

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday 21st July, 2021
<b>Time:</b> 4.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b> Virtual Meeting

### AGENDA

**Please note: this is a virtual meeting. The meeting will be live-streamed via the Council's Youtube channel at 4.00 pm on Wednesday 21 July 2021**

1. Welcome and Evacuation Procedure
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest  
  
To receive any declarations of interest.
4. Minutes - Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - 30 June 2021 3 - 6
5. Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19 Scrutiny Review - Business Support/Grants 7 - 10

The Strategic Business Manager, Regeneration, will be in attendance to provide an overview of the business support/grants provided by the Council during the pandemic.

Recommendation: for Panel to determine whether further information is required.

6. Teesside Crematorium - Update Presentation

The Panel will receive an update on Teesside Crematorium from the Operational Manager, Environment and Community

Services.

Recommendation: for Panel to determine whether further information is required.

7. Date of Next Meeting - 8 September 2021

8. Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 29 June 2021.

9. 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  
Tuesday 13 July 2021

#### MEMBERSHIP

Councillors S Walker (Chair), R Arundale (Vice-Chair), D Branson, D Coupe, T Furness, B Hubbard, T Mawston, M Saunders and M Storey

#### **Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susan Lightwing, 01642 729712, [susan\\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:susan_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

A meeting of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel was held on Wednesday 30 June 2021.

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Walker (Chair), R Arundale (Vice-Chair), D Coupe, T Furness, B Hubbard, M Saunders and M Storey

**OFFICERS:** S Bonner, G Field, R Horniman and S Lightwing

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were submitted on behalf of Councillors D Branson and T Mawston

21/1 **WELCOME AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and read out the Evacuation Procedure.

21/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

21/3 **MINUTES - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL - 21 APRIL 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 21 April 2021 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

21/4 **OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REGENERATION AND CULTURE**

The Directors of Environment and Community Services and Regeneration and Culture were in attendance to provide an overview of their service areas.

Regeneration and Culture covered four main areas, however only three related to this Panel's remit as follows:

- Economic Growth: Economic Development and Infrastructure Planning.
- Capital Projects: Housing, Capital Schemes and Design Services.
- Planning: the Local Plan, Development Control and Building Control.

The Director provided a comprehensive update on the service area's current workload which included the following projects:

- Conversion of Captain Cook Square to a leisure destination.
- Development of Middlehaven for urban living and commercial use.
- Development of Boho X.
- Restoration of the Old Town Hall and Captain Cook Pub.
- Delivering land remediation through the Brownfield Housing Fund.
- Developing two Levelling Up Fund bids.
- Delivering the Future High Streets Fund programme.
- Delivering the Town's Fund programme.
- Delivering 450 new homes across the town.
- Preparing Nunthorpe Grange and Newham Hall for sale.
- Developing infrastructure plan with Nunthorpe Parish Council.
- Development of new community facilities at Southlands and Nunthorpe.
- Improving the area around the rail station.
- Delivery of Heritage Action Zone improvements in Exchange Square.
- Developing the next Local Plan.
- Improving Linthorpe Road.

Responding to questions the Director provided further information in relation to Masterplans and the details of the timetable for approval of the latest Local Plan.

The Director of Environment and Community Services' presentation included updates on the following areas of work being undertaken by the service:

Environment

- The Council's Green Strategy: Update, aims and objectives.
- Tree Planting Plan
- Micro Forests.
- Wildflower Areas.
- Lower Ormesby Nature Reserve.

Highways Maintenance

- Bridges and structures.
- A66.
- Roads and footpaths.
- Other highway infrastructure

Community Safety.

- Community Safety Partnership.
- Neighbourhood Safety Wardens (including Environmental Wardens).
- AIM
- CCTV.
- Community Cohesion.

Locality Working.

Libraries and Hubs.

North East Migration Partnership.

The Director answered Members' questions in relation to funding for grass verge repairs, grass cutting, prosecutions for fly tipping and tree maintenance.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their attendance.

**AGREED** that the information provided was received and noted.

21/5

**SETTING THE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022**

The Democratic Services Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to assist Members of the Panel to consider and agree its work programme for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year.

A list of topical issues and the suggestions received in respect of the Scrutiny Panel's remit were contained in the submitted report. It was suggested that the Scrutiny Panel should select one topic for full review along with several short topics and updates.

In addition there were two reviews from the previous years to be completed as follows: Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19, and Recycling and Waste Management/Waste Disposal Facility.

The Director of Environment and Community was in attendance at the meeting and provided additional information as requested by Panel Members.

Members discussed the information provided by Officers at the meeting, the topics suggested in the report and suggestions received from members of the public and the service areas.

Following discussion, Panel Members agreed the following topics for review:

**Main Topic:**

1. The Green Strategy and the Council's plans for increasing bio diversity in Middlesbrough

**Short Reviews/Updates:**

2. Regeneration of Captain Cook Shopping Centre and House of Fraser
3. Fly tipping and bulky waste collection service
4. Empty/derelect commercial properties
5. Bus Services
6. New Waste Disposal Facility
7. Broadband Infrastructure

**AGREED** as follows that:

1. The information provided was received and noted.
2. The topics listed at 1 to 7 above, would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

21/6 **PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE - 2021/2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

A proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year was submitted for the Panel's consideration.

**AGREED** that the proposed meeting dates for 2021-2022 were approved.

21/7 **FINAL REPORT ON PEST CONTROL - UPDATE**

Councillor Hubbard provided an update on the actions agreed by Executive from the Panel's Final Report on Pest Control.

**NOTED**

21/8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 21 JULY 2021**

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 10.30 am.

**NOTED**

21/9 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED**

None.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### SCRUTINY PANEL

21 JULY 2022

#### COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT AND RECOVERY

##### 1.0 Background

From March 2020 the Council's Revenues and Benefits team, Economic Growth/Regeneration and Finance service have collaborated closely to respond to the pandemic crisis to support businesses.

Whilst continuing to deliver a regular day to day service a range of additional initiatives and grant schemes were designed with the teams working at fast pace, providing a pragmatic approach to ensure support was provided quickly and effectively where it was most needed.

##### 2.0 Business Support

At the earliest opportunity information was disseminated through web/social media platforms and business networks to promote and guide business through the support available both via the Local Authority and the wider business support landscape. Several support mechanisms were initiated and promoted by the Council, this included:

- Buy Boro campaign: promotion of local supply and services.
- 1-1 business workshops – targeted to small/independent business to 'plan it not panic'. The workshops covered managing cashflow, business planning, emergency procedures.
- Comprehensive list of PPE suppliers prepared and promoted through the Council's website
- Businesses linked directly to Teesside University Digital City to receive free support to improve website and ecommerce options
- Outdoor tables available to loan to retail/leisure/hospitality businesses and supported to acquire an outdoor licence
- Town Centre cleaning stations, ambassadors to support high street shoppers and businesses.
- Guidance and signposting via dedicated web pages and help lines for businesses to access full range of support

##### 3.0 Business Grants

A range of grant schemes were designed with rapid distribution remaining a priority throughout; Middlesbrough Council was the first Local Authority in the area to distribute an emergency Covid grant.

The onus was placed on Local Authorities to determine the approach and design of the schemes to best support their respective local economies, which, at times, was challenging, given the changing legislation combined with the perceptions of the business community on eligibility.

Middlesbrough's emergency and discretionary business grant schemes sought to support businesses through the covid pandemic and restrictions by:

- Providing direct grant support to businesses impacted by restrictions.

- Supporting businesses that were unable to access other business support schemes
- Supporting home businesses and sole traders etc with fixed business costs
- Introducing business support measures to stimulate the local economy through key sectors and priority regeneration areas to facilitate long term job creation and investment

The Local Authority has utilised both the mandatory grants and discretionary funding to full effect, distributing grants in accordance with government guidance and tailoring discretionary elements to target gap areas and provide the most strategic impact.

Over £25m was initially distributed in grants to support businesses in the first 6 months of the pandemic (March – September 2020).

Local Restriction Support Grants (LRSG) followed in November and came into force as restrictions and lockdowns became more prevalent following the first Covid related intervention in March 2020. Similarly a discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) to address gaps and recovery was launched alongside the LRSG. The schemes were regularly reviewed and included several enhancements to the scheme to ensure:

- Gaps in eligibility were addressed
- Targeted sector support e.g. Taxi Drivers
- Introduction of business support measures to stimulate the local economy, create jobs and promote rapid recovery

### 3.0 Outcomes

Almost £16m was distributed through the LRSG schemes. This funding was utilised to provide emergency support to eligible businesses. Table 1 provides a breakdown:

**Table 1 Local Restrictions Support Grant <sup>i</sup>**

Local Restrictions Support (LRSG) Grant	Purpose	Amount	No of payments
LRSG Closed	businesses required to close	<b>£1,804,265.25</b>	823
LRSG Closed (phase 2)	businesses required to close	<b>£8,072,513.70</b>	1557
LRSG Open	businesses impacted whilst requiring to stay open and trade.	<b>£266,353.59</b>	196
LRSG Sector specific	Specific sectors required to close since Mar 20 (e.g. nightclubs)	<b>£17,525.98</b>	6
Christmas Payment	Wet led pubs (e.g bars/pubs that serve drinks rather than food)	<b>£53, 000</b>	53
Restart	Support reopening of Retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care, accommodation, gyms	<b>£5,741,304.22</b>	794
<b>Total</b>		<b>£15, 954, 962.74</b>	<b>3429</b>



The following table provides a breakdown of the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant:

**Table 2 Additional Restrictions Grant<sup>ii</sup>**

<b>Additional Restrictions Grant</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No of payments</b>	<b>Jobs to be created (3yrs)</b>	<b>Investment Commitment by Business</b>
Main	businesses unable to access other schemes e.g home based, supply chain, shared spaces, impacted sectors	<b>£2,909,791.93</b>	1654	n/a	n/a
Enhanced	Impacted sectors required to trade	<b>£165,000</b>	18	n/a	n/a
Strategic	create jobs and stimulate recovery and investment in priority sectors/ regeneration areas	<b>£750,000</b>	17	194 – 460 high value jobs in: Advanced/ manufacturing, Leisure, culture, digital, professional services	780K - £1.6m
Taxi Drivers	Specific sector support	<b>£247,500</b>	825	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£4,072,291.93</b>	<b>2514</b>	<b>194 – 460</b>	<b>780K - £1.6m</b>

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

In total £45m has been distributed in grants to support businesses since March 2020.

The LRSB schemes are now closed and the Additional Restriction Grant is fully committed.

It is expected a second phase of ARG funding will be triggered as soon as 100% of spend is reported, providing the local authority with a further £670K to support business recovery through to March 2022.

The aim is to focus the second phase of ARG funds to supporting new startup businesses and further grants to support businesses in their recovery.

Appointment of a Business Recovery Officer has taken place in June 2021 to provide additional support to businesses in their recovery.

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<sup>i</sup> Figures correct as at 9 July 2021

<sup>ii</sup> Committed spend at 9 July 2021

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