 2020, both rates continue to be the highest in the North East when compared to latest published figures.



	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Middlesbrough's No. of CPP	382	440	471	536	542	567	580	601	637	630	629	602	580
Middlesbrough's Rate of CPP	116.5	134.2	143.6	163.4	165.3	172.9	176.9	183.3	194.2	192.1	191.8	183.6	176.9



	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21
Middlesbrough's No. of CLA	618	623	634	670	692	687	669	667	657	625	617	585	563
Middlesbrough's Rate of CLA	188.4	190.0	193.3	204.3	211.0	209.5	204.0	203.4	200.3	190.6	188.1	178.4	171.7

27. Despite the decreasing rates in CP and CLA demand for statutory services remains high in Middlesbrough. Given local issues of deprivation, the low quality of housing in some wards and the high levels of substance misuse, domestic abuse and mental health issues across the town, there will be a higher level of need for statutory services compared to some parts of the Country.
28. Benchmarking tools are being used to help understand where Middlesbrough compares to other authorities, and a forecasting model has been developed to help understand Middlesbrough's 'steady state' i.e. at what point it can be said, with all of the above factors in mind, the number of children who would be expected to be seen in Children's social care.
29. Middlesbrough still has more cases in social care compared with overall early help numbers, internally and across the partnership. However, as part of ongoing improvement work, thresholds have been realigned and the continuum of need is reflecting the realignment of demand in line with service targets i.e. more children are being worked at an earlier stage in early help and less children at a Child Protection and Looked After threshold.
30. Key compliance performance figures continue to improve, with good performance on indicators such as such as contact to referral in 24 hours being maintained, and during in March 2021 visits, supervisions and assessment timescales reached the highest performance in the past 12 months.

31. Incremental target setting has been successful in the Children's Care Directorate's performance clinic. Average caseloads are reducing slightly, and audit compliance has reached 100% in early help and 80% in social care – the highest performance to date. At the end of Quarter Four, 78% of audits were graded as Requires Improvement or better (the targeted level of performance) with 22% Inadequate.

***Working with communities to improve local health and wellbeing / Joining up health and social care***

32. It is clear that COVID-19 will have a negative impact on health inequalities, which are already pronounced within Middlesbrough, particularly around obesity, mental health and substance misuse, and healthy life expectancy.
33. As reported during Quarter Two, the Council has developed a health inequalities toolkit to support COVID-19 recovery planning and ensure proper consideration is given to the impact the virus has and will continue to have on groups and individuals and where these impacts might be greater. This toolkit was approved during Quarter Three, and Health Scrutiny has acknowledged it as a key tool for developing inclusive economies. Advanced public health practitioners have been allocated to support each of the recovery work streams in the identification and mitigation of health inequalities as part of recovery. This work has led to some positive engagement on the inequalities agenda, including:
- incorporating health care infrastructure into town centre design as part of the refreshed Town Centre Strategy, alongside ensuring that local developments take into context the health and care needs of communities; and
  - an invitation for Public Health to join a bid team with Regeneration and Teesside University for research regarding strategic developments in housing and area 'liveability'.
34. Community capacity building has been a key element of the Council's 'combination prevention' approach to minimising the spread of COVID-19 infection and the impact of any outbreaks within Middlesbrough.
35. In line with this, a grants programme has been implemented to enable grass roots organisations to support vulnerable people, with £366,000 provided to in 24 local organisations and a further £195,000 allocated to mental health and isolation support.
36. In addition, a community champions model has been established, with 41 community champions recruited covering a range of targeted groups, and a citizen-led approach to local communications adopted, with 21 grants of up to £5,000 issued to develop tailored messaging around testing, self-isolation and vaccination for targeted groups.
37. The Council is continuing to provide support to the health and social care sectors. During Quarter Three it worked closely with the NHS to support hospital discharges as part of efforts to ensure the NHS is not overwhelmed by cases during the current wave of the pandemic. It is also continuing to act as a co-ordinator for PPE supplies for the care sector, and education.
38. In addition, during Quarter Four it co-ordinated vaccine access to social care front line staff within the Council and the wider sector, and assisting services in their

roadmap planning for recovery. As at 18 May 2021, 54% of Middlesbrough's adult population had received at least one vaccination, with 34% of the total population being fully vaccinated according to Public Health England data.

### ***Working with local communities to redevelop Middlesbrough's disadvantaged estates***

39. Locality working is now operating in both localities agreed by the Executive during Quarter Two, with a small number of operational staff physically using the locality hubs and a wider multi-agency team working remotely. A strategic Design and Implementation Group is meeting monthly to oversee the development of action plans based on community-led priorities, with weekly officer meetings also underway.
40. Community involvement work has been delayed by the current COVID-19 lockdown, however communication with key community members has enabled locality managers to plan community projects that will resume as soon as restrictions lift. In addition, significant work has taken place in Newport ward linked to 'safer streets' and this is having positive impacts on the area.



## **Place**

### ***Transforming our town centre (Mayoral priority)***

41. Town centre footfall decreased by 57% in Quarter Four from Quarter Three (from 2,311,000 to 998,760), driven by Lockdown 3. The continued closure of some premises, national consumer confidence and most particularly the continued absence of the office-based town centre workforce will continue to have an impact on footfall within the town centre, though the easing of lockdown and the re-opening of premises will see performance improve from Quarter One 2021/22.

### ***Building more town centre homes – and protecting our green spaces (Mayoral priority)***

42. 137 new houses were completed during Quarter Four, increasing performance from 35% to 37.1% of the overall Investment Prospectus target.
43. Middlesbrough's £14.1 million allocation from the Future High Streets Fund will help to boost the town's population and create a regional leisure hub. The Council's bid envisaged 650 new town centre homes for around 1,500 residents, with retail space converted to ensure the town has the right mix to attract footfall and spending. Investment will also be channelled to key projects including the old Town Hall, the Captain Cook pub, the new Southlands Centre and Captain Cook Square.

### ***Making Middlesbrough look and feel amazing (Mayoral priority)***

44. Street cleanliness improved significantly during 2020/21 with the proportion of sites inspected classed as acceptable increasing to 93%, up from 88.5% in the previous year.

### ***Implementing our cultural strategy***

45. The Council's performance venues remained closed in Quarter Four in line with COVID-19 restrictions, however following the Government's announcement of a roadmap back to recovery plans are in place for reopening the Town Hall later in 2021. The impact of COVID-19 on the Council's culture ambitions will continue to be a key focus of its Recovery Plan when activity is resumed.

### ***Improving Middlesbrough's rail connectivity***

46. As reported at Quarter One, a £35m local partnership has been formed to transform Middlesbrough station, with support from train operators. The scheme will deliver more train services to the town, including a direct rail link to London, platform extensions to accommodate longer trains and major customer service improvements.
47. The ambitious plan will see Platform 2 extended in anticipation of the direct London service, while the redevelopment of the undercroft will restore the building's distinctive archways, along with a direct pedestrian connection from Zetland Road to the northern entrance on Bridge Street West. Meanwhile funding from Historic England is helping to restore the public realm within Middlesbrough's Historic Quarter, with Zetland Road and Exchange Square set to form one of the key gateways into the town.

### ***Developing Middlehaven as a residential, leisure and commercial centre***

48. The £2.3 million Boho 8 project – the latest element of the hugely successful Boho quarter and the first development within Middlesbrough's Digital City project – was completed in January 2021.
49. Plans to build an urban farm in an historic part of Middlesbrough were approved in Quarter Four. The farm will provide a street café and shop selling produce grown on site, and facilitate the creation of jobs for local people.



## **Business**

### ***Winning investment and creating jobs (Mayoral priority)***

50. Commercial and housing investment in Middlesbrough remains in line with targets, with 54.8% (£342,286,853) of the overall Investment Prospectus targets achieved at the end of the quarter – up from 52.2% (£326,086,853) at the end of Quarter Three. As with previous quarters, the rate of growth remains low given the ongoing pandemic. Areas of investment during the quarter were:

- Acklam Gardens
- Bracken Grange
- Grey Towers Village
- Ladgate Woods
- Milan Grove
- Millbrook – Low Gill
- Roworth Road
- Brookfield Woods
- Brookland Park
- Ashwood Park, Hemlington
- Flats at Hutton Road
- Elderwood Park Phase 1, Hemlington
- Boho 8

51. The number of new jobs attributable to the Investment Prospectus increased to 33.3% (1,666 total jobs) of the overall Investment Prospectus target (up from 26.2% / 1,354 jobs at the end of Quarter Three), driven by the new jobs brought by companies moving into Middlesbrough Centre Square offices.
52. The overall employment rate for Middlesbrough increased slightly from 64.2% at the end of Quarter Two, to 64.4% at the end of Quarter Three. Data is released a quarter in arrears, so the impact of COVID-19 will not be fully seen in the figures as yet.
53. The rise in unemployment as a result of COVID-19 poses a significant risk to living standards – claimant count in Middlesbrough has been steadily rising since December 2020, where it was at 10%, and has increased to 10.5% at the end of Quarter Four – 3.3% higher than the regional average.
54. A major focus of the Council's Recovery Plan will therefore be to support those sectors hardest hit by COVID-19, preserving local businesses and jobs, and supporting the unemployed to access jobs.

***Introducing a new era of transparency and openness (Mayoral priority)***

55. During 2020/21, the Council continued to ensure its democratic processes were accessible to the public by broadcasting all formal committee meetings. Following the cessation of regulations to enable remote committee meetings to be held, the Council reverted to in-person meetings from the end of Quarter four.
56. Over 1,225 datasets are now available on the Council's Open Data site. The site continues to be refreshed on a weekly basis with additional data added in response to request from residents, members, regulators, and others.

***Creating positive perceptions of our town on a national basis (Mayoral priority)***

57. A Marketing and Communications Delivery Plan for 2021-23 was finalised during Quarter Four, and is now in place. The delivery plan was presented to the Corporate Management Team and the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel during Quarter Four for their views.
58. Alongside priority work relating to COVID-19, the Marketing and Communications team continued to concentrate on media activity linked to the Council's strategic priorities.

***Developing and delivering balanced budgets every year***

59. The Council's year end revenue outturn position for 2020/21 for non-COVID-19 elements is an underspend of £355,000 assuming that proposed transfers of £438,000 of the Public Health Grant underspend to a Public Health reserves and £1,598,000 of the Adult Social Care underspend to an Adult Social Care COVID Recovery Reserve, in order to help to mitigate future costs arising from COVID-19 in these areas, are approved by Executive.
60. There has been a financial pressure due to COVID-19 of £416,000 in 2020/21. On 2 September 2020 the Council approved the use of the General Fund Reserve to fund any overspend in 2020/21, with £4.928m being transferred from the Investment Fund

Contingency Reserve to the General Fund Reserve to fund this. It is now proposed that the remaining £4.512m funding set aside for this in the General Fund is transferred to a separate Reserve to cover potential costs arising from the COVID-19 recovery in 2021/22 and future years.

61. The final 2020/21 capital budget outturn at year-end is £42.078m. An updated Investment Strategy for the period to the end of 2023/24 is presented to this meeting of the Executive.
62. The Council's spending with local businesses reduced further below target in Quarter Four to 26% of overall expenditure, largely as a result of the ongoing pandemic. The 'Buy Boro' campaign continued to be promoted in the quarter to protect and promote Middlesbrough's small businesses through the COVID-19 outbreak and beyond.
63. The number of customer transactions undertaken online during Quarter Four was 12% higher than Quarter Three at 295,000, largely driven by residents booking a slot at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. Numbers for the entirety of 2020/21 are cumulatively 52% over the target for the year.

#### ***Making sure our management practices compare with those of the best***

64. As previously reported, during Quarter Three the Council's External Auditors, EY, provided their assessment of the Council to Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee. They issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements made by the Council. However, their Value for Money opinion was qualified on the grounds they were 'unable to conclude that the Council had proper arrangements in place to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people within its children's social care services during 2019/20 given the significant findings raised by the Ofsted inspection published in January 2020'.
65. The Council is addressing these matters through the Children's Services Improvement Plan, as outlined within this report. An progress inspection will be undertaken by OFSTED during Quarter One 2021/22 and the outcome reported to members thereafter.

#### ***Becoming recognised as a good employer***

66. Employee sickness absence decreased from an average of 4.7% of working time at the end of Quarter Three to an average of 4.4% during Quarter Four. At the same point in 2019/20 lost working time stood at 4.3%.
67. The Council continues to support its workforce through the pandemic through the provision and effective utilisation of remote working technologies and a range of individual support initiatives, including face-to-face counselling. While under current restrictions employees must work at home wherever possible, an exceptions process is in place to allow employees access to office space in view of their household or personal circumstances, subject to a robust managerial risk assessment.
68. Taking into account illness from COVID-19, the 2021/22 sickness absence figures strongly suggest enabling home working has had a positive impact on employee

health and wellbeing overall, and this will inform the Council's future working arrangements.

### **What decisions are being asked for?**

69. That the Executive notes progress in implementing the Council's Strategic Plan 2020-23 at Year-End 2020/21 and the ongoing impact of COVID-19.
70. That the Executive approves the proposed changes and amendments to COVID-19 Recovery Action Plans following Lockdown 3 (Appendix 1).
71. That in light of the position outlined in the report, the Executive notes the Council's updated Strategic Risk Register at Appendix 2.
72. That the Executive notes that future quarterly updates will report progress on the revised Strategic Plan for 2021-24, approved by Council in February 2021, and that COVID-19 Recovery activity will be subsumed with the workplan underpinning the revised Strategic Plan, approved by the Executive on 27 May 2021.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

73. To enable the effective management of performance and risk in line with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance.

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

74. Not applicable.

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

#### **Legal**

75. The proposed recommendations are consistent with and will promote the achievement of the Council's legal duty to achieve Best Value.

#### **Financial**

76. There are financial implications relating to some performance issues and COVID-19 recovery activity outlined in this report. These are summarised in the Revenue and Capital Budget / Final Outturn Position at Year-End 2020/21 report considered by Executive at this meeting.

#### **Policy framework**

77. The Strategic Plan and associated budgets form part of the Council's Policy Framework.

#### **Equality and diversity**

78. As reported to Council in January 2020, no negative differential impact on diverse groups and communities is anticipated from the direction of travel set out in the Strategic Plan 2020-23.



79. As reported to the Executive in June 2020, no negative differential impacts on diverse groups and communities within Middlesbrough are anticipated from the delivery of activity set out within the COVID-19 Recovery Plan, which in part aims to address the assumed increase in local inequalities in income, health, educational attainment and other areas arising from COVID-19.

## **Risk**

80. In line with the Council's Risk and Opportunity Management Policy, the corporate Strategic Risk Register (SRR) was reviewed in the quarter.

81. At Year-End 2020/21, the total number of risks on the SRR remained at 35 (19 red, 15 Amber and one green) with some movement. The SRR is summarised at Appendix 2.

82. One risk was been closed completely:

- Partners' funding issues impacting on joint services – this risk was closed as the context has changed significantly in light of ICS development and NHS restructuring.

83. One new risk was added to the SRR during Quarter Four:

- Failure of Boho X to deliver anticipated benefits and financial returns to Middlesbrough – the inclusion of this risk reflects the continuation of existing good practice in individually assessing and reporting the risks around large scale investment projects, with the current scoring reflecting the early stage of the project. The project is progressing well (planning permission is in place and a start on site is programmed for this autumn) and it is being managed through the formal, established processes. The impact of external factors on the project such as volatile construction pricing, third party performance and the attraction of appropriate tenants do however influence the risk profile, and need managing closely.

84. The severity of two existing strategic risks increased during Quarter Four:

- future contract costs for waste disposal are likely to rise significantly in the longer term, impacting on future MTFPs; and
- there is some risk around the sufficiency of Year 7 school places in the medium-term.

85. The latter risk was scored upwards to reflect initial notification from the Department for Education (DfE) of a potential delay in the scheduled completion of Outwood Academy Riverside, which the DfE has advised may now be January 2024, rather than summer 2023 as originally planned. This potential delay could result in a shortfall in school places for the September 2023 intake. However, the Council is working with DfE to mitigate any delay and plan for any extra spaces that may be required.

86. There is no potential shortfall in places for September 2021 and the potential shortfall in places for September 2022 has been mitigated by actions undertaken by the

Council, in particular approval by the Executive on 24 May 2021 of £2.3m capital investment at Kings Academy to create 128 addition places.

87. The severity of six existing strategic risks reduced during Quarter Four:
- high residential voids in Middlesbrough and the impact of sales values on the Council;
  - impact of external factors such as exiting in the European Union and COVID-19 on local development and Middlesbrough's economy;
  - failure to adhere to corporate procurement policies;
  - failure to comply with statutory duties;
  - failure to adapt service delivery to COVID-19 Secure guidelines; and
  - failure of employees, volunteers, and others to complete data protection training in turn causing breaches of data protection legislation.
88. Strategic risks will be subject to a fundamental review during Quarter One to reflect revisions to the Council's strategic priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan 2021-24.

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

89. Mitigating activity set out in the main body of the report will continue to be applied by Directorates as stated.

### **Appendices**

- 1 Summary of proposed changes and amendments to Recovery Action Plans
- 2 Summary Strategic Risk Register at Year-End 2020/21

### **Background papers**

15/01/20	Council	Priorities of the Elected Mayor and Strategic Plan 2020-2023
18/02/20	Executive	Strategic Plan 2019-22 – Progress at Quarter Three 2019/20
16/06/20	Executive	Strategic Plan 2020-23 – Progress at Year-end 2019/20
16/06/20	Executive	COVID-19: the Council's response and Recovery Plan
18/08/20	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget / Projected Outturn Position at Quarter One 2020/21
18/8/20	Executive	Strategic Plan 2020-23 – Progress at Quarter One 2020/21
24/11/20	Executive	Strategic Plan 2020-23 – Progress at Quarter Two 2020/21
24/11/20	Executive	Revised approach to COVID19 Recovery
16/02/21	Executive	Strategic Plan 2020-23 – Progress at Quarter Three 2020/21

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## Appendix 1: Summary of proposed changes and amendments to Recovery Action Plans

Recovery workstream	Action	Milestone ref.	Change required / proposed	Decision maker
Business, Economy and Town Centre	Increase town centre commercial property occupancy rates to 85% (69.7%) of pre-COVID levels	BE02.02: Undertake survey to identify occupancy % levels	End date to slip from April to May 2021	Chief Executive  In-quarter movement
Environment and Infrastructure	Undertake a review of the longer-term effects / impact of COVID on community cohesion	EI01.01: Undertake survey to understand COVID19 related impact on community cohesion EI01.02: Produce action plan based on survey to Executive to inform further Recovery approach EI01.03: Establish monitoring arrangements to undertake activity to address / mitigate impact on community cohesion	End date slippage from June to September 2021  Date slippage from June - August 2021 to September - November 2021  Date slippage from September - October 2021 to November 2021 - January 2022	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement
Health and Wellbeing	Co-produce and deliver a Middlesbrough Health and Wellbeing Recovery Plan to address the impact of COVID-19 on health inequalities and relative targeted support by August 2023	HW02.01: Work with key partners to confirm delivery arrangements and associated plans for key areas of focus identified within the overarching Middlesbrough Health and Wellbeing Recovery Plan, to establish deliverables / outcomes	End date slippage from March to May 2021	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement
Adult Social Care	Develop and maintain appropriate support provision for informal carers, by June 2021	AS04.02: Delivery of training package for assessors AS04.03: Review and audit impact of training delivered AS04.04: Practice audit of carer needs to undertake review of carer support services	Action title references June 2021 and milestones to be amended accordingly: End date slippage from January to May 2021 End date slippage from February to June 2021 End date slippage from June to July 2021	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement
Education and Skills	Support all Middlesbrough schools following spikes / outbreaks, ensuring all vulnerable children have continued access to education by December 2021	ES02.06: Develop effective and accessible holiday enrichment activity in both the Easter and Summer school holiday periods ES02.07: Implement the Vulnerable Children's Attendance Project to contribute to improved school attendance of the most vulnerable children	2 new milestones added to reference learning / impact of lockdowns.	Chief Executive
Education and Skills	Provide opportunities and training to support people to move in to work and further training by March 2022	ES03.04: Secure Adult Learning Funding for the academic year 21/22 to deliver adult education and training for Middlesbrough residents	New milestone added to reference learning / impact of lockdowns.	Chief Executive

Recovery workstream	Action	Milestone ref.	Change required / proposed	Decision maker
Children's Care	Increase the number of early interventions where domestic abuse is factor, in response to the upsurge in rates of domestic abuse, as a result of COVID-19	CC01.01: Through analysis of the drivers for demand impacted by COVID 19, create a baseline, forecast model and targets to increase early interventions in relation to domestic abuse. CC01.02: Through development and implementation of the Early Help and Prevention Strategy, support a targeted offer for more families impacted by domestic abuse prior to risk escalation, including development of the referral pathway and training for partners.	End date slippage on both from March to September 2021	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement
Children's Care	Increase Early Help assessments across Newport and North Ormesby to mitigate increased levels of deprivation, unemployment and crime in Newport and North Ormesby as a result of COVID-19	CC02.03: Establish plan and approach to increase the proportion of Early Help assessments in Newport and North Ormesby to 6% with a view to mitigate impact of COVID-19. CC02.04: Establish a monitoring process to track early help assessments within Newport and North Ormesby to analyse effectiveness of early intervention	End date slippage on both from February to July 2021	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement
Children's Care	Resume service plans impacted by COVID-19 to support children in remaining with their families e.g. futures for families and family group conferencing	CC04.02: Review and ensure alternative ways of delivery are in place to support the delivery of family group conferencing	End date slippage from March to September 2021	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement
Council Services and Priorities	Agree a revised approach to community engagement through agreement of a 'Middlesbrough Community approach' by March 2021	All	Action monitored within SP workplan. Seeking approval to remove entirely.	Executive
Council Services and Priorities	To effectively enable all staff to work from the office environment for a proportion of time, by March 2021	All	Action monitored within SP workplan. Seeking approval to remove entirely.	Executive

Recovery workstream	Action	Milestone ref.	Change required / proposed	Decision maker
Council Services and Priorities	Key Council plans (MFTP, Strategic Plan, Business Continuity, Operations Strategy, etc.) will reflect the impact of COVID, to support Recovery / new normal, by December 2020	CS04.03: Review organisational needs in relation to plans for Customer, Digital, ICT, Communications, Accommodation and service delivery models, ensuring they support the new normal for agile working, post-COVID	Action title references December 2020 / mid-Lockdown 2 and 3. End date slippage from March to June 2021.	Executive  Outside of in-quarter movement

## Appendix 2: Summary Strategic Risk Register at Year-End 2020/21

The table below sets out high and medium risks to the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities at Year-End 2020/21 in order of severity, with impacts ranging from insignificant to extreme, and likelihood ranging from rare to almost certain to happen.

In line with its Risk and Opportunity Management Policy, the Council aims (where possible) to manage down High risks to the lowest practicable level immediately and Medium risks to the lowest practicable level within three months.

Risk Level	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Trend
High	Failure to control expenditure within Children's Services (MFTP pressure).	Likely	Extreme	→
High	Failure to achieve full reimbursement from Government for costs incurred in responding to COVID-19 to date and risks of further costs being incurred as a result of local outbreaks (MFTP pressure).	Possible	Extreme	→
High	Insufficient funding to meet increased expenditure that might be incurred from increased demand as a result of COVID-19 (MFTP pressure).	Possible	Extreme	→
High	Retail market distress impacting Middlesbrough town centre.	Likely	Major	→
High	Breach of data rights due to untimely response to information requests.	Likely	Major	→
High	Inadequate safeguarding practices lead to children and young people being at risk.	Likely	Major	→
High	Failure of Boho X to deliver anticipated benefits and financial returns.	Possible	Major	<b>NEW</b>
High	High residential voids / low sale values within Middlesbrough.	Possible	Major	↓
High	UK / EU Trade and Security Deal adversely affecting Council operations.	Possible	Major	→
High	Historical investigations requiring changes to social work practice.	Possible	Major	→
High	Inaccurate MTFP resulting in funding gap requiring further savings.	Possible	Major	→
High	Children impacted by social care transformation.	Possible	Major	→
High	New historic child abuse claims.	Possible	Major	→
High	Failure to maintain adequate corporate governance.	Possible	Major	→
High	Failure to align operations and culture within strategic objectives.	Possible	Major	→
High	Decline in new housebuilding impact on Council income.	Possible	Major	→
High	External factors (e.g. Brexit, COVID-19) impacting Middlesbrough's economy.	Possible	Major	↓

Risk Level	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Trend
High	Failure to adequately plan for new COVID-19 wave or subsequent pandemics.	Unlikely	Extreme	→
High	Disruption from national / local elections.	Likely	Moderate	→
Medium	Future waste disposal contract costs (MTFP pressure).	Possible	Major	↑
Medium	Insufficient year 7 school places available to meet demand over the next 5 years	Possible	Major	↑
Medium	Failure to develop effective partnerships.	Unlikely	Major	→
Medium	National Waste Review (MTFP pressure).	Unlikely	Major	→
Medium	Reduction in frontline policing impacting on crime / community resilience.	Possible	Moderate	→
Medium	Failure to recruit and / or retain key staff.	Possible	Moderate	→
Medium	Limited or no partnership involvement due to COVID-19 with the Children's Service Safeguarding Improvement Plan.	Possible	Moderate	→
Medium	Failure to adhere to corporate procurement policies.	Possible	Moderate	↓
Medium	Terrorist incident (reflects National Threat Level).	Rare	Extreme	→
Medium	Failure to comply with statutory duties.	Rare	Extreme	↓
Medium	Failure to adapt service delivery to COVID-19 Secure guidelines.	Rare	Extreme	↓
Medium	Poor skills profile of school leavers.	Unlikely	Moderate	→
Medium	Inward migration increasing demand for services.	Unlikely	Moderate	→
Medium	Insufficient primary school places in central Middlesbrough.	Unlikely	Moderate	→
Medium	Poor quality of services provided by health partners impacting / increasing demand for Council services.	Possible	Minor	→
Low	Data protection law breach – failure of staff to complete training.	Rare	Major	↓

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<b>Report of:</b>	Andy Preston - The Mayor and Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Adult Social Care and Public Protection Mark Adams - Director of Public Health Councillor Mieka Smiles - Executive Member for Culture and Communities Rob Brown - Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 15 June 2021
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<b>Subject:</b>	Update on the Holiday Activities Fund 2021
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### Summary

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
Not applicable, the report is for information only.

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?</b>
Executive	N/A	N/A	N/A

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Promote the welfare of our children, young people and vulnerable adults and protect them from harm, abuse and neglect.  Work with communities to improve local health and wellbeing, working with local providers to increase educational and vocational attainment for children	Not applicable	Not applicable

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
All

### What is the purpose of this report?

1. The report provides an update on the Holiday Activities Fund 2021 including Easter delivery and the plans for Summer 2021.

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

2. The original decision (March 2021) was required as the grant is over £150,000 and affects more than two wards. Executive and LMT requested an update to be presented in June 2021.

## Report Background

3. School holidays can be pressure points for some families because of increased costs and reduced incomes – some children from lower-income families are more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health and are less likely to access fun activities. Parents from food insecure households report greater stress levels during the school holidays, impacting on mental wellbeing.
4. There is also evidence for greater learning loss during the school holidays (particularly summer) in children from lower-income families, particularly around spelling.
5. Over recent years, the Government has piloted a range of approaches to delivering school holiday activities with the aim of providing free healthy meals and fun activities to disadvantaged children. In November 2020, they announced that Local Authorities would be allocated a share of £220 million to expand the Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) programme in 2021 so that it is available for every child and young person eligible for free school meals (FSM).
6. The grant made available to Middlesbrough Council is listed below, alongside the other Teesside Local Authorities.

Local authority name	2020/21 FY	2021/22 FY	Total indicative allocation
Hartlepool	£63,000	£563,500	£626,500
Middlesbrough	£105,340	£942,130	£1,047,470
Redcar and Cleveland	£69,990	£625,960	£695,950
Stockton-on-Tees	£91,500	£818,350	£909,850

7. Broadly, the requirements of the HAF programme 2021 are:
  - Healthy (hot) meals to School Food Standards
  - Enrichment activities
  - Physical activity and nutrition education
  - Signposting and referrals to services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families (e.g. Housing Support Officers, Affordable Warmth Advisors)
  - Inclusive and accessible provision
  - At least 4 hours for 4 days a week – for 4 weeks in the summer, and for a week in Easter and Christmas
  - Ofsted registered providers where appropriate
8. The free holiday club places must be targeted at children and young people who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals (8,871 in Middlesbrough in the Spring 2021 school census).
9. If the Local Authority can demonstrate that (1) we are offering the programme comprehensively across the full geographical area; and (2) fully meeting demand from free school meal eligible children and young people in the area, then approval can be sought from the DfE to use up to 15% of the programme funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who are considered by the Local Authority as vulnerable or in need of this provision. For example, this may include children assessed as being in need, looked-after children, children with an EHC plan (education, health and care), children assessed as otherwise vulnerable, or children living in areas of high deprivation. This permission

has been sought from DfE in advance of the summer provision to give local flexibility in provision; however, demand for places from children and young people who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals needs to be secured and delivery on first and foremost.

## **Update**

### Easter 2021 delivery

10. The HAF grant was formally accepted by Executive in March 2021 and plans were immediately operationalised for delivery at Easter. This included:

- i. A grants programme whereby providers could ask for up to £1,500 to deliver activities to the relevant HAF and COVID secure standards – a total of 22 grants were issued to partners to deliver activities ranging from football to running clubs to outdoor education to arts and crafts. This programme also provided additional support for voluntary and community groups in Middlesbrough to utilise staff and resources as part of their own recovery from the pandemic (the groups and the activities that they delivered are listed in appendix one).
- ii. Activity directly commissioned by Middlesbrough Council Education and Prevention colleagues – for example, Park End Primary School were funded to deliver five days of activity.
- iii. A collaboration between nine of the North East Local Authorities to pool budgets to place enrichment content on Teesside TV and Made in Tyne & Wear (channel seven on Freeview) as a means of avoiding digital exclusion issues. This ran for 10 hours over four days of the Easter Holidays, with programming aimed at different age groups (e.g. morning for young children, lunchtime for older children and evenings for teenagers). All of the content was recorded in the North East including a piece on dinosaurs filmed at Teessaurus Park (available at <https://youtu.be/Ehj5IFPUeqo>).



11. These plans provided options for all children and young people to access HAF related enrichment activities, albeit not to the full HAF requirements (which were waived by DfE given time pressures). Not all providers could mobilise in the timeframe and hence there was an underspend at Easter which is carried forward to summer and Christmas (see section 10).

12. Combined, the first two programmes were attended by 937 children and young people, with 816 eligible for free school meal related benefits. This provides a strong basis to develop and deliver the summer and Christmas programmes.

13. The third element on Teesside TV was viewed (3 minute reach) by an average audience of 10,252 people across their broadcast area.

### Management and Co-ordination

14. Given the scale and priority of the programme, the Department for Education have confirmed that 10% of the local grant can be allocated to the management and co-ordination of the HAF programme.

15. A quotation process was undertaken to select a local provider/consortium to deliver this function on behalf of Middlesbrough Council and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

Three bids were submitted and competitively scored, with The Junction selected as the winning provider. Specifically, they will:

- Support the two Councils to commission safe, appropriate HAF provision in place that delivers on the DfE requirements
- Maximise the uptake from those with the most to gain, including representing the voice of the child and young person and putting in place a co-produced marketing and branding strategy
- Co-ordinate a centralised booking system and data return for the Councils to submit to DfE
- Quality assure all provision including checking qualifications and undertaking assurance visits

16. Internal capacity is also being funded from the HAF grant including:

- Advanced Public Health Practitioner (0.1wte) as the overall lead for the HAF
- Health Improvement Specialist (up to 0.3wte) to provide support to the Advanced Public Health Practitioner
- Support from the Obesity and Nutrition Team on advice for providers around the School Food Standards and training on nutritional education (key requirements of the HAF programme).
- Commissioning Officer support.

#### Summer 2021 delivery

17. As a holiday programme at this scale has never been delivered locally, the HAF pilots in 2019 and 2020 from elsewhere have been reviewed and good practice identified to inform our local approach.

18. Initially it was proposed that the HAF for Primary School age children would be school based. However, following discussions with Head Teachers, only a handful of schools volunteered as delivery sites making this approach infeasible. Hence the proposals for providing the HAF for this age group are:

- To work with the schools that have volunteered as delivery sites and map these to understand gaps in provision.
- To work with community partners (e.g. those who provided HAF programmes at Easter) to commission provision to fill these gaps.

19. The timetable for progressing this element of the work is:

- Follow up meeting with Head Teachers expressing an interest: by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Mapping of Primary School provision to identify gaps to be filled: by 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- Commissioning activity to fill the gaps to commence: w/c 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

20. Proposals for providing the HAF for Secondary School age young people include:

- Targeted outreach for those aged 12 and over delivered alongside other partner activity (e.g. diversionary activities commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner) to achieve other outcomes (e.g. delivered at times to reduce antisocial behaviour which peaks during the school holidays).

- In practice, it is expected that this will mirror detached youth work provision – delivered from 17:00 to 21:00 to maximise attendance from the target age group and deliver on other outcomes (e.g. diverting young people from antisocial behaviour).
- Colleagues from across the Council and other partners are supporting the development of plans for this age group to maximise the wider outcomes.

21. The timetable for progressing this element of the work is:

- A final proposed delivery method to be created: by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (in conjunction with colleagues such as those in Children’s Services)
- Commissioning activity to commence: w/c 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

22. Proposals for providing the HAF for children and young people with a disability are:

- The HAF programme requires that provision is fully inclusive.
- There is an opportunity to maximise the HAF opportunity for children and young people with a disability by combining budgets with other relevant provision (e.g. short breaks provision).
- Where possible, children and young people with a disability will be included in mainstream provision; where there is a requirement for more specialist provision, clarity has been sought from DfE about aligning this with short breaks providers already commissioned to deliver programmes during the summer holidays by Middlesbrough Council.

23. The timetable for progressing this element of the work is:

- Officers meet with internal colleagues delivering/commissioning other support for children and young people with a disability during the summer holidays and consider joint plans/funding: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (complete)
- Clarity sought from DfE about aligning HAF provision with short breaks providers: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (email sent)
- A final proposed delivery method to be created: by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

24. Given the lack of facilities in some of these settings to cook large volumes of food (e.g. detached youth work), this element will be commissioned separately from an appropriate provider (e.g. School Meals providers, Middlesbrough Football Club) and transported to where the HAF is being delivered.

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

25. Not applicable, the report is for information only.

**Why is this being recommended?**

26. Not applicable, the report is for information only.

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

27. Not applicable, the report is for information only.

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

28. Not applicable, the report is for information only.

## Equality and Diversity

29. Not applicable, the report is for information only.

## Legal

30. Relevant procurement and legal requirements will need to be met.

## Financial

31. The Holiday Activities Fund grant for Middlesbrough is £1,047,470 from which we are allowed to utilise 10% for management and co-ordination, leaving £942,723 for front line delivery. If this is broken down into the six weeks of activity, it equates to £157,120 per week on average. The DfE state that:

*“We are not specifying a minimum reach or expectation. We know that reaching a very high percentage of FSM children is not realistic. We want to allow LAs the flexibility to build a high-quality programme that reaches as many children as they are able to.”*

32. It is difficult to predict what the level of demand will be, however, local projections suggest that the grant will support an uptake of approximately 40% (3,548 children and young people). Additionally, Officers will work to increase capacity through:

- Negotiating the lowest cost per day with providers without impacting on quality
- Exploring other options for funding for the programme to extend the provision to more children and young people such as:
  - Could an appropriate commercial sponsor be secured – potentially via links in other parts of the Local Authority (e.g. links and relationships that Regeneration have with local businesses)
  - There are opportunities to align the HAF provision with other local activity (e.g. short breaks for children and young people with a disability), which is actively being explored with relevant Officers
  - The DfE are expected to announce a small uplift in the grant shortly following the increase in FSM eligible numbers

33. These projections take account of an underspend at Easter of £93,042 (budget of £157,120).

34. If extra funding was secured, for every £17,387 the level of supply could be increased by an additional 1% (based on the above assumptions).

## Policy Framework

35. Not applicable, the report is for information only.

## Equality and Diversity

36. Equality Impact Assessments may be required to ensure that the provision is accessible to all relevant communities.

## Risk

37. The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

Risk No	Risk Description	
O9-015	Failure to address the impacts of Covid on Middlesbrough's pupils because of deprivation and digital access issues may lead to the loss of learning due to limited access to digital media and limited access to food for those on low incomes resulting in an increased financial hardship being placed on families and the children may not reach their full potential due to the loss of education.	The holiday enrichment activity programme will ensure that deprived children in the area will have access to food and activities which will support families and therefore it will have a positive impact on this risk.
O4-015	If attainment at all key stages fails to narrow with national benchmarks the council could be perceived as not having a focus on education.	Evidence states that there is a greater loss of learning during school holidays in particular around lower income families so a holiday enrichment programme can have education learning built in an act as an intervention within this time which will support the schools in the area. This will have a positive impact on this risk.
O8-091	Failure to achieve full reimbursement from government for costs incurred responding to COVID-19 to date and risks of further costs being incurred as a result of local outbreaks.	The costs for the holiday enrichment activity programme has been extended due to the impacts of Covid-19 and the government have provided the additional funding. This will have a positive impact on this risk.
O8-059	If incorrect assumptions are made in the MTFP this will result in a funding gap requiring further savings to be made.	The funding received from government for the holiday enrichment activity programme will be factored into the MTFP and will ensure that there is no funding gaps for this area of delivery and therefore it will have a positive impact on this risk.
O8-008	If effective partnership working is not achieved, then this will reduce the Council's ability to deliver strategic priorities and key services, resulting in reduced outcomes for local communities.	Working with adjacent local authority and working with community partners to identify and commission provision on the services required will deliver better outcomes for local communities so will have a positive impact on this risk.
O8-097	If corporate procurement policies are not adhered to this may lead to the Council not achieving best value for money resulting in the potential for legal challenge, fines, setting aside of contracts which will have an impact	Services are being commissioned for the holiday enrichment activity programme will follow a procurement process to ensure that best value services and best price are secured

	on budgets and damaged the Council's reputation.	which will have a positive impact on this risk.
O2-038	The Community safety Partnership relies on effective partnership working with policing at a strategic level and neighbourhood level. Current pressures on policing have meant that there has been no neighbourhood policing presence. This has affected community confidence and crime levels. The Chief Constable has also publicly highlighted failings of the police in other areas such as response to Domestic Abuse etc.	By providing the holiday enrichment activity programme for those aged 12 and over alongside partners such as the police this will hopefully have an impact on anti-social behaviour by diverting young people into other activities and will provide a more cohesive approach across partners to maximise the wider outcomes. This will have a positive impact on this risk at a neighbourhood level.

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

38. Progress on implementation of the HAF programme will be provided on a regular basis to Children's Services and Public Health DMTs.

### **Background papers**

39. Executive paper 20/124 (16<sup>th</sup> March 2021) – Acceptance of the Holiday Activities Fund 2021 Grant

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## **Appendix One – Providers of Holiday Activity Fund Easter 2021 programmes in Middlesbrough**

- Rewilding Adventure (two grants totalling £3,000) – who provided outdoor education adventures for children and young people from Thorntree ward at their established woodland site at Dunsdale in Redcar & Cleveland
- Pip Disabled Mum (three grants totalling £2,415) – who provided activity packs for children and families in households where parents were shielding, specifically:
  - Craft and activity packs
  - Fruit exploration packs
  - Sport and sensory packs
- Harbour Support Services (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided activity sessions over two weeks for families who have experienced domestic abuse
- Lisa McGee Education (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided fun enrichment activities centred around nutrition and improving mental health and delivered through STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities and art activities
- Pennyman Primary Academy (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided four days of holiday clubs covering a range of activities such as physical activities, art, crafts and music
- Kids Kabin (one grant totalling £1,280) – who provided four days of holiday clubs covering a range of activities such as cookery, physical activities, art, crafts and music
- Boro Soccer Schools (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided a three day football coaching camp
- Linx Youth Project (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided a range of activities including sport and cookery
- Tees Valley Sport (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided a four day multisport/physical activity, arts, music and nature programme at Albert Park
- Youth Focus North East (four grants totalling £3,907) – who provided a range of activities for young people on evenings in Park End, Pallister Park and North Ormesby
- Park End Primary School (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided a week long holiday camp for their pupils
- Community Ventures Ltd (one grant totalling £720.50) – who started a kids holiday running club
- Active Tees Valley (one grant totalling £1,500) – who provided football camps for primary school children

Additional activity was commissioned by Middlesbrough Council Education Colleagues via Park End Primary School, Captain Cook Primary School and Council staff.

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Councillor Barrie Cooper - Executive Member for Environment and Finance & Governance Ian Wright - Director of Finance
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 15 June 2021
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<b>Subject:</b>	Revenue and Capital Budget - Year-End Outturn Position 2020/21
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**Summary**

**Proposed decision(s)**

- That the Executive approves the transfer to Reserves as detailed in the report and summarised in paragraph 123 of the report.
- That the Executive notes the 2020/21 revenue budget final year-end outturn of a £355,000 (-0.3%) underspend on non-Covid-19 elements (subject to above approval of transfers to reserves), and the financial effect of Covid-19 in 2020/21 of £416,000.
- That the Executive approves the transfer of the £355,000 underspend on non-Covid-19 elements to the General Fund Reserve.
- That the Executive notes the use of the General Fund Reserve, as approved by Council on 2 September 2020, to fund the £416,000 Covid-19 overspend in 2020/21.
- That the Executive approve the transfer of the remaining £4.512m funding set aside in the General Fund Reserve to a separate Reserve, to cover potential costs arising from the Covid-19 recovery in 2021/22 and future years.
- That the Executive notes the 2020/21 capital budget final outturn of £42.078m against a revised budget of £45.195m, and approves the revised Investment Strategy to 2023/24 at Appendix 1.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	Yes - over the financial threshold (£150,000)	No	No

**Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan**

People	Place	Business
Quarterly monitoring, review and action planning plays a central role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan is delivered effectively.		

**Ward(s) affected**

None.

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

1. This report advises the Executive of the Council's financial position at Year-End 2020/21, including the effect of Covid-19 on the Council's finances.

## **Why does this report require a member decision?**

2. The Council's Scheme of Delegation gives the Executive collective responsibility for corporate strategic performance and financial management / monitoring, together with associated action. Standing Orders and Financial Procedures require the Executive's approval for major variations between revenue budgets, and in-year changes to the Council's capital Investment Strategy.
3. This report provides the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its financial management responsibilities, setting out:
  - final revenue and capital budget outturns at year-end 2020/21;
  - position statements in relation to the Council's borrowing and its reserves; and
  - actions that the Council has taken and plans to address the issues raised.
4. A revised Investment Strategy for the period to 2023/24 is attached at Appendix 1 for the Executive's consideration and approval.

## **Report Background**

### **Revenue Budget Outturn 2020/21**

5. As reported in previous reports, the Covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on the Council's financial position. This has also made the management of the Council finances more difficult in 2020/21 due to the constantly evolving situation, including the receipt of Government grant funding at short notice throughout 2020/21. Covid-19 financial pressures are being monitored separately from the normal non-Covid-19 financial position, and these are reported separately in paragraphs 54 to 85 below.
6. The 2020/21 Revenue budget for the Council is £116,397,000. A revised senior management structure within the Council was implemented during Quarter One and the financial position is reported against this new structure. The Council's year-end revenue outturn position for 2020/21 for non-Covid-19 elements is an underspend of £2,391,000.
7. It is proposed to transfer £438,000 of the Public Health Grant underspend to a Public Health reserves and £1,598,000 of the Adult Social Care underspend to an Adult Social Care Covid Recovery Reserve, in order to help to fund future costs arising from Covid-19 recovery in these areas. Executive are requested to approve these transfers to reserves and the final revenue outturn position of £355,000 underspend assumes these transfers are approved.
8. The split by Directorate of the final year end revenue outturn position for 2020/21 is shown in the table below :

Directorate	2020/21 Full Year Budget	2020/21 Final Outturn (excluding Covid-19)	2020/21 Over / (under) spend (excluding Covid-19)	2020/21 Proposed transfer to Reserves	2020/21 Over / (under) spend (excluding Covid-19 and after proposed transfer to Reserves)
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Regeneration	3,571	2,416	(1,155)	0	(1,155)
Environment and Community Services	19,144	18,329	(815)	0	(815)
Public Health and Public Protection	(2,784)	(3,505)	(721)	438	(283)
Education & Partnerships	2,082	1,784	(298)	0	(298)
Children's Care	38,247	42,480	4,233	0	4,233
Adult Social Care and Health Integration	37,776	35,827	(1,949)	1,598	(351)
Legal and Governance Services	8,354	8,631	277	0	277
Finance	1,298	1,107	(191)	0	(191)
Central Budgets	8,709	6,937	(1,772)	0	(1,772)
<b>Revenue Outturn</b>	<b>116,397</b>	<b>114,006</b>	<b>(2,391)</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>(355)</b>

9. This when added to the Covid-19 pressures of £416,000 detailed in paragraphs 54 to 85 results in a total revenue outturn pressure at year-end 2020/21 of £61,000. This is a reduction of £2.735m from the £2.796m total projected revenue outturn pressure reported at Quarter Three.
10. The detail of the variances is set out below. At year-end, 36 areas had spent +/- £150,000 of the agreed budget.

#### *Regeneration*

11. Continued successful lettings at Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP) during Quarter Four resulted in unbudgeted net additional revenue income of £458,000 being received in 2020/21. This position has improved by £100,000 from that projected at Quarter Three.
12. An underspend of £500,000 has been achieved from staff savings due to posts being held vacant within the Cultural Services budgets pending a review of the wider Cultural Services.
13. In addition to the above, there are a number of budget areas within Regeneration, which have variances below £150,000, and these account for the overall £1,155,000 total underspend on the Regeneration budget at year-end 2020/21.

#### *Environment and Community Services*

14. The Property Services budget was underspent by a total of £94,000 at year-end. Within this budget, there are savings of £168,000 on building running costs due mainly to reduced occupation of buildings during Covid-19 in addition to a reduction in energy costs, in particular electricity where wholesale prices through NEPO arrangement have reduced. Savings of £197,000 occurred due to vacant posts within Building Cleaning. In addition, there was a saving of £65,000 within the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU), which is an improvement on the projected £100,000 overspend position reported at Quarter Three due to the further lockdown and school closures

that occurred during Quarter Four, which resulted in reduced demand and therefore reduced costs for the service. As reported at Quarter Three there has been a shortfall in income due to a decrease in the number of cremations following the opening of a crematorium in Stockton, which has resulted in a pressure totalling £185,000 at year-end. This pressure is lower than the £275,000 projected at Quarter Three as a result of the number of cremations and burials being higher than expected in Quarter Four. In addition, there has been an income shortfall due to the closure of the Transporter Bridge, which has produced a pressure of £150,000 at year-end, a slight reduction from that reported at Quarter Three.

15. The Transport and Infrastructure budget was underspent by £290,000 at year-end, a slight increase in underspend from that reported at Quarter Three, mainly due to efficiencies from the Streetlighting contract returning in-house, and staff savings from vacant posts.
16. The Environment Services budget produced a total saving of £313,000 at year-end. This is primarily due to an underspend on salary costs caused by vacant posts and reductions in other expenditure within Catering totalling £181,000 due to the closure of schools in Quarter Four. In addition, there were savings across the Places and Spaces budget of £104,000 and Waste Disposal budget of £28,000. The increase in the amount of savings from that reported at Quarter Three has been due to reduced expenditure in non-frontline services following the lockdown and Covid-19 restrictions imposed from the end of December to the end of March. This has not resulted in any effect on frontline service delivery levels to residents during the year.

#### *Public Health and Public Protection*

17. Savings on Public Health budgets totalling £438,000 have been achieved in 2020/21 due to a £202,000 saving caused by reduced activity for some demand led services, such as Stop Smoking, NHS Healthcheck programme, rehabilitation, and prescribing costs as a result of Covid-19, with the remainder of the savings achieved being due to staff and supplies and services savings. There were also staff and supplies and services savings in Public Protection totalling £283,000, partly as a result of charging staffing costs for work undertaken in relation to Covid-19 to Covid-19 grants.
18. It is proposed that the underspend of £438,000 on Public Health budgets is transferred to a Public Health Reserve for use in future years to allow for the potential future effects on services following the end of Covid-19 restrictions.

#### *Education & Partnerships*

19. As reported in previous quarters, the Tackling Troubled Families budget underspent by £155,000 at year-end, due to an over-achievement in completing and closing cases, thereby maximising grant income over and above the amount required to finance expenditure.
20. There is an underspend of £128,000 on the Education services budget, mainly due to staff savings.
21. There is a saving of £732,000 at year-end relating to school contributions to capital schemes, as contributions were funded from other sources, thereby creating a revenue saving. It is proposed that this is transferred to a Children's Services

Demand Reserve for use in future years to mitigate demand within Children's Services.

22. Following recommendations from external audit in previous year's audits, a detailed exercise has been undertaken to close and clear the balances of a number of holding and other codes, which are no longer used, within Education. This has created a net saving of £175,000. It is proposed that this is transferred to a Children's Services Improvement Reserve to help to fund improvements within Children's Services linked to the Ofsted Improvement Plan.

### *Children's Care*

23. The residential agency placements budget was £1,130,000 (10%) overspent at year-end, an increase of £175,000 from that projected at Quarter Three. This was due to slightly slower than expected implementation of new initiatives during Quarter Four. The number of external residential placements has reduced to 65 at the end of 2020/21 from the 74 at the end of 2019/20, due to initiatives such as the Innovate Team, the Futures for Families Programme, and the provision of nine places at Daniel Court. Phase 2 of the Innovate programme started in Quarter Four, but this will take time to fully implement and achieve further financial savings.
24. The in-house fostering services budget was overspent by £429,000 (13%) at year-end, slightly lower than the Quarter Three projection. There has been an increased number of placements/cases by 6 in 2020/21 (from 158 to 164), in addition to the full year effect of 2019/20 increases. An increase in this budget should be positive as a whole as the cost per child is less expensive than other demand budgets, and the Service are working to increase capacity over the next few years.
25. The Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements budget was £913,000 (16%) overspent at year-end, which is a decrease from the £1,141,000 reported at Quarter Three. As reported in previous quarters this overspend is due to an increased number of placements / cases in 2020/21 (increase of 3 to 163 at year-end) and the full year effect of 2019/20 increases. Whilst capacity has been maximised within the internal in-house fostering service, an overspend will still exist on this budget to ensure that higher cost external residential placements are minimised. Without the increase in places in fostering in-house provision, the Independent Fostering Agency budget pressure would have increased significantly more than it has.
26. The Family and Friends Allowances budget was £1,074,000 overspent (51%) at year-end, slightly lower than the Quarter Three projection due to the numbers hitting a plateau during this period. The increase in 2020/21 has been from 312 to 373 young people (19.6% increase). This is due to a large increase in the number of cases in 2020/21 along with the full year effect of 2019/20 increases. The demand on this budget is forecast to increase in the next few years as the Council continue to improve outcomes for Middlesbrough young people. A working group is continuing to investigate processes and payments and there is a plan to increase benefit claim checks in order to attempt to mitigate this pressure.
27. There was an overspend of £1,046,000 (19%) on the Safeguarding and Care Planning, and Referral and Assessment teams budgets, an increase from the £585,000 reported at Quarter Three. Despite charging some costs to Covid-19, the overspend is mainly due to significant staff agency costs in 2020/21 to cover

sickness and vacant posts. It currently remains a challenge to recruit and retain social workers, and a strategy for this is included within the Ofsted Improvement Plan, and supported by the Council's management team. The recruitment of permanent Social work staff is a major challenge to the Council, with the continued reliance on the use of significant levels of agency staff being a significant risk to the long-term finances of the Council.

28. The Review and Development budget overspent by £275,000 (46%) at year end (similar to that reported at Quarter Three), due to increased staffing costs to support the reduction in caseloads of social workers to more manageable levels, and the recruitment of agency staff to fill vacant posts due to challenges in recruiting to social worker positions across Children's Services.
29. Internal Residential services budget underspent by £798,000 (28%) at year-end, broadly similar to the Quarter Three projection, due to a slower than anticipated implementation of new initiatives and the maximisation of grant funding. Daniel Court and Future for Families are both now open and Rosecroft is expected to re-open in Summer 2021 following refurbishment, and increasing occupancy and caseload levels at these establishments will generate future savings and cost avoidance.
30. The Children Looked After teams budget overspent by £153,000 (7%) at year-end. Similar to Assessment and Care Planning and Children in Need teams, this is mainly due to agency staffing costs to fill vacancies and cover absences, and to support the Ofsted Improvement Plan. This is lower than the Quarter Three projection as only priority vacancies and absences have been covered during Quarter Four. As stated in paragraph 27 the reliance on agency staff, is a significant risk to the Council in the medium to longer term.
31. The Short Breaks Respite and Direct Payments budget underspent by £290,000 (28%) at year-end, an increased saving from the Quarter Three projection, due to unexpected continued reduced spending on Short Breaks and Direct Payments.
32. The Directorate's management budget overspent by £286,000 (51%) at year-end, due to significant agency costs relating to senior staff within the Service. This will reduce in 2021/22 as senior staff move from agency contracts to permanent contracts.
33. The Executive Director of Children's Services budget overspent by £152,000 (15%) at year-end, similar to the Quarter Three projection. This is mainly due to budget pressures within the Administration and Strategic teams. A large proportion of this overspend will be removed in 2021/22 due to the Executive Director of Children's Services now being permanently employed by the Council.

#### *Adult Social Care and Health Integration*

34. There are staff savings across the Service totalling £681,000 at year-end, which is a substantial increase from that reported at Quarter Three, due to staff turnover and delayed recruitment to vacancies. In addition, there are supplies and services savings of £282,000 across the Service. The supply of equipment into people's homes has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in an underspend of £110,000.



35. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an overall reduction in the cost of care packages (mainly residential care) of £339,000 at year-end. In addition, service user's contributions to community care packages continue to be received in excess of budgeted income, resulting in a underspend of £435,000 at year-end. Both of these underspends have increased from that reported at Quarter Three due to the lockdown during Quarter Four.
36. At Quarter Three, £629,000 was set aside (from the reduction in care package costs) in respect of a pending High Court ruling in relation to potential backdated payments for sleep-in shifts. The High Court ruling was in favour of the Council and therefore this provision is no longer required creating a saving in 2020/21 due to this. There will also be no on-going recurring pressures in future years in relation to this.
37. As reported at Quarter Three a recurring saving of £500,000 per annum due to the reduction demand for long-term residential care has been achieved. This is after offsetting increased costs of Short Term care, Independent Supported Living, supporting people with Learning Disabilities and pressures on hospital social work. This saving has been included in the MTFP approved by Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021. As reported in previous quarters the saving in 2020/21 due to this is to be transferred at year end to an Earmarked Reserve for future use against any potential future demand increases during the Covid-19 recovery period, and the outturn position currently assumes the transfer of the £500,000 to the Earmarked Reserve.
38. The total saving for Adult Social Care and Health Integration at year-end is £1,949,000, which is a substantial increase from that reported at Quarter Three due to the reasons reported above. As it is predicted that there will be increased demand for services provided by Adult Social Care in future years following the end of Covid-19 restrictions, it is proposed that £1,598,000 of the savings are transferred to an Adult Social Care Covid Recovery Reserve for the potential effects of increased service demand in future years.

#### *Legal and Governance Services*

39. The Legal Services budget overspent by £204,000 at year-end, mainly due to an increase in court referrals relating to the safeguarding of children and increased agency staffing costs to address the increased caseload. This is a slightly improved position from that reported at Quarter Three. This budget is being closely monitored and efforts are being made to reduce the use of agency staff and the overspend, and updates will be provided in future budget monitoring reports.
40. There is a projected overspend on the Strategic, Information and Governance budget totalling £274,000. This comprises of an overspend of £97,000 on the main Strategic, Information and Governance budget and an overspend of £177,000 on the Mail and Print budget, with both overspends mainly being due to unachievable income targets. A proportion of the unachievable income targets were removed as part of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report to Council on 24 February 2021, with the remaining elements being further reviewed and if required will be included in further updates of the Council's MTFP.
41. As reported at Quarter Three there has been an overspend against the budget for Middlesbrough's contribution to the Coroner's Service, with the final year-end position being a £135,000 overspend against a £170,000 overspend reported at

Quarter Three. The overspend is due to a rise in the number of cases, and also an increase in medical fees and toxicology reports.

42. In addition to the above, there are a number of budget areas within Legal and Governance Services which have variances below £150,000, and these account for the overall £277,000 total overspend on the Legal and Governance Services budget at year-end 2020/21.

#### *Finance*

43. An overspend of £172,000 occurred on the Support Services Income budget at year end, lower than the £200,000 reported at Quarter Three, due to lower levels of income being able to be recharged to external bodies such as the Pension Fund.
44. The underspend on Strategic Commissioning and Procurement budgets has increased to £386,000 at year end, mainly due to increased income from the NEPO contract rebate, in particular relating to the electricity contract and also staff savings generated from an internal review of the service.
45. At Quarter Three it was reported that there was potential additional unanticipated unbudgeted income of £200,000 estimated to be received by year-end due to rental income from the recent purchase of the Captain Cook Shopping Centre. At year-end, this unbudgeted income has reduced to £64,000 due to the requirement to make increased bad debt provisions for income not yet received. The bad debt provisions have been made on a prudent basis due to the current circumstances and uncertainties surrounding the retail sector.
46. The Revenues and Benefits budget overspent by £370,000 at year end, rather than the £66,000 projected overspend reported at Quarter Three, due mainly to a further increase in the bad debt provisions for income from court costs and housing benefits overpayments being required to be made at year-end.
47. It was reported at Quarter Three that the Insurance and Risk Management budget was projected to overspend by £100,000, however due to a decrease in the amount and value of claims this overspend has now been eliminated.
48. Underspends totalling £283,000 within other budgets within the Finance Directorate make up the overall final year-end outturn underspend for the Finance Directorate.

#### *Central Budgets*

49. The Capital financing budget underspent by £198,000 at year-end, due to expected delays on projects and reduced interest rates. This budget will be closely monitored during 2021/22 and future years and updates will be provided in future reports.
50. In previous quarters, it was reported that there were non-rent pressures in 2020/21 relating to business rates and service charges for Centre Square Buildings 1 and 2, which the Council had to incur in 2020/21 due to tenants not being in place. The final year-end position relating to these costs was £74,000. This meant that the total pressure on Centre Square Buildings 1 and 2 (rent and non-rent elements) budgets due to delays in letting the buildings in 2020/21 was £391,000. Tenants for the

buildings have now signed contracts and are starting to occupy the buildings following fit out of the buildings, and this will create a surplus in future years.

51. As reported in previous quarters the Section 31 Business Rates Relief Grant budget underspent by £1,094,000 at year-end due to the receipt of additional unbudgeted grant income.
52. The central provision for Pay and Prices underspent by £504,000 at year-end. This was mainly due to a lower than estimated cost of the staff pay award in 2020/21.

### ***Progress against budget savings***

53. A total of £6.4m of budget savings for 2020/21 were approved by Council on 26 February 2020 as part of the 2020/21 budget setting. It has not been possible to achieve a number of budget savings due to Covid-19 and these are detailed in paragraph 74 below. There are a further £674,000 of budget savings (shown in the table below) which it will not be possible to achieve in 2020/21. These have been accounted for in the year-end outturns for the directorates above and form part of the overall total year-end outturn for 2020/21. The unachieved savings were removed from the MTFP as part of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report to Council on 24 February 2021.

Directorate	Ref	Proposal:	2020/21 £'000s
Environment and Community Services	ECS 19	Reduction in operational costs of fleet vehicles in line with planned efficiencies in services across the authority	86
Environment and Community Services	REG 06	Review of Transporter Bridge operational arrangements	40
Finance	CCC 09	Increase advertising income from Love Middlesbrough to ensure self-sufficiency	9
Public Health and Public Protection	PHPP 08	Reduced partnership contributions, decommissioning of small contracts, maintaining existing vacancies and identification of alternative funding sources (part of total saving unachieved)	100
Legal and Governance Services	DIG various	Various Digital savings	256
Regeneration	Invest to Save	Housing Delivery Vehicle	90
Public Health and Public Protection	Invest to Save	The Live Well Centre expansion	93
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>674</b>

### **Covid-19**

54. As reported in the previous quarterly budget monitoring reports and the MTFP Update reports to Executive and Council during 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the financial position of all local authorities, including Middlesbrough, and the reports provided key areas affected and estimates of the position for the current financial year. The paragraphs below provide an update of the final position for 2020/21 at the year-end detailing the costs of Covid-19 and the grant funding provided by the Government. Paragraph 84 summarises the overall financial position in 2020/21, along with a breakdown of the funding split between the Government grant funding and the Council.

#### *Government funding*

55. As reported previously the financial impact of Covid-19 on local authorities has been recognised by the government and they have responded by making a number of

announcements about supporting local authorities financially, indicating that Local Authorities would be fully funded for their direct relevant costs incurred. Four tranches of Covid-19 general support funding totalling £15.574m were received in 2020/21. £877,000 had already been utilised in 2019/20, leaving £14.697m available for use in 2020/21. The Government has also announced a further allocation of general Covid-19 support funding of £5.310m for 2021/22 and updates of expenditure against this will be reported during 2021/22.

56. As reported previously the Government also announced on 2nd July 2020 further support comprising of :
- A scheme to part fund income shortfalls
  - The ability to recover Collection Fund (Council Tax and Business Rates income) shortfalls over three years as opposed to one year
57. The Sales, Fees and Charges (SFC) scheme which part funds income shortfalls involves a 5% deductible rate, whereby local authorities will absorb losses up to 5% of their planned budgeted 2020/21 sales, fees and charges income, with the Government compensating them for 75p in every pound of relevant loss thereafter. Two claims totalling approximately £3.3m have been made under the scheme covering the periods April to July 2020 and August 2020 to November 2020. The final claim for 2020/21 of approximately £1.1m was submitted on 28 May 2021, and therefore, subject to a final reconciliation process, Middlesbrough Council should therefore receive a total of approximately £4.4m funding in 2020/21 under the SFC scheme. The Government has announced that the SFC scheme will continue operating for the first quarter of 2021/22, and updates of this will be reported in the Quarter One report for 2021/22. It should be noted that the SFC scheme does not cover commercial income lost from investment activities and rental income.
58. A national allocation of Test, Track and Trace funding (£300m) was also announced in June 2020. This funding has been allocated to support local authorities in meeting their costs associated with Test, Track and Trace. The allocation for Middlesbrough was £1.566m. This grant funding is ringfenced for Test, Track, and Trace and potential local outbreaks. Middlesbrough Council spent £879,000 of this funding in 2020/21 with the remaining £687,000 of funding being transferred to 2021/22 for use in 2021/22.
59. During 2020/21 the Government also announced a Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) grant to provide support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people who need it, and Middlesbrough Council received a total of £538,000 grant funding in 2020/21. Middlesbrough Council spent £340,000 of this funding in 2020/21 with the remaining £198,000 of funding being transferred to 2021/22 for use in 2021/22.
60. The Government also announced on 22 October 2020 a Contain Outbreak Management Fund to provide funding to local authorities to support public health activities, such as local enforcement and contact tracing. This was originally based on an amount per head of population depending on which tier a local authority was in and was then extended for the subsequent national lockdown. The total amount allocated to Middlesbrough in 2020/21 was £3.968m, and this was fully utilised in 2020/21. The Government has also announced that there will be a further allocation for 2021/22 of £1.370m.

61. Various specific grant funding totalling approximately £5.3m was also provided to Adult Social Care, comprising of Infection Control, Workforce Capacity Fund and Rapid Testing grant funding. The majority of this grant funding was passported to external service providers in line with the grant conditions.
62. In the recent Spending Review and Local Government Finance Settlement the Government announced that, as well as allowing local authorities to spread the Collection Fund deficit (council tax and business rates income losses) arising in 2020/21 over the next 3 years (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24), their commitment to compensate councils for 75 per cent of irrecoverable Council Tax and Business Rates losses for 2020/21. Details of the Government funding estimated to be received in 2021/22 in relation to this was detailed in the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report to Council on 24 February 2021.

*Additional Expenditure*

63. There has been £10.7m of additional expenditure associated with Covid-19 in 2020/21 and these cover a wide range of areas and services. This is a decrease from the £13.1m estimated at Quarter Three, due to the maximisation of the use of other government funding, in particular the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The table below shows the additional expenditure per Directorate and the following paragraphs below detail the key areas of costs :

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>2020/21 Covid-19 expenditure £'000s</b>
Regeneration	1,415
Environment and Community Services	1,957
Public Health and Public Protection	120
Education & Partnerships	417
Children's Care	2,196
Adult Social Care and Health Integration	1,563
Legal and Governance Services	1,347
Finance	1,682
<b>Total 2020/21 Covid-19 expenditure</b>	<b>10,697</b>

64. Adult Social Care – there has been additional expenditure of approximately £1.3m due to the Council supporting the Care market through a temporary increase in fees in line with Government guidance, along with other additional expenditure of approximately £0.3m relating to Adult Social Care.
65. Children's Social Care Costs – there was approx. £2.2m of total additional expenditure comprising of delays in placements of children (approximately £1.8m), increased staffing and agency staffing costs (approximately £0.2m), and approximately £0.2m of other additional expenditure to deal with an increased number of cases and case backlogs caused by Covid-19. It should be noted that approx. £2.7m of additional expenditure has also been charged to COMF in order to maximise the use of other government funding, as mentioned in paragraph 63, and

this accounts for the reduction in this area from Quarter Three. There is also some emerging evidence that following the end of restrictions there may be further increases in numbers of children requiring support, but these are currently not known and will be updated in future reports.

66. There has been other expenditure relating to Children's Services, in particular around Legal Childcare case backlogs (£0.3m), and also within transport of children from home to school (£0.3m).
67. Environment and Community Services – additional expenditure of approx. £0.5m relating to staff costs within Highways Maintenance for work undertaken relating to Covid-19 occurred during 2020/21. In addition, there was increased expenditure of £0.5m relating to the increased costs of waste collection and disposal due to increased tonnages of waste.
68. Direct Covid-19 Costs - a number of direct costs were incurred, such as the procurement of PPE equipment (£1m), costs of the storage of PPE (£0.3m), Community Hub, Shielding and food supplies etc.
69. Other Covid-19 costs – There was increased additional expenditure of £0.15m relating to the costs of temporary mortuary provision at Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP), and increased costs for the removal of bodies. Additional staff costs of £0.3m were incurred within the Revenue and Benefits mainly for additional work undertaken in relation to the distribution of grants to businesses. There was also additional expenditure for additional ICT equipment of £0.6m.
70. SLM Leisure Trust – As detailed in previous quarterly reports there have been significant payments totalling made to SLM, the Council's provider of leisure facilities. When leisure facilities were closed due to national lockdowns and restrictions SLM furloughed the majority of their staff and the Council agreed to contribute to the remaining costs of furloughing the staff that the Government did not fund. In addition, when leisure facilities did briefly re-open during 2020/21 SLM could not operate to their normal subsidy, with the effects of a restricted operation due to social distancing significantly impacting on their income. The payments made to SLM totalled £1,044,000 in 2020/21. The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) have provided grant funding to the Council of £304,000 in the form of the "National Leisure Recovery Fund", of which approximately £165,000 can be utilised in 2020/21 to offset the pressure, meaning that there has been a net pressure of £879,000 in 2020/21 due to the effects of Covid-19.

#### *Reduction in income*

71. The impact of the lockdown and closure of facilities and services has resulted in a loss of income, totalling £7m in 2020/21, across a broad range of areas. The table below shows the loss per Directorate :

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>2020/21 Covid-19 reduction in income £'000s</b>
Regeneration	2,929
Environment and Community Services	1,278
Public Health and Public Protection	140
Education & Partnerships	575
Children's Care	0
Adult Social Care and Health Integration	729
Legal and Governance Services	101
Finance	1,272
<b>Total 2020/21 Covid-19 reduction in income</b>	<b>7,024</b>

72. The list below highlights the main areas and the loss for each main area in 2020/21:

- Car Parking (£1.9m)
- Cultural activities (Town Hall, Middlesbrough Theatre, Museums, Newham Grange Country Park, Parks) (£0.9m)
- Catering income from schools (£0.5m)
- Adult Social Care - In house day centre care provision (£0.7m)
- Libraries and Community Hubs – room hire, book sales, and fines (£0.1m)
- Highways - Capital Works and Street Permit income (£0.2m)
- Education Services income from schools (£0.2m)
- Council run Nurseries and Children's Centres (£0.4m)
- Council Tax Court Costs and Housing Benefits Overpayments (£0.8m)
- Commercial Rents - business units, industrial estates, shops, bus station (£0.2m)
- Capital Finance - Rent and Interest (£0.2m)

73. As mentioned in paragraph 57 the Council will receive approximately £4.4m from the SFC scheme in 2020/21.

#### *Unachievable savings*

74. There are savings built into the Council's Change Programme totalling approximately £1.8m which have been unachievable in 2020/21 due to Covid-19. These include delays in planned savings of £175,000 relating to a review of direct payments within Adult Social Care, which it was not possible to progress in 2020/21 due to Covid-19. In addition, there were £1,094,000 of planned Digital project savings and a £180,000 saving to reduce staff mileage rates across the Council, which were not achieved in 2020/21 due to Covid-19. The Digital and staff mileage savings have been partly mitigated by savings in the Directorate outturn positions, for example by reduced mileage undertaken by staff as a result of Covid-19.

## *Council Tax and Business Rates Income*

75. Income from Council Tax and Business Rates (NNDR) is accounted for within the Collection Fund. Due to regulations on the Collection Fund, the financial impact of any reduction in income does not immediately affect this year's financial position, it is effectively a shortfall to be resolved next year and will need to be reflected in an updated Budget and MTFP at the appropriate time.
76. During 2020/21 there were a number of issues, which resulted in significant pressures on Council Tax and Business Rates income.
77. There was an increase in people claiming Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) as the economic impact of the pandemic increases the number of households eligible for LCTS support. This led to a reduction in the overall amount of council tax assessed/collected compared to the level budgeted. Whilst the Government provided additional Covid-19 Council Tax Hardship Grant Funding of £2.832m to top up the local LCTS scheme, which meant approximately 6,000 customers not having to pay any Council Tax, there was still an effect on the estimated amount of debt outstanding as overall collection has been reduced.
78. Our budgeted council tax base includes assumptions on housing growth. If there is reduced growth in housing numbers, this will impact on total income levels.
79. Despite support for businesses through increased reliefs and grants, there remain a significant number who do not benefit from this support. There is a risk therefore that business rates revenue reduces if businesses fail or are unable to pay.
80. In addition, the level of outstanding council tax and business rates debt is likely to rise and the Council will need to review the potential to collect that debt and how it provides for this in the form of its bad debt provision.
81. 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 current estimated 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, as outlined in paragraphs 56 and 62 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 p.a. in 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24. The Government also outlined that Government funding would be provided to compensate councils for an element of the deficit, based on a methodology which was provided to councils that 75% of any losses below a pre-determined level.
82. The Government provided councils with Section 31 Grant Funding for the lost income caused by the Covid-19 Business Rates Reliefs provided by the Government to businesses. The accounting regulations require that local authorities carry forward to 2021/22 the lost income from Business Rates via a deficit on the Collection Fund and then carry forward to 2021/22, via a reserve, the Section 31 Grant Funding provided in order to mitigate the Collection Fund deficit carried forward. This means that there is a need to transfer £10.555m of Section 31 Grant to a Business Rates Deficit Reserve and this will be used over the three-year period to offset any deficit that accrues and the remainder will be repaid to central government.



83. Due to the impact of Covid-19 and the need to follow some detailed technical guidance, which has been provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), the calculation of the final Collection Fund year-end position has been delayed and is currently still being finalised. However, initial calculations indicate that the final year-end Collection Fund position is likely to be better than that estimated previously, as mentioned in paragraph 81, due to higher than anticipated collection rates. Any saving from this improved position will not be realised until 2022/23 and future years and updates of this will be provided in future budget monitoring and MTFP update reports to Executive.

#### *Summary of Covid-19 Financial Pressures*

84. The financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/21 is summarised below, along with a breakdown of the funding split between the Government grant funding and the Council, based on funding provided by the Government as detailed in paragraphs 55 to 62:

	<u>Grant Allocation 2020/21 £m</u>	<u>Actual 2020/21 £m</u>	<u>Cost to Council 2020/21 £m</u>
Extraordinary costs incurred		10.697	
Commercial income losses		0.499	
Unachievable Change Programme savings		1.803	
<b>Total Covid-19 General Support grant (2020/21)</b>	<b>14.697</b>	<b>12.999</b>	<b>-1.698</b>
<b>Sales, Fees and Charges (SFC) income loss grant (2020/21)</b>	<b>4.411</b>	<b>6.525</b>	<b>2.114</b>
<b>NET COST TO COUNCIL OF COVID-19 2020/21</b>			<b>0.416</b>
<b><u>OTHER COVID-19 GRANTS</u></b>			
	<u>Grant Allocation 2020/21 £m</u>	<u>Actual 2020/21 £m</u>	<u>Grant Remaining £m</u>
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) - see Note 1	0.538	0.340	0.198
Test And Trace - see Note 2	1.566	0.879	0.687
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) - see Note 2	3.968	3.968	0.000
<b>Total Other Covid-19 Grants</b>	<b>6.072</b>	<b>5.186</b>	<b>0.885</b>
<b>Note 1</b>	For CEV Grant £198k of remaining grant is to be carried forward for use in 2021/22.		
<b>Note 2</b>	For Test & Trace £687k of remaining grant is to be carried forward for use in 2021/22. For COMF the full grant received has been fully utilised in 2020/21. The Council will receive another £1,370,402 of COMF funding in 2021/22 which will be used for schemes already approved which are progressing.		

85. The above table shows that there has been a financial pressure due to Covid-19 of £416,000 in 2020/21. On 2 September 2020 the Council approved the use of the General Fund Reserve to cover any overspend in 2020/21, with £4.928m being

transferred from the Investment Fund Contingency Reserve to the General Fund Reserve to fund this. It is now proposed that the remaining £4.512m funding set aside for this in the General Fund Reserve is transferred to a separate Reserve to cover potential costs arising from the Covid-19 recovery in 2021/22 and future years.

### **Revenue budget spending controls**

86. As previously reported to the Executive, a number of controls were implemented in 2019/20 to minimise overspending across the Council in-year and these remained in place for 2020/21, specifically:
- a vacancy control process overseen by the Leadership Management Team;
  - checks against proposed expenditure of over £5,000 by the procurement team; and
  - strong controls over staff travel, the ordering of stationery and use of first class post.
87. The Council is continuing to minimise the use of agency staff where it is appropriate to do so, but it is acknowledged that currently there will be a need for the use of agency staff within Children's Care, principally to support the Ofsted Improvement Plan and also due to the impact of Covid-19. Monthly reports on agency costs are reported to senior managers for consideration.
88. As outlined in the Quarter Four report for 2019/20 a number of plans were put in place for 2020/21 to mitigate overspending within Children's Services. These were as outlined below :
- Subjecting cases of children looked after by the Council to ongoing audit, consistent decision making processes and a solutions panel chaired by the Director of Children's Care.
  - Re-establishing a Middlesbrough Multi Agency Children's Hub from 1 July 2020 to secure the consistency of thresholds and increasing step-downs to early help and more timely support for children and young people.
  - Increasing internal residential capacity at the Futures for Families Middlesbrough Hub (6 places) and Daniel Court (9 places) by 15 additional places, an increase of 136% on current provision. This will mean that more young people will be able to be accommodated by the Council at a lower cost than externally procured placements.
  - All external residential placements are being reviewed by a specialist project team set up by the Director of Children's Services to ensure that no children are in residential care who can be fostered or safely returned to their families or the care of relatives. In addition this team will look at all cases that are nearing requirement for residential care with the aim of making sure that all alternative options for support are fully explored before residential provision is approved.
  - Work continues to build on the 30% increase in the number of internal foster placements achieved in the financial year 2019/20, allowing children to be placed in high quality, local authority foster care as an alternative to more expensive agency placements.
  - An in depth review is taking place of the processes around the placement of children with friends and family to ensure that these are only made where necessary and that financial support represents value for money.

89. While the mitigations above have been progressed during 2020/21, and efficiencies have been made in placement methods, these will not have a positive effect on the bottom line position unless the overall numbers of children in care are brought under control.
90. The position around our numbers of children in care has been specifically referenced by the DfE Commissioner, and it is clear that for both quality of practice and financial reasons the number needs to be safely reduced. This will entail improvement of edge of care provision to support families and prevent children needing to become looked after and crucially improving practice and care planning to allow those children who are able to return home, be placed with family or friends or be adopted in as timely a manner as possible. This work is interdependent on our overall improvement journey and will not be a short term fix, however prioritisation in these areas is crucial to ensuring that our resources, both human and financial, are sufficient to deliver improvement. In 2020/21 the numbers of children in care have reduced, and the position will be constantly monitored and in future MTFP reviews an informed and prudent view will be taken of the length of time that will need to be allowed for this work to deliver results as well as the monitoring arrangements required.
91. The Council has set aside approximately £1.6m per annum of Council funding for 2020/21 and 2021/22 to support the Ofsted Improvement Plan. There has been an underspend of £188,366 against the allocation for 2020/21 and this will be carried forward to 2021/22. Progress against the plan is being monitored by the Multi-Agency Strategic Improvement Board, and any further variances from the budgets contained in the Ofsted Improvement Plan will be detailed in future budget monitoring reports.

### **Capital Budget Outturn 2020/21**

92. As part of the Quarter Three report to Executive on 16 February 2021, Executive approved a revised capital budget for 2020/21 of £45.195m. This was then reviewed, with a further year being added, and approved by Council as part of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22 report to Council on 24 February 2021.
93. Following a further review and the inclusion of new additional schemes, increases to existing schemes, and reductions to existing schemes (as detailed in paragraphs 96 to 98), the Council spent £42.078m at year-end. The reasons for the underspend to the revised capital budget are provided in the paragraphs below.
94. The revised Investment Strategy to 2023/24 is included at Appendix 1 for approval. It should be noted that capital receipts assumptions have been re-evaluated in light of Covid-19 and the Revised Investment Strategy takes accounts of this.
95. Two schemes over the £150,000 threshold were transferred between service areas:
- Town Centre Accommodation Strategy – The budget of £4,438,000 has transferred from Finance to Regeneration, as officers within that directorate are responsible for the project management of the fit-out of the new Civic Centre, Fountains Court.

- Essential Repairs to the Captain Cook Public House – On 26th February 2021, as part of the Future Developments of Middlehaven report, Executive approved the commitment of £538,000 of funds from the Boho X project to be re-assigned for the stabilisation of the Captain Cook Public House. These funds have transferred from Regeneration to Environment and Community Services.
96. There are no schemes within the Investment Strategy that have been removed. Two schemes have had funding reduced by more than £150,000, the details of each are as follows:
- Middlesbrough Development Company – The scheme has reduced by £169,000 of Section 106 contributions to account for costs that the Council incurred directly on behalf of the company.
  - Abingdon Primary School Extension, Alterations and Improvements Programme – The total resources within the Investment Strategy has reduced by £379,000 due to Council resources assigned to the project being removed and replaced by unallocated Basic Needs grant which is already accounted for within the Investment Strategy.
97. It is proposed to add the following schemes or increase existing schemes above £150,000 not yet approved by Executive, to the revised Investment Strategy, set out at Appendix 1 for consideration and approval :
- Local Transport Plan 2021/22 – On 10 May 2021, the Council received official notification from the Department of Transport via TVCA of Local Transport Plan grant funding of £3,403,262 for 2021/22.
  - Waste Procurement Project – £368,000 of resources are required for feasibility and consultancy charges in respect of a Joint Waste Disposal scheme that the Council has entered into with neighbouring local authorities.
98. The following which have been recently been approved by Executive are also to be included in the revised Investment Strategy, set out at Appendix 1 for consideration and approval :
- Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund - Executive approved on 27 May 2021, the Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund report. The report provides details of the Councils success in obtaining grant funding from MHCLG of £21,900,000 from the Towns Fund and £14,170,000 from the Future High Streets Fund. The report provides detail of how the grants will be utilised and the significantly positive effects and outputs which will be achieved throughout Middlesbrough.
  - Brownfield Housing Fund - on 26 February 2021, Executive approved the Future Developments of Middlehaven report. Stated within the report was confirmation that £7,922,000 of grant funding had been secured from the MHCLG Brownfield Housing Fund for the remediation of brownfield land within Middlehaven, which will result in the construction of 634 units.

- Linthorpe Road Cycleway - on 19 January 2021, Executive approved the Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan; Linthorpe Road Corridor report, which detailed plans for the re-allocation of road space to deliver cycle infrastructure improvement along the Linthorpe Road corridor. The project is fully funded from a £1,993,291 grant provided by TVCA.
- Schools Capital Programme 2021 – In a report to Executive on 24 May 2021 Executive approved the following new additions to the Investment Programme:
  - a) £750,000 of Section 106 (S106) developer contributions from the development of the Grey Towers site will be allocated equally to primary schools within Nunthorpe to fund enlargement schemes.
  - b) £1,645,311 Basic Needs capital grant allocation for 2022/23 as announced by the Department for Education on 21 February 2021.
  - c) £1,159,882 High Needs Provision capital grant allocation for 2021/22 as announced by the Department for Education on 25 March 2021.

99. The split by Directorate is shown in the table below, which also shows the “real” projected outturn variance if all of the additional new schemes, increased schemes, reduced schemes, and transfers between directorates are excluded. Explanations for variances of +/- £150,000 across 14 schemes are set out in the following paragraphs. These variances require movement within the Council’s four-year Investment Strategy, but do not affect the overall investment or cost of borrowing.

Directorate	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	MEMO	
	Investment Strategy Budget (as per Budget report to Council £'000)	Final Investment Strategy Outturn £'000	Final Investment Strategy Outturn Variance £'000	New, increased & reduced Schemes / transfers £'000	Real outturn variance excluding new, increased, & reduced schemes / transfers £'000
Regeneration	25,180	24,960	(220)	(169)	(51)
Environment and Community Services	8,993	7,524	(1,469)	433	(1,902)
Public Health and Public Protection	0	0	0	0	0
Education & Partnerships	4,912	4,093	(819)	(379)	(440)
Children’s Care	395	414	19	0	19
Adult Social Care and Health Integration	3,597	3,012	(585)	0	(585)
Legal and Governance Services	1,713	1,596	(117)	10	(127)
Finance	405	479	74	0	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,195</b>	<b>42,078</b>	<b>(3,117)</b>	<b>(105)</b>	<b>(3,012)</b>

### *Regeneration*

100. Town Centre Related Projects (Centre Square Developments) - The Council is contractually obliged to provide contributions to tenants at Centre Square buildings 1 and 2 for elements of the fit out works undertaken by tenants, for example allowances for carpets that were not laid down. These allowances have not been claimed in 2020/21 as previously assumed, resulting in £248,000 of planned expenditure being transferred into 2021/22.

101. Housing Growth (Stainton Way Western Extension) – The Stainsby Country Park Executive report of 22 December 2020 stated that the masterplan would be adopted as design guidance in February 2021 and it was anticipated that work to develop the Stainton Way Western Extension could commence, with initial expenditure being incurred in 2020/21. The detailed consideration of the responses to the consultation process has caused the decision to adopt the masterplan to be delayed until May 2021 and as a result it has not been possible to commence the works as previously envisaged and £200,000 of planned expenditure has now transferred into 2021/22.
102. Middlesbrough Development Company - £711,000 of funds originally expected to be incurred in 2020/21 in relation to the Tollesby Shops project have been transferred into 2021/22. This was due to an uncertainty in respect of a grant from Homes England. The grant has now been approved but the delay caused has resulted in the start of the physical works being undertaken later than originally anticipated.
103. Town Centre Accommodation Strategy – in order to fund the purchase of the new Civic Centre, Fountains Court, approximately £1.8m of funding has been transferred from 2022/23 to 2020/21. As mentioned in paragraph 95 this budget now sits under Regeneration.

*Environment and Community Services*

104. Local Transport Plan (LTP) - due to issues arising within Redcar & Cleveland Council regarding joint tender arrangements, £1,009,000 of planned expenditure relating to principal inspections of bridges and structures has been transferred to 2021/22. These issues have now been resolved and the inspections are underway with an anticipated completion date of June 2021.
105. Hostile Vehicle Mitigation – The scheme was due to complete during 2020/21, however, delays associated with the late delivery of materials, as a consequence of Covid-19, have resulted in the project completion date now being expected to be late Spring 2021. £299,000 of project funding has therefore been transferred into 2021/22.
106. Urban Traffic Management Control – The contractor has been unable to complete the works as anticipated due to delays caused by Covid-19. This has resulted in £191,000 being transferred into 2021/22.
107. Transporter Bridge - £179,000 has been transferred into 2021/22, due to additional safety concerns, which have resulted in delays in the inspections and urgent safety works, which have now been completed.
108. Street Lighting Maintenance – The maintenance programme has been delayed due to bringing the service back in-house and Covid-19 issues regarding staff needing to self-isolate, resulting in £177,000 of planned expenditure being re-profiled into 2021/22.
109. Property Services Building Investment – In order to carry out essential works to various built assets, it has been necessary to bring £180,000 of planned future years expenditure into 2020/21.

### *Education and Partnerships*

110. Schemes In Special Schools – £330,000 has been transferred into 2021/22 as works on the heating pipework at Priory Woods are subject to a review of the heating system, which will be undertaken in 2021/22.
111. Schemes In Maintained Primary Schools – The snagging works in respect of the Breckon Hill Extension and Alteration scheme did not complete as planned in 2020/21 resulting in the works being completed in 2021/22. Due to the delays, £150,000 of planned expenditure has therefore been re-profiled from 2020/21.

### *Adult Social Care and Health Integration*

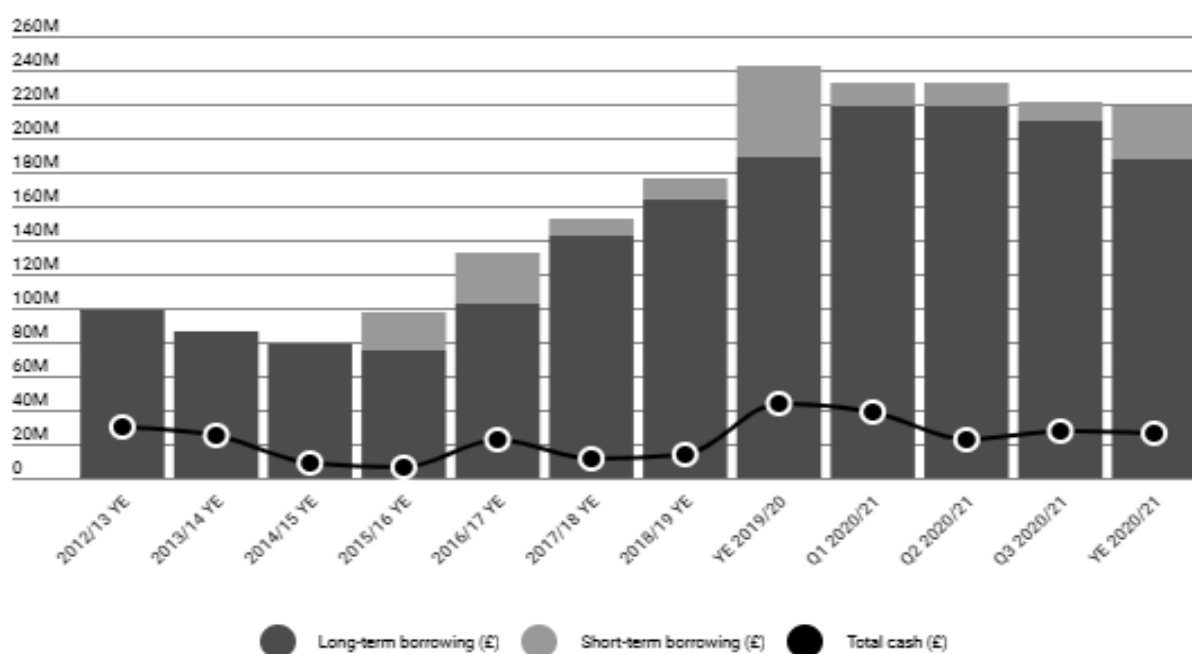
112. Disabled Facilities Grant – The national lockdown that commenced in late December 2020 has resulted in a lack of contractor availability. This coupled with service users shielding and not permitting contractors into their homes has resulted in £396,000 of works not being undertaken as planned in 2020/21. The funds have therefore been transferred into 2021/22.

### *Finance*

113. Derisking Sites - £158,000 of future years budget has been brought into 2020/21 to fund various works that have been required in-year.
114. The following transfer of budget to / from schemes within the same Directorate has taken place
  - £465,000 of funding is available within the Investment Strategy following the acquisition of the Captain Cook Shopping Precinct and 37 Linthorpe Road (the House of Fraser building) for amounts lower than the funding provided. These available funds have been transferred to the Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park (TAMP) scheme. The total funding for TAMP included an assumption that the capital receipt proceeds from two plots within the overall site would be added upon the sale of the land. The plots referred to are currently with legal for the completion of the sales. The savings from the Town Centre acquisitions present the opportunity for the necessary funds to be transferred now, with the receipts from the plots at TAMP being freed for wider capital investment. It should be noted that the TAMP project is proving to be significantly more successful than first envisaged in terms of the speed of securing tenancies and the revenue that the rent is achieving. Just one year after practical completion occupancy levels stand at 85% with only one unit left available for rent and the contractual heads of terms are currently being finalised with a tenant for this remaining unit.

## Borrowing & Prudential Indicators

115. The Council's total borrowing decreased from £242.7m at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 to £218.8m at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This decrease reflects the repayment of £20m of short-term borrowing taken out in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 to ensure sufficient liquidity on emergency business grants. The remaining decrease of £3.9m relates to the repayment of principal on annuity loans held by the Council. No external borrowing was needed for Investment Strategy purposes due to much of the Covid-19 funding being paid in advance of need by central government and cash balances being healthy. This position is expected to unwind during the 2021/22 financial year.
116. The ratio of short-term to long-term borrowing has increased at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This is a consequence of the maturity profile of the Council's debt portfolio and the fact that some of the long-term loans now have less than 12 months to run until they need to be fully repaid. These are now classed as short-term borrowing.



117. The affordability and sustainability of the Investment Strategy and its total level of external borrowing and capital financing costs is self-regulated by the Council through a set of prudential indicators. These are threshold levels that are set as part of the integrated budget setting process in late February. CIPFA and MHCLG view this as approach as best practice in ensuring resources are allocated prudently to capital schemes.
118. The table below gives a summary comparison of the budget against outturn position on each of the prudential indicators adopted by the Council.



<b>Prudential Indicators - 2020/21 outturn position</b>		
	<u>Budget</u> <u>(£m)</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>(£m)</u>
Capital Expenditure	65.831	42.078
<u>Financing</u>		
External Sources	23.849	17.470
Own Resources	18.625	6.380
Debt	23.357	18.228
Capital Financing Requirement	259.174	246.448
External Debt	243.409	218.756
Investments	15.000	24.350
Capital Financing	10.153	9.955
Cost as a % of revenue budget	8.7%	8.5%

119. The total capital spend & level of financing have reduced considerably since the original budget was set for 2020/21. This is a result of a re-prioritisation of the Investment Strategy due to some capital receipts on land sales falling outside of the three-year medium term financial planning timeframe. Also it reflects a level of slippage on the existing programme for schemes not completed in the year as reported earlier in this report plus the impact of Covid-19 on the deliverability of individual schemes.
120. Although the Council has used £18.2m of borrowing to fund the overall programme during 2020/21, the Council has used internal funds (mainly from government grants paid in advance) to pay for this and therefore has not had to take any external loans. This is known as under-borrowing. The Council's total under borrowed position (external debt compared to the capital financing requirement – or underlying need to borrow) is £27.7m. This has increased from the £15.8m expected when the budget was set. Again this position should unwind during the 2021/22 financial year as the grants are used for their intended purposes and the borrowing needs to be taken for cash purposes.
121. The amount of external debt at £218.8m and the total underlying need to borrow of £246.4m are both well below the Council's authorised limit of £300m. This is the threshold above which any borrowing would be illegal. The lower level of external debt than expected at budget setting has contributed to an underspend against the capital financing budget of £0.2m. These costs now total 8.5% as a proportion of the net revenue budget.

## Reserves

122. The impact of Covid-19 in 2020/21 has meant that the level of reserves at year-end is higher than in a normal year. A large proportion of this is due to the accounting treatment required for Section 31 Business Rates Relief Grant which is required to be carried forward to 2021/22 to fund the 2020/21 Collection Fund deficit (as detailed in paragraph 82). As detailed in the report savings have been made in service areas in 2020/21, however there is a need to maximise reserves as far as possible in order to fund the potential pressures that will arise in future years due to the on-going effects of the Covid-19 recovery and the pressures within Children's Services.

123. Within the report a number of transfers to reserves have been detailed. These are summarised below and it requested that Executive approve the transfers to the appropriate reserves.

- Public Health Grant underspend to Public Health Reserve (£438,000)
- Adult Social Care underspend to an Adult Social Care Covid Recovery Reserve (£1,598,000)
- Ofsted Improvement Plan Budget underspend in 2020/21 to carry forward to 2021/22 via an Ofsted Support Reserve (£188,000)
- Net saving from the clearance of holding and other codes, which are no longer used within Education, to a Children's Services Improvement Reserve (£175,000)
- School contributions to capital schemes to a Children's Services Demand Reserve (£732,000)
- Saving in Adult Social Care in 2020/21 due to the reduction in demand for long-term residential care to a Social Care Demand Reserve (£500,000)
- Section 31 Business Rates Relief Grant to a Business Rates Deficit Reserve to fund 2020/21 Collection Fund deficit (£10,555,000)

124. The table below sets out a summary of the balance of reserves and provisions at the start of 2020/21 and as at year-end and further detail is provided in Appendix 2. The year-end balances assume that the transfers to the reserves as detailed in paragraph 123 above are approved by Executive:

Reserves and Provisions	Opening Balance £000's	Use In Year £000's	Additional Contributions £000's	Transfers between reserves £000's	Transfers from General Fund £000's	Outturn Transfers £000's	Balance at Year End £000's
General Fund Reserve	9,400	0	746	416	0	(61)	10,501
Covid Recovery Reserve	0	0	0	4,512	0	0	4,512
Earmarked Reserves	16,069	(9,135)	14,383	(5,074)	439	14,186	30,869
School balances	3,241	(3,241)	4,864	0	0	0	4,864
Provisions	2,507	(2,475)	2,264	146	113	0	2,555
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,218</b>	<b>(14,851)</b>	<b>22,257</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>14,125</b>	<b>53,301</b>

## **What decisions are being asked for?**

125. That Executive approves the transfer to Reserves as detailed in the report and summarised in paragraph 123 of the report.
126. That the Executive notes the 2020/21 revenue budget final year-end outturn of a £355,000 (-0.3%) underspend on non-Covid-19 elements (subject to above approval of transfers to reserves), and the financial effect of Covid-19 in 2020/21 of £416,000.
127. That the Executive approves the transfer of the £355,000 underspend on non-Covid-19 elements to the General Fund Reserve.
128. That the Executive notes the use of the General Fund Reserve, as approved by Council on 2 September 2020, to fund the £416,000 Covid-19 overspend in 2020/21.
129. That the Executive approve the transfer of the remaining £4.512m funding set aside in the General Fund Reserve to a separate Reserve, to cover potential costs arising from the Covid-19 recovery in 2021/22 and future years.
130. That the Executive notes the 2020/21 capital budget final outturn of £42.078m against a revised budget of £45.195m, and approves the revised Investment Strategy to 2023/24 at Appendix 1.

## **Why is this being recommended?**

131. To enable the effective management of finances, in line with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, the Scheme of Delegation and agreed corporate financial regulations.

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

132. Not applicable.

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

### **Legal**

133. The proposed recommendations are consistent with and will promote the achievement of the Council's legal duty to achieve Best Value.

### **Financial**

134. The Council's year-end revenue outturn position for 2020/21 for non-Covid-19 elements is an underspend of £355,000 assuming that proposed transfers of £438,000 of the Public Health Grant underspend to a Public Health reserves and £1,598,000 of the Adult Social Care underspend to an Adult Social Care Covid Recovery Reserve, in order to help to mitigate future costs arising from Covid-19 in these areas, are approved by Executive. The £355,000 underspend on non-Covid-19 elements is proposed to be transferred to the General Fund Reserve.

135. There has been a financial pressure due to Covid-19 of £416,000 in 2020/21. On 2 September 2020 the Council approved the use of the General Fund Reserve to fund any overspend in 2020/21, with £4.928m being transferred from the Investment Fund Contingency Reserve to the General Fund Reserve to fund this. It is now proposed that the remaining £4.512m funding set aside for this in the General Fund is transferred to a separate Reserve to cover potential costs arising from the Covid-19 recovery in 2021/22 and future years.
136. The final 2020/21 capital budget outturn at year-end is £42.078m. An updated Investment Strategy for the period to the end of 2023/24 is attached in Appendix 1 of this report.

### **Policy framework**

137. The Strategic Plan(s) and associated budgets form part of the Council's Policy Framework. All proposed variations set out in this report are in line with authority delegated to the Executive.

### **Equality and diversity**

138. As reported to Council in January 2020, no negative differential impact on diverse groups and communities is anticipated from the direction of travel set out in the Strategic Plan 2020-23 or the Council's planned budgetary expenditure.

### **Risk**

139. In line with the Council's Risk Management Policy, the corporate Strategic Risk Register will be reported to this Executive as part of the Strategic Plan 2020-23 – Year End 2020/21 report.

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

140. Mitigating activity set out in the main body of the report will continue to be applied by Directorates as stated.
141. The actions outlined within the body of the report in relation to overspending within Children's Safeguarding will continue to be implemented.
142. If approved the revised Investment Strategy included at Appendix 1 will be adopted.

### **Appendices**

1. Proposed revised Investment Strategy to 2023/24
2. Detail of reserves and provisions as at 31/3/21

## Background papers

15/01/20	Council	Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and Strategic Plan 2020-2023
26/02/20	Council	Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2020/21
16/06/20	Executive	Strategic Plan 2020-23 – Progress at Year-end 2019/20
18/08/20	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter One 2020/21
02/09/20	Council	Revenue and Capital Budget – 2020/21 Quarter One Projected Outturn position and the use of reserves for in year Covid-19 Pressures
29/09/20	Executive	Medium Term Financial Plan Update
24/11/20	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Two 2020/21
24/11/20	Executive	Refreshing the Strategic Plan for the 2021-24 period
24/11/20	Executive	Medium Term Financial Plan Update, and Budget Savings Proposals 2021/22
22/12/20	Council	Medium Term Financial Plan Update, and Budget Savings Proposals 2021/22
16/02/21	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Three 2020/21
16/02/21	Executive	Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22
24/02/21	Council	Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2021/22

**Contact:** Andrew Humble, Head of Financial Planning & Support  
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## Appendix 1: Proposed revised Investment Strategy to 2023/24

	Total Funding Required					Council Funding £'000	External Funding £'000
	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	TOTAL £'000		
<b>Regeneration</b>							
Town Centre Related Projects	592	1,981	580	204	3,357	2,478	879
Middlehaven Related Projects	139	95	500	-	734	734	-
Housing Growth	91	2,485	1,183	-	3,759	3,708	51
BOHO X	1,112	11,413	13,422	-	25,947	1,362	24,585
BOHO 8	2,428	34	-	-	2,462	-	2,462
Brownfield Housing Fund	-	5,202	2,090	630	7,922	-	7,922
Towns Fund	-	3,525	17,875	500	21,900	-	21,900
Future High Streets Fund	-	8,670	5,500	-	14,170	-	14,170
Acquisition of Town Centre Properties	9,619	6	1,000	-	10,625	10,625	-
Town Centre Accommodation Strategy	1,863	2,575	-	-	4,438	4,438	-
Middlesbrough Development Company	865	12,869	-	-	13,734	9,703	4,031
Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park	1,533	855	-	-	2,388	2,005	383
Capitalisation Of Major Schemes Salaries	530	530	530	530	2,120	2,120	-
Capitalisation of Planning Services Surveys	-	40	40	40	120	120	-
Affordable Housing Via Section 106	-	-	1,255	-	1,255	830	425
Highways Infrastructure Development Section 106	-	-	1,730	-	1,730	-	1,730
Stainton Way Dixon Bank Junction - Section 106	15	-	-	-	15	15	-
The Big Screen	-	20	-	-	20	20	-
A66 Throughabout	2,630	-	-	-	2,630	-	2,630
Mandale Interchange	397	22	-	-	419	-	419
Tees Amp Footway / Cycleway	293	-	-	-	293	-	293
Linthorpe Road Cycleway	-	1,994	-	-	1,994	-	1,994
Replacement of Ticket Machines	-	189	-	-	189	189	-
LED Street Lighting Upgrade (Phase 2)	348	69	-	-	417	417	-
Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) - All schemes	529	-	-	-	529	-	529
Members Small Schemes	26	38	-	-	64	29	35
Grove Hill Joint Venture Projects	-	14	-	-	14	-	14
Gresham Projects	779	10	-	-	789	789	-
North Ormesby Housing Joint Venture - Section 106 funded	66	355	-	-	421	-	421
Empty Homes 2015 To 2018	-	416	-	-	416	-	416
Local Transport Plan	900	1,914	-	-	2,814	13	2,801
Town Hall Venue Development	48	59	-	-	107	107	-
Cultural Transformation	-	21	-	-	21	21	-
Theatre Winches / Lifts	4	39	-	-	43	43	-
Dorman Museum	2	19	-	-	21	21	-
Contribution To Public Arts Projects	-	17	-	-	17	17	-
Public Art Work	23	35	-	-	58	58	-
Newham Grange Leisure Farm	113	-	-	-	113	113	-
Leisure Trust Investment - Equipment	-	75	-	-	75	75	-
Town Hall Telephone Kiosks Upgrade	15	-	-	-	15	15	-
Stewart Park Section 106	-	45	-	-	45	-	45
Investment In Parks	-	100	-	-	100	100	-
							-
<b>Total Regeneration</b>	<b>24,960</b>	<b>55,731</b>	<b>45,705</b>	<b>1,904</b>	<b>128,300</b>	<b>40,165</b>	<b>88,135</b>

	Total Funding Required					Council Funding £'000	External Funding £'000
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL		
<b>Environment and Community Services</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Purchase of New Vehicles	298	930	1,000	1,200	3,428	3,428	-
Capitalisation of Wheeled Bin Replacement	100	100	100	100	400	400	-
Capitalisation of Street Furniture / Dog Fouling & Litter Bins	55	55	55	55	220	220	-
Capitalisation of Highways Maintenance	575	575	575	575	2,300	2,300	-
Property Services Building Investment	340	340	340	340	1,360	1,360	-
Parks Improvement	-	83	-	-	83	83	-
Nunthorpe Playing Fields S106	57	-	-	-	57	-	57
Local Transport Plan - Highways Maintenance	1,412	5,545	-	-	6,957	2,098	4,859
Street Lighting-Maintenance	401	645	468	468	1,982	1,982	-
Urban Traffic Management Control	202	291	-	-	493	-	493
Flood Prevention	237	11	-	-	248	-	248
Department for Transport Pothole Fund	1,100	-	-	-	1,100	-	1,100
Members Small Schemes	2	139	60	60	261	261	-
Property Asset Investment Strategy	1,177	639	919	1,200	3,935	3,870	65
Nunthorpe Sports Facilities	-	100	-	-	100	-	100
East Middlesbrough Community Hub	178	851	-	-	1,029	1,029	-
Christmas Lights	350	-	-	-	350	350	-
Section 106 Ormesby Beck	-	15	-	-	15	-	15
Section 106 Cypress Road	-	20	-	-	20	-	20
Hostile Vehicle Mitigation	196	374	-	-	570	570	-
Transporter Bridge	476	179	-	-	655	328	327
Henry Street	-	13	-	-	13	-	13
CCTV	-	50	-	-	50	50	-
Captain Cook Public House	-	538	-	-	538	538	-
Outer Area Shopping Centres	-	40	-	-	40	40	-
Waste Procurement Project	368	-	-	-	368	368	-
<b>Total Environment and Community Services</b>	<b>7,524</b>	<b>11,533</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>3,998</b>	<b>26,572</b>	<b>19,275</b>	<b>7,297</b>

	Total Funding Required					Council Funding £'000	External Funding £'000
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL		
<b>Public Health and Public Protection</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Health & Wellbeing Hub	-	756	-	-	756	679	77
<b>Total Public Health and Public Protection</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>77</b>

	Total Funding Required					Council Funding £'000	External Funding £'000
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL		
<b>Education and Partnerships</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Block Budget (Grant) Devolved Formula Capital - Various Schools	-	77	-	-	77	-	77
Block Budget (Grant) Section 106 Avant Low Gill	-	35	-	-	35	-	35
Block Budget (Grant) High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	-	1,060	-	-	1,060	-	1,060
Block Budget (Grant) School Condition Allocation	-	58	-	-	58	-	58
Block Budget (Grant) Basic Needs	-	5,861	1,645	-	7,506	-	7,506
Schemes in Maintained Primary Schools	2,387	1,285	167	-	3,839	602	3,237
Schemes in Primary Academies	195	395	400	-	990	-	990
Schemes in Secondary Academies	865	1,786	607	-	3,258	-	3,258
Schemes in Special Schools	544	681	-	-	1,225	371	854
Capitalisation of Salary Costs	102	104	-	-	206	-	206
Contribution to New School at Middlehaven	-	1,700	-	-	1,700	700	1,000
Block Budget (Grant) EFA Early Years 2 Year olds Entitlement (Trajectory Project)	-	7	-	-	7	-	7
<b>Total Education and Partnerships</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>13,049</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,961</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>18,288</b>

	Total Funding Required				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
<b>Children's Care</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Edge Of Care Project (Hub)	347	35	-	-	382
Edge Of Care Project (Spencerfield 117-120)	18	-	-	-	18
Edge Of Care Project (3 Broadwell)	10	-	-	-	10
Rosecroft Renovations	35	182	20	-	237
Children's Care Residential Provision	1	230	19	-	250
Contact Centre - Bus Station Unit 1	3	-	-	-	3
Parklands Middlesbrough Intermediate Care Centre	-	234	20	-	254
Bathroom Refurbishment	-	18	-	-	18
<b>Total Children's Care</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,172</b>

Council Funding	External Funding
£'000	£'000
382	-
18	-
10	-
237	-
250	-
3	-
254	-
18	-
<b>1,172</b>	<b>-</b>

	Total Funding Required				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
<b>Adult Social Care and Health Integration</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chronically Sick & Disabled Persons Act - All schemes	533	832	610	610	2,585
Disabled Facilities Grant - All schemes	2,285	3,120	-	-	5,405
Capitalisation of Staying Put Salaries	50	50	50	50	200
Home Loans Partnership (Formerly 5 Lamps)	29	54	-	-	83
Small Schemes	15	33	-	-	48
Connect / Telecare IP Digital Switchover	100	138	-	-	238
<b>Total Adult Social Care and Health Integration</b>	<b>3,012</b>	<b>4,227</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>8,559</b>

Council Funding	External Funding
£'000	£'000
2,513	72
816	4,589
200	-
-	83
-	48
238	-
<b>3,767</b>	<b>4,792</b>

	Total Funding Required				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
<b>Legal and Governance Services</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Desktop Strategy / Device Refresh	307	153	-	-	460
Enterprise Agreements	353	353	-	-	706
Customer Relationship Management	19	96	-	-	115
IT Refresh - Network Refresh	4	159	-	-	163
IT Refresh - Lights On	241	60	-	-	301
IT Refresh - LCS Development Capture	7	18	-	-	25
IT Refresh - Business Intelligence	-	3	-	-	3
ICT Essential Refresh & Licensing	233	2,447	2,185	2,185	7,050
ICT Innovation Budget	326	160	-	-	486
GIS Replacement	38	129	-	-	167
Civic Centre Device Refresh	8	-	-	-	8
Prevention & Partnership Tablets	-	70	-	-	70
HR Pay	-	37	-	-	37
Dashboards	60	-	-	-	60
<b>Total Legal and Governance Services</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>3,685</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>9,651</b>

Council Funding	External Funding
£'000	£'000
460	-
706	-
115	-
163	-
301	-
25	-
3	-
7,050	-
468	18
167	-
8	-
70	-
37	-
60	-
<b>9,633</b>	<b>18</b>



	Total Funding Required				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
<b>Finance</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Former Partnership Investment (ICT Infrastructure Revenues & Benefits)	37	397	-	-	434
Business World Upgrade	30	35	-	-	65
Derisking Sites	412	104	1,042	900	2,458
Capitalisation of Property Finance Lease Arrangements	-	3,500	500	500	4,500
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>4,036</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>7,457</b>

Council Funding	External Funding
£'000	£'000
434	-
65	-
2,458	-
4,500	-
<b>7,457</b>	<b>-</b>

	Total Funding Required				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
<b>ALL DIRECTORATES</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Total ALL DIRECTORATES</b>	<b>42,078</b>	<b>93,716</b>	<b>56,487</b>	<b>10,147</b>	<b>202,428</b>

Council Funding	External Funding
£'000	£'000
<b>83,821</b>	<b>118,607</b>

	Total Funding				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
<b>FUNDED BY:</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	(18,228)	(20,999)	(4,474)	-	(43,701)
Finance Leases	-	(3,500)	(500)	(500)	(4,500)
Capital Receipts	(6,374)	(11,782)	(8,652)	(8,468)	(35,276)
Grants	(16,418)	(51,122)	(40,285)	(1,179)	(109,004)
Contributions	(1,052)	(5,992)	(2,559)	-	(9,603)
Revenue Resources	(6)	(321)	(17)	-	(344)
Funding from Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total FUNDING</b>	<b>(42,078)</b>	<b>(93,716)</b>	<b>(56,487)</b>	<b>(10,147)</b>	<b>(202,428)</b>

Council Funding	External Funding
£'000	£'000
(43,701)	-
(4,500)	-
(35,276)	-
-	(109,004)
-	(9,603)
(344)	-
<b>(83,821)</b>	<b>(118,607)</b>

## Appendix 2: Detail of reserves and provisions as at 31/3/21

Reserves and Provisions	Opening Balance £000's	Use In Year £000's	Additional Contributions £000's	Transfers between reserves £000's	Transfers from General Fund £000's	Outturn Transfers £000's	Balance at Year End £000's
<b>General Fund Reserve</b>	9,400		746	416		(61)	10,501
<b>Covid Recovery Reserve</b>	0			4,512			4,512
<b>Earmarked for specific purposes</b>							
Public Health Reserves	0					438	438
Adult Social Care Covid Recovery Reserve	0					1,598	1,598
Ofsted Support Reserve	0					188	188
Children's Services Improvement Reserve	0					175	175
Children's Services Demand Reserve	0					732	732
Social Care Demand Risk Reserve	0					500	500
Business Rates Deficit Reserve	0					10,555	10,555
Business Rates Risk Reserve	1,670						1,670
Business Rates Relief Reserve	49						49
Change Fund	415	(1,145)	1,321	(146)			445
Investment Fund	4,928			(4,928)			0
Insurance Fund (MBC)	0		270				270
CCC Insurance Fund	360	(324)					36
Insurance Fund (Fire)	0		0				0
Capital Refinancing Reserve	175						175
School Reserves - DSG	(2,065)	(2,001)	775				(3,291)
Other Reserves & Provisions	10,538	(5,665)	12,017		439		17,329
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>16,069</b>	<b>(9,135)</b>	<b>14,383</b>	<b>(5,074)</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>14,186</b>	<b>30,869</b>
<b>School balances</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>(3,241)</b>	<b>4,864</b>				<b>4,864</b>
<b>Provisions</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>(2,475)</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,555</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,218</b>	<b>(14,851)</b>	<b>22,257</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>14,125</b>	<b>53,301</b>

<b>Report of:</b>	Councillor Eric Polano - Executive Member for Regeneration Richard Horniman - Director of Regeneration
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 15 June 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Ridgeway Connections Scheme: Public Consultation Exercise

**Summary**

Proposed decision(s)
<p>1. It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the responses received during the public consultation exercise are noted;</li> <li>b) the objections to the proposed scheme are considered and mitigations noted; and,</li> <li>c) the proposed scheme is agreed and progresses to implementation during the 2021/22 financial year.</li> </ul>

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
<i>Decision</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>No</i>

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
<i>The proposed scheme will improve the safety, accessibility and usability of the Borough's footpath/cycleway network, thereby ensuring that Middlesbrough residents can access employment, education, retail and leisure opportunities by sustainable forms of transport.</i>	<i>The proposed scheme will improve accessibility to key services and facilities by sustainable forms of transport, thereby improving the health and safety of Middlesbrough residents. The scheme will be designed so as to minimise its impact on nearby properties and enhance the public realm of the area through which it runs.</i>	<i>By improving accessibility to the designated district centre of Coulby Newham the scheme will improve the resilience of the local economy, thereby ensuring that the transport network does not act as a barrier to future economic growth.</i>

<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

## **Ward(s) affected**

*Coulby Newham and Hemlington Wards. The relevant Ward Members have been fully involved in the public consultation process. Ward members are keen to ensure that pedestrian / travel safety is maintained for residents and that any measures are mitigated to ensure that antisocial behaviour does not result from additional access routes; for neighbouring residents.*

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

2. Middlesbrough Council is proposing to connect Hemlington Grange to the existing pedestrian and cycle network serving Coulby Newham with a new footpath/cycleway, allowing journeys between the two communities for retail, leisure and education to be made safely on foot and by cycle. The purpose of this report is to detail the results of the public consultation exercise carried out for the proposed scheme and to seek Executive Member approval for the scheme to proceed to the implementation stage.

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

3. The expanded consultation exercise has highlighted a range of views from relevant stakeholders. Whilst many of the issues highlighted have been mitigated by design, there remains a overall approval for the proposals. The number of consultation responses received which are against the proposals merit Executive Member consideration. An Executive Member decision is, therefore, required to allow the scheme to be taken forward to the implementation stage.

### **Background**

4. As set out in the Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy, Middlesbrough Council is committed to increasing the number of local journeys made on foot and by cycle. Reducing the current dependence on the private car for such journeys will reduce congestion, improve air quality and contribute towards the social and economic regeneration of the Borough.
5. To achieve this objective, the Council is investing in new pedestrian and cycle infrastructure designed to provide safe and convenient routes between residential areas and local facilities such as shops and schools. One of the residential areas included in this programme is Hemlington Grange which, because of its location to the south of Stainton Way and the east of B1365 Stokesley Road, is poorly connected to the existing footpath network and not connected at all to the existing cycle route network serving the south of the Borough.
6. A proposal has been designed which uses the only available Council land in the area which can link in with the Hemlington Grange site and integrate within the existing wider network across Coulby Newham. Verges along the B1365 Stokesley Road are relatively narrow and do not accommodate a satisfactory alternative; as currently configured.
7. In order to address this situation, it is proposed to construct a new footpath/cycleway link from the existing traffic signal-controlled crossing facility at the junction of Stokesley Road and Hemlington Grange Way to the existing

footpath/cycleway between Woodlea and Ridgeway, and an additional light controlled signal crossing on Stainton Way to the west of the B1365 Stokesley Road (Gables) roundabout.

8. The proposed footpath/cycleway link will connect Hemlington Grange to the existing pedestrian and cycle network serving Coulby Newham, thereby allowing journeys between the two communities – including to the Parkway Centre, the Rainbow Centre, The King’s Academy and Rose Wood Academy – to be made safely on foot and by cycle.
9. The proposed scheme comprises approximately 170 metres of 3.6 metre wide footpath/cycleway, running between the signal-controlled pedestrian and cycle crossing facility at the B1365 Stokesley Road/Hemlington Grange Way junction to the existing footpath/cycleway to the north of The Birches. The proposed alignment of the new footpath/cycleway is shown in **Appendix 1** to this report.
10. The proposed footpath/cycleway link will run across an area of Council-owned land to the north of The Birches, and will be designed and maintained to full adoptable standard.
11. The proposed alignment has been carefully chosen in order to minimise the impact of the new link on nearby residential properties. The distance between the footpath/cycleway and the boundary of the nearest residential property will be approximately 40 metres, and the footpath/cycleway will be lit by LED luminaires that will minimise any light spill onto residential properties during the hours of darkness; as well as mitigating any risks of antisocial behaviour.
12. During the design stage of the project DMX lighting will be explored for use on the footpath/cycleway. This is a very low level lighting brightness during the hours of darkness which remains dim until a person is detected within the vicinity which it then becomes a higher level lighting brightness until the person has passed the lighting column. A similar lighting scheme is current in operation at Grove Hill Linear Park. If necessary the possibility of introducing CCTV can be explored after construction of the footpath/cycle way.

## **Public Consultation**

13. As with all proposed highway improvement schemes, public consultation was carried out in order to seek the views of key stakeholders. The first public consultation exercise was carried out over the four-week period between 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and sought the views of the following parties:
  - a) The occupiers of those residential properties in The Birches and Woodlea in the vicinity of the proposed route;
  - b) Local Ward Councillors; and,
  - c) The Army Reserve Centre.
14. Any stakeholders not included in the above list, but with an interest in the scheme, were also able to submit their comments via the Council website.
15. A total of 36 responses were received, with one in favour of the proposed scheme and 35 against.

16. A meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to discuss the outcome of the first consultation exercise. This meeting was attended by the Mayor and Councillors representing the Coulby Newham and Stainton & Thornton Wards, as well as by Council officers.
17. At the meeting, it was highlighted that, whilst the occupiers of nearby properties had been consulted, the main potential beneficiaries of the proposed scheme (i.e. the occupiers of properties in Hemlington Grange) had not. Consequently, the decision was taken to carry out a second public consultation exercise, with the scope of the consultation extended to cover the occupiers of properties in Hemlington Grange as well as all of the properties in The Birches and Woodlea.
18. The second public consultation exercise was carried out over the four-week period from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
19. A total of 83 responses were received (including the responses received during the first consultation exercise), with 43 of those responding in favour of the proposed scheme and 40 against.
20. The main grounds for objection to the scheme are set out in the table below, together with the response from Council officers in each case:

Reason for Objection	Response from Council Officers
The footpath/cycleway should be re-routed via Ridgeway instead.	The proposed route alignment is a direct and attractive one, both for pedestrians and cyclists. Re-routing the footpath/cycleway via Ridgeway would require pedestrians and cyclists to navigate a circuitous route through an industrial estate where pavement parking takes place on a regular basis. Consequently there are strong amenity, personal security and road safety arguments in favour of the proposed route alignment.
Potential for crime and antisocial behaviour.	The footpath/cycleway will be designed so as to minimise the potential for such activity. Data provided by the Strategy, Information & Governance Team shows that there were no reported incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour in the residential area in the vicinity of the proposed route alignment over the three-year period from January 2018 to December 2020.

Reason for Objection	Response from Council Officers
Loss of privacy	No existing residential property is within 40 metres of the proposed route alignment, which will run along the north side of the mound separating The Birches and Woodlea from Ridgeway (i.e. 'over the brow of the hill'). This combination of factors means that its impact in terms of loss of privacy will be minimal.
Light pollution	The footpath/cycleway will be illuminated by means of LED lanterns. This will minimise 'light spill' and, therefore, the impact on nearby properties, none of which are within 40 metres of the proposed route alignment.
Litter (including dog waste)	Dog waste and litter bins will be provided at regular intervals along the footpath/cycleway, thereby minimising the potential for such activity to take place.
Impact on local wildlife	No trees or flora will be removed as part of the proposed scheme, and access for birds and other local animal species to the area of land through which it will run will be unaffected.
Unsafe to exercise dogs	The footpath/cycleway will have no impact on the safety of dogs or dog walkers.
The footpath/cycleway will result in an increase in footfall through the existing grassed area.	The footpath/cycleway will provide a direct and attractive pedestrian and cycle link between Hemlington Grange and Coulby Newham, so an increase in footfall is inevitable. However, there will be no detrimental impact on existing users of the grassed area.
Impact on property values	Evidence published by central government shows that the value of residential properties located in the vicinity of sustainable transport links is generally higher than the value of properties where sustainable transport options are more limited.
Risk of flooding of gardens of nearby properties	The footpath/cycleway will have no adverse impact in terms of surface water runoff into the gardens of nearby properties.
The scheme is a waste of money	The footpath/cycleway will provide a direct, safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle route linking Hemlington Grange and Coulby Newham. Construction of the new route is, therefore, entirely compatible with the policies set out in the adopted Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy.

21. The results of the second consultation exercise are considered in more detail in **Appendix 1** to this report.

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

22. It is recommended that:

- a) the responses received during the public consultation exercise are noted;
- b) the objections to the proposed scheme are considered and mitigations noted; and,
- c) the proposed scheme is agreed and progresses to implementation during the 2021/22 financial year.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

23. There are currently no cycle routes connecting the rapidly growing residential area of Hemlington Grange with the adjacent district centre of Coulby Newham, and the only existing pedestrian route is circuitous and involves negotiating the busy B1365 Stokesley Road via an uncontrolled crossing facility.

24. The proposed footpath/cycleway will address both of these issues and, by doing so, allow the residents of Hemlington Grange to access local retail, leisure and educational facilities by more sustainable alternatives to the private car, in line with the policies set out in the adopted Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy.

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

25. The other potential decisions that have not been recommended include:

- a) Do nothing. This is not recommended, as it will not provide a safe and direct pedestrian and cycle route that allows residents of Hemlington Grange to access the retail, leisure and educational facilities in the Coulby Newham district centre by more sustainable alternatives to the private car.
- b) Reassessing the proposed route alignment. This is not recommended, as re-routing the footpath/cycleway via Ridgeway (as suggested by a number of the objectors) would require pedestrians and cyclists to navigate a circuitous route through an industrial estate where pavement parking takes place on a regular basis. Consequently there are strong amenity, personal security and road safety arguments in favour of the proposed route.

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

#### ***Legal***

26. The new footpath/cycleway link will be built on Council-owned land. The area of land required for the new link will be dedicated for highway purposes. This is a simple legal process to which there is no right of objection.

27. Any legal issues associated with the delivery of the scheme will be managed through the Council's established procedures.



## ***Financial***

28. The proposed scheme has been costed by the Council's Civil Engineering team, which has extensive experience of designing and delivering similar schemes. Based on the preliminary design work carried out to date, the cost of the scheme has been estimated at £52,000, inclusive of fees, prelims and contingencies.

29. All costs associated with the scheme will be met from the Council's 2021/22 Local Transport Capital Programme.

## ***Policy Framework***

30. The decisions recommended within this report align fully with the Council's policy framework.

## ***Equality and Diversity***

31. It is not anticipated that any protected groups will be impacted upon negatively as a result of implementing the proposed scheme. No concerns were raised during the consultation process either that the proposal could impact differently on individuals or groups because they held one or more protected characteristics.

## ***Risk***

32. This is a 'business as usual' scheme which, if approved, will be delivered in line with the Council's established risk management protocols. Appropriate measures will be put in place to ensure that all risks associated with the scheme are minimised.

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

33. Council officers will commence the implementation of the proposed scheme upon approval.

## **Appendices**

34. Appendix 1 to this report contains the following information:

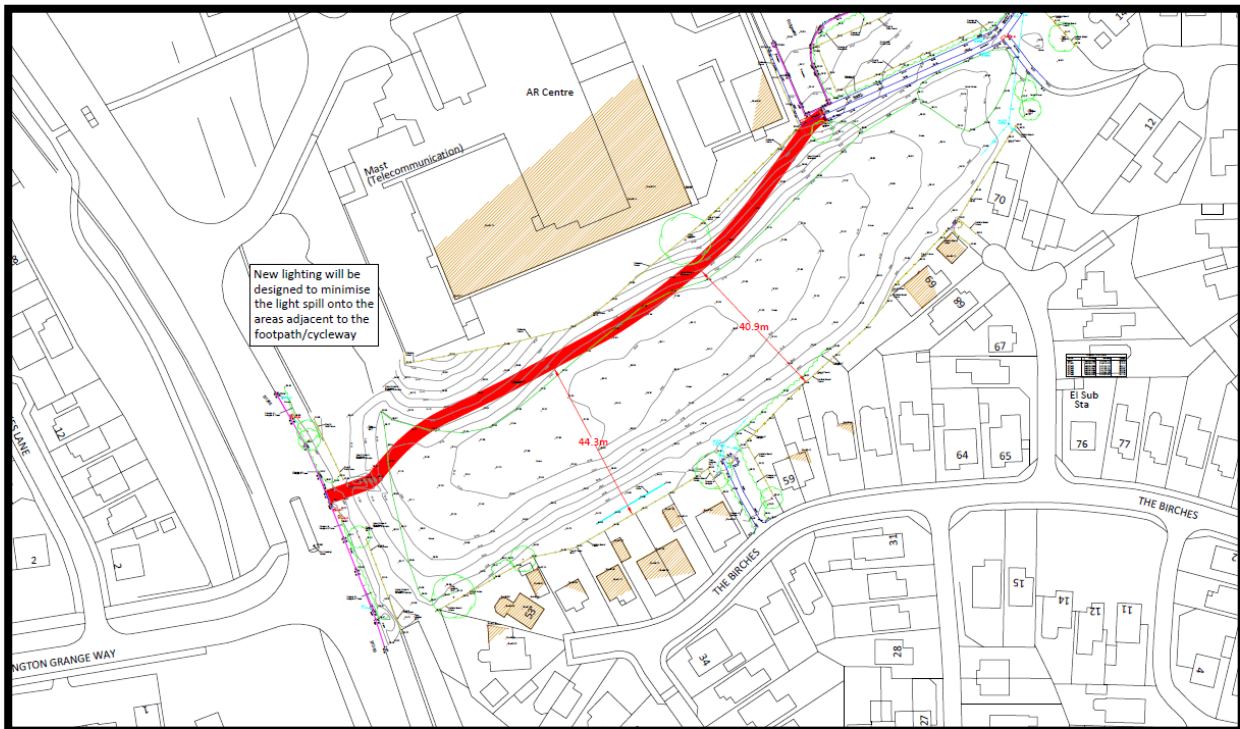
- a) Location of proposed footpath/cycleway; and
- b) Detailed consultation results.

## **Background papers**

35. 'Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028', as approved by Executive on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (Minute ref. 18/52).

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **a) Location of Proposed Footpath/Cycleway**



### **b) Detailed Public Consultation Results**

As with all proposed highway improvement schemes, public consultation was carried out in order to seek the views of key stakeholders.

The first public consultation exercise was carried out over the four-week period between 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and sought the views of the following parties:

- a) The occupiers of those residential properties in The Birches and Woodlea in the vicinity of the proposed route;
- b) Local Ward Councillors; and
- c) The Army Reserve Centre.

Anyone not included in the above list but with an interest in the scheme was also able to submit their comments via the Council website.

A total of 36 responses were received – one in favour of the proposed scheme and 35 against.

The second public consultation exercise was carried out over the four-week period from 15<sup>th</sup> January and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021, and sought the views of the following parties:

- a) The occupiers of all residential properties in The Birches, Woodlea and Hemlington Grange;
- b) Local Ward Councillors; and

c) The Army Reserve Centre.

A total of 83 responses were received (including the responses received during the first consultation exercise), with 43 in favour of the proposed scheme and 40 against.

The main grounds for objection are set out below, together with the response from Council officers in each case:

<b>Alternative Routes</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Travelling south on B1365 and joining the footpath at Ridgeway and travelling around Ridgeway passed the Army Reserve Centre and Royal Mail sorting office and re-joining the existing foot path/cycle way at the rear of Woodlea.</p>	<p>This route is not possible as a cycle way because there is only provision for pedestrians on the Ridgeway footpath with no cycling. Cyclists would have to use Ridgeway with the additional road safety risks of cycling with other road users on a small industrial estate. This route would require the removal of established trees and flora along the B1365 to build the alternative scheme, and additionally a new footpath from the junction with Ridgeway to the entrance at the Army Reserve Centre would also have to be built. The increased costs, increased road safety concerns and the removal of established trees and flora make this option unviable. A second similar alternative route was also proposed travelling south to Stainton Way and to build a new toucan crossing. This route would channel students to Kings Academy School, but away from the Parkway shopping centre.</p>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	
<p>Residents report off-road motor cycles and quad bike users have used the area, and there are concerns that groups of teenagers will use the grassed area as a hangout.</p>	<p>Residents have reported anti-social behaviour in the consultation. From January 2018 to December 2020 in the immediate area of The Birches TS8 0UB and Woodlea TS8 0TX there is has been no reported anti-social behaviour (Data supplied by Analytics Business Partner, Strategy Information &amp; Governance,</p>

Concerns that burglaries will be committed by using the footpath/cycle path to gain access to properties, and it will give easy access for criminals between estates.	Middlesbrough Council). A chicane barrier is to be installed near the light controlled crossing on the B1365.
<b>Security/Crime</b>	
Concerns that burglaries will be committed by using the footpath/cycle path to gain access to properties, and it will give easy access for criminals between estates.	Residents have reported crime in the consultation. From January 2018 to December 2020 in the immediate area of The Birches TS8 0UB and Woodlea TS8 0TX there is has been no reported anti-social behaviour (Data supplied by Analytics Business Partner, Strategy Information & Governance, Middlesbrough Council).
<b>Loss of Privacy</b>	
The proposed route is on a higher ground to the neighbouring properties in The Birches.	No property is within 40m of the proposed route and any impact will be minimal.
<b>Light From Columns</b>	
Residents are concerned about light from columns impacting on properties.	The lighting columns that are to be used are designed to channel light away from properties and will have negligible impact on properties.
<b>Pollution/Litter</b>	
Increased pollution by litter and dog waste.	Dog and litter waste bins will be provided along the proposed route.
<b>Wildlife</b>	
Damage to wildlife and birds in the area.	No trees or flora will be removed as part of the scheme.
<b>Unsafe to exercise dogs</b>	
Residents unable to exercise their dogs safely on the grassed area due to the footpath and perceived danger from anti-social behaviour and off-road motor cycles, quad bikes.	Residents have reported anti-social behaviour in the consultation. From January 2018 to December 2020 in the immediate area of The Birches TS8 0UB and Woodlea TS8 0TX there is has been no reported anti-social behaviour (Data supplied by Analytics Business Partner, Strategy Information & Governance, Middlesbrough Council).

<b>Increase in footfall</b>	
An increase in footfall in the area of The Birches and Woodlea from people who are not residents in their area.	The proposed foot path will provide a sustainable transport link between Hemlington Grange and Coulby Newham.
<b>Property Values</b>	
There are concerns that property values will decrease.	Central government data suggests that properties that have sustainable travel links increase property values. ( <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509587/value-of-cycling.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509587/value-of-cycling.pdf</a> )
<b>Flooding</b>	
There is a high risk of flooding in the gardens of The Birches (52-57).	The proposed route of the foot path/cycle way will have no affect or add to run off and have no impact on adjacent properties.
<b>Waste Of Money</b>	
Residents feel this is a waste of money.	As set out in the Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy, Middlesbrough Council is committed to increasing the number of local journeys made on foot and by cycle. Reducing the current dependence on the private car for such journeys will reduce congestion, improve air quality and contribute towards the social and economic regeneration of the Borough. ( <a href="https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Integrated-transport-strategy-2018-28.pdf">https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Integrated-transport-strategy-2018-28.pdf</a> )

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