

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

**Date:** Tuesday 9th November, 2021  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Virtual meeting

**Please note this is a virtual meeting.**

**The meeting will be livestreamed via  
the Council's YouTube channel at  
[Middlesbrough Council - YouTube](#)**

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 20 October 2021 3 - 10
4. Executive Forward Work Programme 11 - 26
5. Executive Member Update: Executive Member for  
Environment and Finance and Governance 27 - 32
6. Chief Executive's Update 33 - 50
7. Scrutiny Chairs Update

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor J. Platt (Chair)

Children & Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor D. McCabe (Chair)

Children & Young People's Social Care and Scrutiny Panel

Councillor D. Davison (Chair)

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor C. McIntyre (Chair)

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure  
Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor S. Walker (Chair)

Health Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor D. Coupe (Chair)

8. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Final Report - Middlesbrough Regeneration Post Covid-19 51 - 78
9. Any other urgent items which, in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.
10. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 7 December at 10.00am

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Monday 1 November 2021

#### MEMBERSHIP

Councillors M Saunders (Chair), T Mawston (Vice-Chair), A Bell, D Coupe, D Davison, A Hellaoui, C Hobson, D McCabe, C McIntyre, J Platt, M Storey, J Thompson and S Walker

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

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Caroline Breheny, 01642 729752, [caroline\\_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:caroline_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Wednesday 20 October 2021.

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Saunders (Chair), A Bell, D Coupe, D Davison, A Hellaoui, C Hobson, C McIntyre, J Platt, J Thompson and S Walker

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor Eric Polano (Executive Member for Regeneration)

**OFFICERS:** C Breheny, T Parkinson, G Cooper, C Benjamin, A Hoy, R Horniman, I Wright, A Humble, P Stephens and S Bonner

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors T Mawston, D McCabe and M Storey

20/34 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

20/35 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 8 September were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/36 **EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive, as outlined in Appendix A to the report.

The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board, or referred to a Scrutiny Panel.

**NOTED**

20/37 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

The Executive Member for Regeneration, Cllr Eric Polano, was in attendance to update the Board on his aims and aspirations, progress made to date and to highlight any emerging issues relating to his portfolio. The Director of Regeneration was also in attendance.

As part of his update to the Board, the Executive Member for Regeneration explained that his portfolio did not neatly match the way in which services were structured and the slides included in his presentation showed the way the portfolio was set out and how services were structured.

It was explained that the main areas of the portfolio were as follows:-

Transportation – designing how people get about (not the maintenance of the roads)  
 Inward investment – attracting money, people and jobs into Middlesbrough  
 Economic development – growing the jobs available in the town  
 Housing development – increasing the options for people wanting to live here  
 Planning – managing the long term look and functionality of the town  
 Building control – ensuring things were built correctly and safely

In terms of changing the town centre one of the main areas of focus was on converting Captain Cook Square into a leisure destination. Currently the town centre had too much retail space and insufficient leisure space. The Council had therefore purchased Captain Cook Square in an effort to redress the balance.

In respect of developing the concept of urban living it was explained that Middlehaven was the focal point for a significant amount of investment to create more houses and apartments for people wanting to live in the centre of town.

Boho X was another key area of focus and would deliver sixty thousand square feet of commercial space for the digital sector. In addition the Council was currently refurbishing the Captain Cook Pub and work would soon commence on the Old Town Hall to bring these buildings back to life.

Clearing up eyesore sites and properties was another high priority and it was advised that the Council was investing in buying up eyesore sites and properties that were blighting local communities. In terms of the Future High Streets Fund and the Towns Fund Middlesbrough had received in the region of £35m to spend on changing the town centre and Middlehaven, as well as some other parts of the town. Delivering housing growth was a further area of focus and the Council was working with house builders to deliver 400-500 new homes each year.

The Executive Member for Regeneration advised the Board that in respect of his own personal priorities the areas that he was most passionate about driving through were dealing with the eyesore sites and properties and getting more people into the town centre. It was advised that the Council had invested £1m into working with Middlesbrough Development Company (MDC) to buy up or refurbish properties in local communities that were ruining people's lives. The Council was looking to tackle as many of these as possible and clean up some of the worst streets.

In terms of getting people into the town centre it was emphasised that there was a real need to encourage people to use the town centre again. However, we could no longer rely on people coming into the town centre to shop, as they would never do that in those numbers again.

In respect of what would be achieved over the next year it was anticipated that the following projects would be realised:-

- Captain Cook Square re-let to leisure operators
- Boho X open and occupied
- Hundreds of new homes underway in the centre of town
- Captain Cook pub brought back into use
- New community centres at Southlands and Nunthorpe
- Middlesbrough Station refurbished for the new London train
- Exchange Square regenerated
- New commercial space built on Centre Square (Melrose House site)
- Small sites brought back into use
- Tollesby shops replaced by new apartments
- Some key derelict properties brought back into use

Following the update in respect of the regeneration portfolio, Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member enquired as to whether there was an intention to address the issues of eyesore business properties, for example, on Wilson Street. As although these were not the Council's responsibility and they were the responsibility of private businesses and private landlords the Council's efforts to renew areas of the town centre would be negated if neighbouring properties already in a state of disrepair were not improved. The Executive Member for Regeneration advised that efforts were being made to contact owners of derelict properties and encourage them to undertake the necessary repairs to their premises in the first instance. If efforts were unsuccessful then the Council would consider other options including purchasing / renovating the premises.

A Member of the Board queried the level of focus on the town centre to the detriment of other areas and the lack of infrastructure that was provided when new developments were approved. However, it was appreciated that the financial resources available to the town were limited and therefore had to be spent wisely.

In respect of the proposals for the development of the town centre and increased emphasis on

the inclusion of leisure provision it was queried whether there was sufficient focus on retaining the current retail provision. The Executive Member of Regeneration advised that he fully appreciated the concerns raised, however, footfall in the town centre was declining and with the increase in online shopping and provision of out of town retail outlets future demand for town centre retail was forecast to decrease further. It was therefore imperative that action was taken now to diversify the offer available within the town centre. The Council therefore needed to accept that there would be a lot less demand for town centre retail in the future.

A Member of the Board made reference to the refurbishment of the Captain Cook pub and whether the intention was for the premises to operate as a pub once it was refurbished. It was advised that the intention was for the restoration to return the premises to a shell whereby an interested party could adapt the premises to meet its needs. Various proposals had been received recently including a proposal for the premises to be operated as a bistro; to be used as a headquarters for a digital company and to be converted into residential accommodation. Once the restoration work had been completed it would be put out to the open market, in order for expressions of interest to be received.

In terms of the restoration work undertaken by the Council in respect of the Captain Cook pub it was advised that once on site it had become apparent that more work was needed than initially envisaged. The Council was therefore undertaking the necessary works to ensure that all the mechanical and electrical issues had been addressed, as well as the refitting of the windows and the total cost would be in the region of £1.1m. This included Council capital that was approved previously, as well as some Town Fund investment funding.

In response to a query regarding the future development of Captain Cook Square it was advised that consultation with local residents would be undertaken prior to any approval of leisure developments.

In response to a query regarding the future of the Civic Centre site, Gurney House and Centre North East it was advised that the Council was currently working with the owners of both Gurney House and Centre North East to try and bring the premises back into use. The Council had resources available to it through the Towns Fund to help gap fund some of the viability issues in respect of those two buildings. The sheer size of the buildings did present a challenge as a trying to find one solution that worked at that scale was very difficult. There was the potential to convert one of them into a hotel, residential properties or a modern office, however, the level of investment required would be significant.

In respect of the Civic Centre it was advised that when the Council moved to Fountain Court in 2022 the Civic Centre site and building would be seen as a development opportunity. It was unknown at this stage as to whether the building would be presented to the open market first and then if there were no viable options the site second was yet to be resolved.

Reference was made to eyesore properties and specifically Douglas House and it was queried as to what was envisaged for this particular property. The point was also made that although there was a real need for eyesore properties in certain areas of the town to be addressed, for example in North Ormesby, the south of the town also required attention. In response it was acknowledged that the £1m recently set aside to tackle eyesore properties would not be sufficient to address all of the issues across the town. However, the need for work to be undertaken in respect of eyesore properties across the town was acknowledged.

In respect of Douglas House the Council had recently re-engaged with the owners of the property and owing to the availability of grant funding through the Towns Fund there was a possibility to utilise some of that support to close the viability gap and bring a proposal forward.

Reference was made to ambitious aims for 2021/22 and whether there was sufficient funding available for all of these projects to be realised. In respect of the projects referenced in was advised that these had been fully costed and funded to varying degrees. It was anticipated that these projects would be realised over the next year.

Clarification was sought in respect of the investment in addressing eyesore properties. It was confirmed that £1m had been set aside to tackle residential eyesore properties and a further £1m had been assigned to addressing issues with commercial properties.

In response to a query regarding the potential for a 4000-5000 seated arena to be developed in Middlesbrough it was advised that over the year's consideration had been given to the feasibility of developing an arena in the town. Specialists had recently been employed to advise the local authority of the possible viability of such a proposal.

Reference was made to the high cost of bus fares at the moment and it was queried as to whether the Council regularly liaised with the bus companies in respect of such issues. It was confirmed that regular meetings with the bus companies were held, however, the bus companies were commercial operators and there was minimal influence the Council could have on the setting of fares.

The Chair thanked the Executive Member for Regeneration and Director of Regeneration for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted, and the agreed action be undertaken.

20/38

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE**

The Chief Executive was in attendance and provided an update to the Board in respect of the following:-

- COVID-19 update
- Executive update
- LMT update
- Chief Executive briefing staff feedback

In terms of the latest local COVID-19 data, as at 18 October 2021 the rolling seven-day rate of cases per 100k of the Middlesbrough population was as follows:

- 76 new cases had been added to the system on 18 October 2021;
- 557 new cases had been diagnosed in the last seven days;
- 395.1 rate per 100k of population (last seven days); and
- 302.20 COVID-19 deaths per 100k population.

Reference was made to the vaccination rates and to date 65.4% of over 12's in Middlesbrough had received 2 doses of the vaccine. In terms of vaccination by age range 9.6 % of young people in Middlesbrough aged 12 to 15 had received 1 dose of the vaccine and the vaccination rates increased with age. For example, 87.3 % of people aged 55 to 59 in Middlesbrough had received 2 doses of the vaccine and 94.2 % of people aged over 80 had received their 2 doses. It was emphasised that the number of over 50's unvaccinated in Middlesbrough was 8.2 %, which equated to 4,335 people and this was the area of greatest concern.

In relation to the Executive decisions taken recently it was noted that a number of reports had been considered. These included; a report on Middlehaven; the expansion of Middlesbrough College; Community Environmental Initiatives; Council Tax Reduction Scheme; Fountain Court and Centre Square Office development.

In respect of the current LMT strategic items it was advised that the focus was on poverty / social exclusion; reoccupation / Fountain Court; values / staff engagement; 2022/23 budget preparation; performance management and locality working.

Reference was made to the feedback received from staff in respect of the Chief Executive's staff briefings and it was noted that over 95% of staff rated the briefings as very good / good overall; over 90% rated the relevance and usefulness of the content of the briefings as very good / good overall; over 90% rated the opportunity to ask questions at the briefings as very good / good overall and over 70% had opted for the briefings to be continued virtually in the future with over 20% opting for a mix of virtual / in person. It was anticipated that the briefings would continue to be held virtually but on a six monthly basis an in person event would be held.

The themes from the free text responses to the Chief Executive staff briefings were provided and these included the following:-

- Staff valued hearing direct from the top
- Staff wanted the same level of engagement at Directorate level
- Subjects that staff were particularly interested in were; Strategic Priorities; Reoccupation; LMT thinking

Following the update, Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member of the Board made reference to the fact that the take up of the COVID-19 vaccination by young people had been slow and queried whether there was any reported cases of young people in Middlesbrough being hospitalised with COVID-19. In respect of the older generation it was also queried as to whether people were being formally invited to receive their booster vaccinations or whether there was an expectation for them to present at vaccinations clinics. In response it was advised that there had been no significant hospitalisation of any children in Middlesbrough with COVID-19. The data showed that currently there were 3 children in James Cook University Hospital under the age of 19 with COVID-19.

In terms of the booster where individual had been inoculated and were over the age of 50 they were receiving invitations for their boosters.

In respect of the information provided by the Chief Executive, as part of his regular update to the Board, the view was expressed by Members that the information provided was extremely useful and informative and should continue.

Reference was made to the high number of cases of COVID-19 currently amongst the younger cohort and whether any action was being taken within schools to encourage take up of the vaccine. The Board was advised that work would be undertaken and there was currently discussions taking place across the whole of the North East in respect of this issue. A proposal had been put forward that a joint communication across all twelve local authorities be issued. However, it was felt that some of the communication material was not necessarily Tees centric and it may be more effective to adopt a more sub regional approach. A discussion was currently taking place amongst the Chief Executives of the Tees Valley to determine whether action should be taken on a Tees Valley footprint.

In terms of schools undertaking work to encourage young people to take up the COVID-19 vaccine a Member of the Board queried the ethical validity of schools undertaking this role and their entitlement to do that.

The point was also made that anecdotally the take up of vaccines and boosters at the pop up vaccination centre at Newport Hub today had been fantastic and more of these events should be held. Positive feedback was also provided in respect of the introduction of locality working and the view was expressed that there would be real benefits in adopting this approach throughout the town.

Reference was made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the point was made that there was a real need for a reduction in the cost of Council Tax for those people facing financial deprivation across the town. However, in order to finance the scheme it was queried as to whether the overall cost of Council Tax increased for other people within the town. In response it was advised that the two were not related and it was simply a case of the amount of funding the Council received for Council Tax support would be used in a more efficient and effective manner.

In terms of the current thinking by LMT in respect of poverty the view was expressed that there could be real benefits in involving the relevant ward Councillors on any working group that had been established to look in further detail at this issue. In response the Chief Executive advised that there would be merit in establishing an all-party working group to contribute specifically to this agenda.

In response to a query regarding the town's preparations for any future rise in the number of COVID-19 cases it was acknowledged that there was the potential for cases to increase with the onset of winter. However, the Council was more than capable of responding to any spike in cases based on the experience gained throughout the pandemic to date. Although it was acknowledged that at this stage the future trajectory of COVID-19 cases over this forthcoming winter period was unknown. The Board was advised COVID-19 still presented a danger and

the Council would be doing everything possible to encourage everyone to minimise the risks of infection wherever possible.

Reference was made to the £150,000 investment in the Community Environmental Initiatives over the next 3 years and further information was requested in respect of this scheme. The Board was advised that the money would be used for Community led environmental initiatives and a report would be available for Members perusal.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for his excellent briefing and contribution to the meeting.

**NOTED**

20/39 **SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE**

The Scrutiny Chairs provided updates in respect of the work undertaken by their respective panels since the last meeting of the Board.

**NOTED**

20/40 **CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - FINAL REPORT - CULTURAL EVENTS IN MIDDLESBROUGH**

The recommendations to be submitted to the Executive were:

1) To enhance and strengthen community cohesion, cultural events traditionally held in the town centre should be delivered within communities where possible. Ideally this should take place with at least some elements of the Christmas 2021 celebrations.

2) Given its growing cultural and financial significance the Council should work with relevant third parties, including charities and the private sector, to introduce eSports as a regular and high profile cultural event. Where possible this should relate to wider leisure initiatives the Council is currently involved in.

3) Future leisure developments in the town centre should look to include opportunities for associated hospitality venues, such as an eSports business.

4) In order to attract a wider audience; the Council should continue to work with Teesside University so that the Town Hall can be used as a venue for the Animex Festival, ideally for the event held in 2022.

5) To attract audiences that sit outside Middlesbrough's local boundaries; the events team should explore how to exploit virtual event delivery by having an on-line component.

**AGREED** that the findings and recommendations of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

20/41 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET – PROJECTED OUTTURN POSITION AS AT QUARTER ONE 2021/2022**

The Director of Finance and the Head of Financial Planning and Support provided an update to the Board; the following points were highlighted:

- The information detailed in the report was separated into two elements: COVID-19 related and non-COVID-19 related;
- The 2021/22 Revenue budget for the Council was £116,492,035. The Council's outturn position for 2021/22 for non-Covid-19 elements was projected to be an overspend of £1.717m (1.5%). It was anticipated that there would be a potential financial pressure due to COVID-19 of £2.036m in 2021/22. The total projected outturn at the end of the year was £3.753m;
- The total projected overspend in 2021/22 would be covered by the full utilisation of the Social Care Demand Reserve of £0.5m and the Children's Services Demand Reserve of £0.732m, which were created at the end of 2020/21. The remaining £2.521m of the

total projected outturn pressure would be funded from the £4.512m Covid Recovery Reserve, which was created during 2020/21 to cover the potential costs arising from the Covid-19 recovery in 2021/22 and future years;

- Paragraphs 80-100 of the report detailed expenditure against the Investment Strategy, which had a revised budget of £93.716m. The current latest estimated outturn for 2021/2022 was £82.029m;
- Paragraph 101 of the report indicated that borrowing had reduced by £1m in Q1 to £217.8m;
- Total reserves were detailed in paragraph 108, which showed projections for 2021/22 to be £33.8m.
- Appendix 1 of the report detailed virements; Appendix 2 showed the revised Investment Strategy which would be used from this point onwards.

Following the update, Members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member queried as to what issues the Board should be most concerned about at present in respect of risk and unforeseen eventualities. It was advised that one of the emerging risks was in relation to energy inflation and whether that would filter through and become a longer term pressure, the legacy of COVID-19 on income was another key potential risk factor. The MTFP for next year was currently being prepared and those issues were being considered. The financial implications for the Council resulting from the new Health and Social Care Bill was another unknown at this stage, although it was anticipated that more detailed information would be available following the forthcoming Government Spending Review and Local Government settlement.

Reference was made the Environment and Community Services overspend and whether there was potential for that money to be pulled back over the course of this financial year. It was explained that the overspend was a result of the kerbside recycling company entering administration, which had generated a financial pressure of £500,000. The contract for kerbside recycling was currently out to tender and it was hoped that savings would be achieved following that process. Another risk in this area was the Integrated Transport Unit, as to a lack in the availability of taxi drivers increased costs were being incurred. Efforts were being made to pull back on costs but there were real challenges.

In response to a query regarding the problem recruiting HGV drivers it was advised that at present it was not impacting on the Council's provision of waste services. However, the query would be referred to the Director of Environment and Community Services for further information.

The amount of expenditure on Council purchase cards was queried and it was advised that some up to date information on this type of expenditure would be provided to the Board.

The Chair thanked the Director of Finance and the Head of Financial Planning and Support for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted, and the agreed actions be undertaken.

20/42

## **STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024 – PROGRESS AT QUARTER ONE 2021/2022**

The Head of Strategy, Information and Governance provided an update to the Board, which included the following points:

- This Q1 update was in respect of the Strategic Plan, which covered the period April – June 2021, and which was presented to Executive on 7 September 2021;
- On 24 February 2021, full Council approved a Strategic Plan for 2021-24, setting out nine strategic priorities for this period. At its meeting of 11 May 2021, the Executive agreed an associated set of outcome measures linked to these priorities and a supporting workplan to deliver sustained improvement up to and beyond 2024.
- At the end of Q1, 15 of 24 (62.5%) of Strategic Plan outcomes were on target against the corporate standard of 75%. At the end of Q1, there were three 'Red Red' outcomes i.e. those not currently projected to meet target and with performance worsening.
- Details in respect of the 'Red Red' outcomes were outlined; the combined crime and anti-social behaviour rate per 1,000 people increased very significantly in Q1 to 55.07, up from the Quarter Four 2020/21 baseline of 44.1, taking performance well away

from the 2024 target of 43.6; the crime rate in June 2021 was the town's second highest in the past five years, driven by acquisitive crime in Central ward as retail reopened following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions; town centre vacancies increased and the current estimated vacancy rate was 17.8%, some way from the 2024 target of 13.25%; the household recycling rate dropped to 28.6% at the end 2020/21 from 33.1% in 2019/20 (and 33.7% in 2018/19), some way from the 2024 target of 35%.

- Strategic risks – the total number of risks on the Strategic Risk Register remained at 35, comprising 20 high risks, 14 medium and one low risk, with no risks added or closed off during the quarter;

The Chair thanked the Head of Strategy, Information and Governance and the Strategic Delivery Manager for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted, and the agreed action be undertaken.

20/43

### **SCRUTINY CHAIRS' TRAINING**

The Democratic Services Officer advised that reference had made at the recent Constitution and Members' Development Committee to Chair / Vice Chair training for Scrutiny Chairs. In light of the discussion a mandatory training session would be scheduled for Scrutiny Chairs / Vice Chairs by the end of November 2021.

It was emphasised that mandatory training for the Chairs of the relevant Children's Scrutiny Panel's was also included as part of the Council's agreed OFSTED Improvement Plan and must be undertaken on an annual basis. A day time and evening training session would be provided, in an effort to accommodate any Members working full time or with child / carers responsibilities. The training sessions would be held virtually.

**AGREED** that information in respect of the proposed dates be circulated and Chairs / Vice Chairs confirm their availability to attend the sessions.

<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive
-------------------	-----------------

<b>Submitted to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Board – 9 November 2021
----------------------	---

<b>Subject:</b>	Executive Forward Work Programme
-----------------	----------------------------------

**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of the Executive Forward Work Programme.

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?</b>
Information	No	N/A	N/A

<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.

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

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

To make OSB aware of items on the Executive Forward Work Programme.

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

The OSB has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny and, if appropriate, it can either undertake the work itself or delegate to individual Scrutiny Panels.

One of the main duties of OSB is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive and decide whether value can be added by Scrutiny considering the matter in advance of any decision being made.

This would not negate a Non-Executive Member’s ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.

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

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of the Executive Forward Work Programme.

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

No other options were considered.

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

### ***Legal***

Not Applicable

### ***Financial***

Not Applicable

### ***Policy Framework***

The report does not impact on the overall budget and policy framework.

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

Not Applicable

### ***Risk***

Not Applicable

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

Implement any decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with regard to the Executive Forward Work Plan.

## **Appendices**

The most recent copy of the Executive Forward Work Programme (FWP) schedule is attached as Appendix A for the Board's information.

## **Background papers**

Executive Forward Work Plan

**Contact:** Caroline Breheny  
**Email:** caroline\_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk



## APPENDIX 1

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
<b>The Mayor and Lead Member for Children’s Social Care, Adult Social Care and Public Health</b>							
10893 All Wards Page 13	Middlesbrough's Ambition for Children To build upon our existing improvement journey within Children’s Services and our existing Middlesbrough Children Matter priorities, to create a Corporate ambition, strategy, and priorities for the whole of the town guided and co-produced with children and young people.	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		The Mayor - Executive Member for Children's Safeguarding and Adult Social Care and Public Protection <i>Sue Butcher, Executive Director of Children's Services</i> <i>sue_butcher@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
I011205 All Wards  Page 14	Health Determinants Research Collaboration bid The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) spends over £1 billion a year on health and social care research. As part of the NIHR, the Public Health Research (PHR) Programme commissions research in non-NHS settings – primarily evaluating activity within Local Government across the UK. A recent development is the concept of Health Determinants Research Collaborations – NIHR PHR is looking to award five of these in 2022 the aim of which is to embed a culture of research within	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		The Mayor - Executive Member for Children's Safeguarding and Adult Social Care and Public Protection <i>Louise Antill</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Page 15	the host Local Authorities, each worth up to £1 million a year for five years. Each HDRC will lead to increased research activity and collaboration and better use of evidence in decision making. The proposal is that Public Health South Tees and Teesside University will collaborate on a bid, which will drive organisational change across the two Local Authorities to embed a culture of evidence based decision making and research activity.						
	<b>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities</b>						
1009413 All Wards	PSPO (Alley Gates) Supports the proposals to extend	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Communities and Education <i>Marion Walker, Head of</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	the existing town wide PSPO (previously known as gating orders) for a further 3 years.						<i>Stronger Communities marion_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
<b>Executive Member – Education</b>							
I010705 All Wards Page 16	Middlehaven - Outwood Academy Riverside The report sets out the case to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land at Middlehaven, in order to facilitate the delivery of a new secondary free school in Middlesbrough.	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Education <i>Gary Maddison Gary_Maddison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010922 All Wards	Annual Update: Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities 0-25 To provide an update to members re Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities 0-25 in	Executive 9 Nov 2021			Public		Executive Member - Education <i>Chloe Isaacs Chloe_Isaacs@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Middlesbrough since the local area revisit in July 2019 and since the last report in November 2020						
I011100 All Wards	Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel's Final Report - Behaviour, Discipline and Bullying in Schools	Executive 9 Nov 2021			Public		Executive Member - Education <i>Rob Brown, Director of Education and Partnerships</i> <i>rob_brown@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010716 All Wards	SACRE Annual Report Annual Report	Executive 7 Dec 2021			Public		Executive Member - Education <i>Chloe Isaacs</i> <i>Chloe_Isaacs@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I011298 All Wards	Peer Review of the Virtual School A panel of peers will be asked to scrutinize the work of the Virtual School, and identify areas of good practice and areas for development.	Executive 7 Dec 2021					Executive Member - Education <i>Trevor Dunn, Head of Access to Education</i> <i>trevor_dunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
<b>Executive Member - Environment and Finance and Governance</b>							
I009420 All Wards	ECS Built Asset Investment Executive approval is required for the ECS Capital Asset Strategy.	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment <i>Chris Bates</i> <i>Chris_Bates@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010196 All Wards	Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget Savings Proposals That the Executive notes the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position and budget savings.	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010195 All Wards	Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Two 2021/22 To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter Two 2021/22.	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I009723	Strategic Plan 2021-24 – Progress	Executive 9 Nov 2021			Public		Executive Member - Finance and Governance

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	at Quarter Two 2021/22 Report outlining performance against the Strategic Plan at Quarter Two 2021/22						<i>Keely Trainor Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1011309  Page 19	Paper-lite Meetings Following the successful trial of paperless meetings of the Executive, Individual Executive Member and pre Executive meetings, Executive is requested to provide the necessary commitment to achieve paper-lite meetings for all Council, Executive or any other Council meeting, Panel or Working Group by embracing the current technology available to councillors and officers.	Executive 9 Nov 2021					Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Keely Trainor Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
I011426 All Wards	Corporate Debt Write Off Policy A new policy to provide a corporate approach to the writing off of bad and irrecoverable debts in a fair and timely manner.	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY			Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Janette Savage</i> <i>Janette_Savage@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I011442 All Wards	Members Small Schemes Allocation To be confirmed	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY			Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I011443 All Wards	Increase to Charge for Cleaning Services to Schools 2022/23 & 2023/24 To be confirmed	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY			Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I011316 Central	Metz Bridge - Site Management Arrangements That Executive agree to the procurement of an external supplier to manage Metz	Executive 11 Jan 2022		KEY			Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Bridge Traveller site.						
I010197 All Wards	Council Tax Support Scheme for 22/23 That the Executive approves the Council Tax Support Scheme for 22/23.	Executive 11 Jan 2022		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010704 All Wards Page 21	Highways Asset Infrastructure Executive approval is required for the ECS Capital Highways Infrastructure Asset.	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Chris Bates</i> <i>Chris_Bates@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I009724	Strategic Plan 2021-24 – Progress at Quarter Three 2021/22 Report outlining performance against the Strategic Plan at Quarter Three 2021/22	Executive 14 Feb 2022			Public		Executive Member - Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010199 All Wards	Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Medium Term Financial Plan and	Executive 14 Feb 2022		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Capital Strategy 2022/23 The setting of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Capital Strategy for 2022/23.						<i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I010198 All Wards Page 22	Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Three 2021/22 To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter Three 2021/22.	Executive 14 Feb 2022		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Environment, Finance & Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
<b>Executive Member - Regeneration</b>							
I009248 Ayresome; Kader; Trimdon	'This item is to be deferred to a future meeting of the Executive. The revised date of the meeting at which this item will be considered, will be published on the Forward Work Plan in due course.'	Executive Not before 26th Oct 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Regeneration <i>Paul Clarke</i> <i>paul_clarke@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan To adopt the Stainsby Country Park and Masterplan.						
I010964 Central	EXEMPT: Strategic Town Centre Acquisition The report needs to go to the Executive due to the financial thresholds having been exceeded (for decision) as they are over £150k. The decision relates to one Central Ward only– albeit the economic benefits will be town-wide. The report seeks approval for a number of decisions relating to the proposed commercial acquisition.	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Fully exempt		Executive Member - Regeneration <i>Nasreen Younis</i> <i>Nasreen_Younis@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I011203 All Wards	Middlesbrough Council Local Implementation	Executive 9 Nov 2021		KEY	Public		Executive Member - Regeneration <i>Chris Orr</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Page 24	Plan (LIP); Consultation findings It is recommended that the Executive: Approve and adopt the draft LIP into a formal Council policy document; and, Acknowledges the broad satisfaction (of responses) of the draft LIP following the conclusion of public consultation.						<i>Chris_Orr@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
	1010965 Nunthorpe	Nunthorpe Grange Development Overview The report details the current situation regarding the Community centre development work, partnered infrastructure works and housing delivery schemes including the Persimmon and	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY	Public	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities <i>Steve Fletcher, Head of Development</i> <i>Steve_Fletcher@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Taylor Wimpey sites. Alongside of this is an update on the Nunthorpe commitments.						
1010966 Coulby Newham	Newham Grange Development Overview The report will document the process of securing options for the marketing and delivery of the site and will include the key infrastructure phasing strategy.	Executive 7 Dec 2021		KEY	Public		Councillor David Branson <i>Steve Fletcher, Head of Development</i> <i>Steve_Fletcher@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

This page is intentionally left blank

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**9 NOVEMBER 2021**

**ATTENDANCE OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AT  
THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide information in respect of the scheduled attendance of Members of the Executive at the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is **RECOMMENDED** as follows:
  1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are appraised of the work of the Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance.
  2. That Board Members question the Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance in respect of his portfolio and any issues which arise at the meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Arrangements are in place in the Council to ensure that potential issues for consideration via the scrutiny process (i.e. by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant scrutiny panel) are highlighted and brought forward as necessary.
4. Overview and Scrutiny also has a responsibility of “holding the Executive to account.” This can happen in a number of different ways and at different stages in the decision-making process. In terms of decision making, this can be:
  - Before decisions are made - such as by examining policy options or considering issues included in the Council’s forward work programme.
  - Immediately after decisions are made, but prior to their implementation, through the call-in process; and
  - After decisions are implemented, through monitoring and evaluation of their effects.

5. Overview and Scrutiny can be involved in holding the Executive to account as a whole, by using the methods outlined in the preceding paragraph, or on an individual basis. The OSB's role in this area has been strengthened in recent years, with arrangements having been made for individual Members of the Executive to attend OSB.
6. This has given OSB Members the opportunity to hear directly from each Executive Member on matters such as their aims and aspirations, progress made, objectives and priorities and also any emerging issues or pressure areas relating to their portfolio.
7. The process has also presented an opportunity for OSB to highlight and question any issues of concern or difficulty (for example in respect of service areas where targets have not been reached or where objectives have not been achieved) and to question what action will be taken to address such issues.
8. Arrangements have been made for the Executive Member for Regeneration to be in attendance at today's meeting. Details of the relevant portfolio are attached at **Appendix 1**.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

### **Contact Officer:**

Caroline Breheny

Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729752(direct line)

e mail: caroline\_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk

<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	<b>Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Barrie Cooper
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	In respect of portfolio of Environment - Director of Regeneration and Culture/Director of Environment and Community Services
<b>SCOPE OF PORTFOLIO</b>	
<p>The Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance in respect of the portfolio of Environment, has the responsibility for ensuring a safer environment for Middlesbrough – ensuring Middlesbrough is cleaner and more resilient to a changing climate. The Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance will have responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways Maintenance</li> <li>• Public buildings</li> <li>• Parks and Open Spaces</li> <li>• Commercial Services</li> <li>• Environmental Sustainability</li> <li>• Strategic lead health and Safety</li> <li>• Winter maintenance</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• People Transport Services</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant Environment and Waste Policies and Strategies</li> <li>• One Planet Living and Assisted Energy Strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Plans and Strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Service Plan (where relevant to the portfolio)</li> <li>• Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation (CRACA) Plan</li> <li>• Waste Management Plan</li> <li>• Environment Service Plan (where relevant to portfolio)</li> <li>• Trading Standards (Inc. Metrology)</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bereavement Services</li> <li>• Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability</li> <li>• Architects and Design Services</li> <li>• Streetscene (Includes: waste management and refuse collection, street cleansing, public toilets, fleet management and open spaces)</li> <li>• Highways Maintenance</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• Fleet Management</li> <li>• Integrated Transport Unit</li> <li>• Winter Maintenance</li> <li>• School catering</li> <li>• Cleaning Services</li> <li>• Environmental Enforcement</li> <li>• Community Councils</li> <li>• Direct commercial services</li> </ul>	

- Emergency Planning

In circumstances where it is considered that an Executive Member would have a prejudicial interest the matter will be referred to the Deputy Mayor.

<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	<b>Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Barrie Cooper
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	In respect of the portfolio of Finance and Governance – Director of Finance, Director of Legal and Governance Services

### **SCOPE OF PORTFOLIO**

The Executive Member for Environment and Finance and Governance, in respect of the portfolio of Finance and Governance, has the responsibility of ensuring that the Council operates efficiently, openly and fairly. The Executive Member for Finance and Governance has oversight of budgetary issues. Areas falling within this portfolio are:

- Human Resources/payroll
- Legal Services
- Democratic/Member Services
- ICT
- Business Continuity and Risk Management
- Customer Services and Complaints and Compliments
- Information Governance
- Performance Management
- Project and Programme Management
- Financial Management
- Procurement
- Investment Strategy
- Valuation and Estates
- Teesside Pension Fund (as administering authority)
- Business Rates
- Housing Benefits
- Council Tax
- Borrowing Investments and Cash Management
- Insurance
- Information Security
- Adult Commissioning
- Social Care Commissioning

#### **Policy Framework**

- Strategic Plan (Overview)
- Council's Budget Strategy
- Capital Strategy
- Medium Term Financial Plan
- Pay Policy Statement

#### **Other Plans and Strategies**

- Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy
- People Strategy
- Digital Strategy
- Corporate Risk Management Strategy
- Strategic Risk Register
- Corporate Business Continuity Plan
- Annual Audit and Inspection Letter
- Treasury Management

- Member Development Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- Information Governance Strategy
- ICT Strategy
- Estates Strategy
- Customer Strategy

#### **Functions at Head of Service Level**

- Financial Governance
- Financial Planning
- Teesside Pension Fund
- Strategy Information and Governance
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services including Registrars and Coroners Services
- Revenues and Benefits
- Human Resources
- ICT

#### **Other Roles**

- Responsibility (jointly with Deputy Mayor for Digital City Business Trading Ltd including appointment of suitable Directors to act on the Council's behalf.
- Liaison with Internal and External Audit as necessary
- Representation at NEREO/NEPC
- Representation at NEPO
- Corporate governance/decision making

In circumstances where it is considered that an Executive Member would have a prejudicial interest the matter will be referred to the Deputy Mayor.

# Overview and Scrutiny Board: Chief Executive update

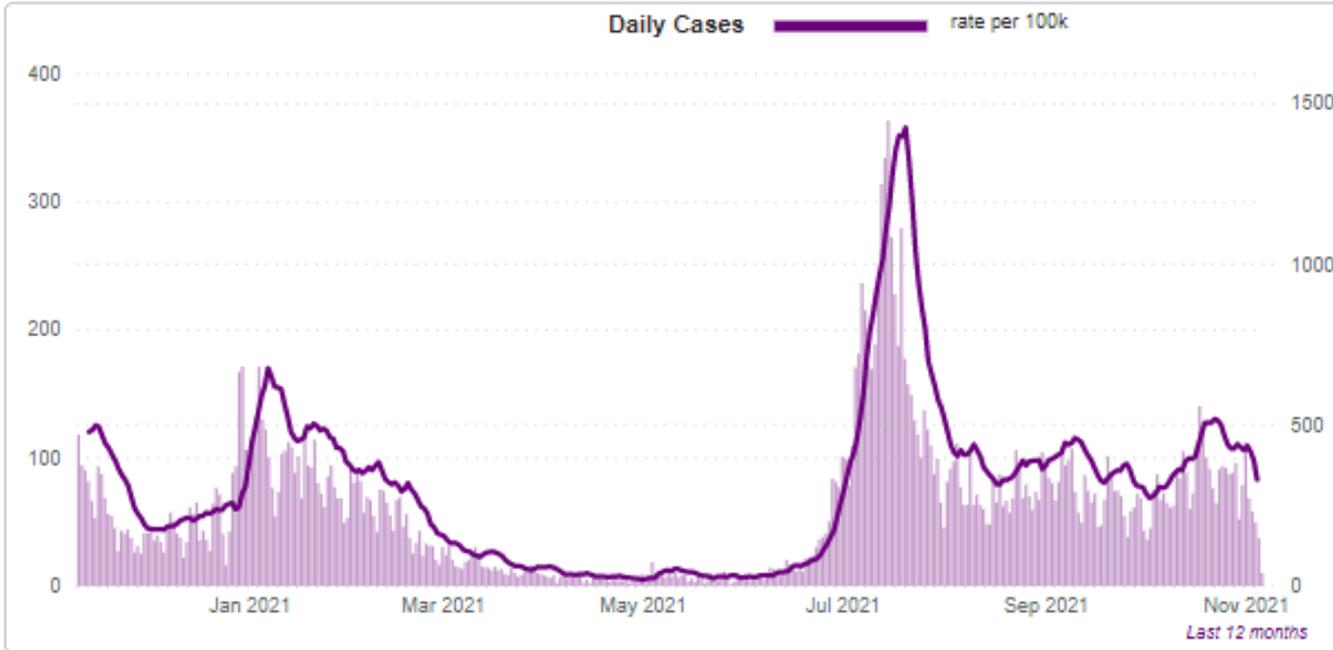
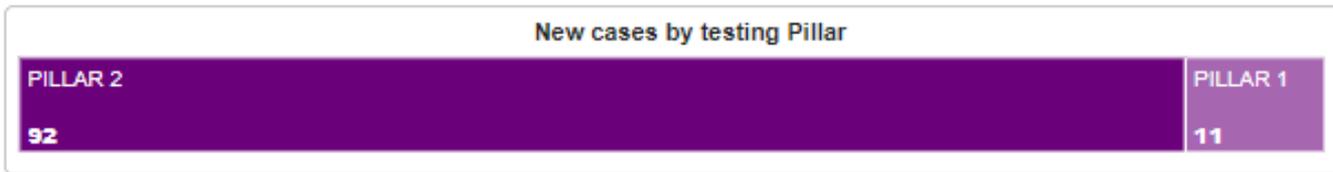
## 9 November 2021

# Agenda

- COVID-19 update
- Executive update
- Performance summary
- Staff Survey: engagement
- Questions

Page 34

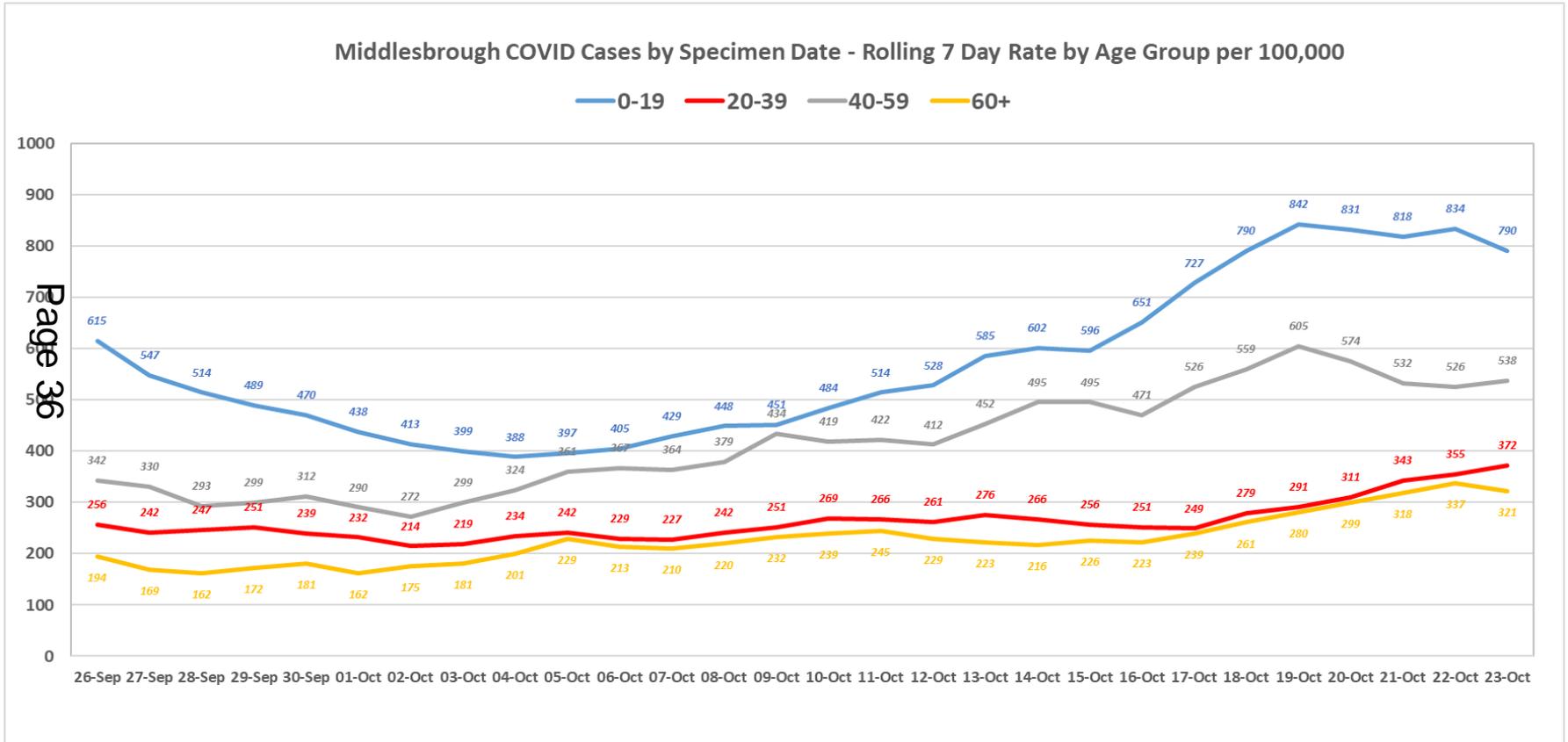
# COVID-19 overview



Last updated 08/11

Page 35

# COVID case rate by age group



Last updated 27/10

# COVID vaccination uptake rate

## UPTAKE WITHIN SELECTED POPULATION

158,429

Population size

62.7%

Received a vaccine dose

99,306

First doses

89,793

Second Doses

## BOOSTER UPTAKE WITHIN SELECTED POPULATION

26,012

Booster Eligible Population

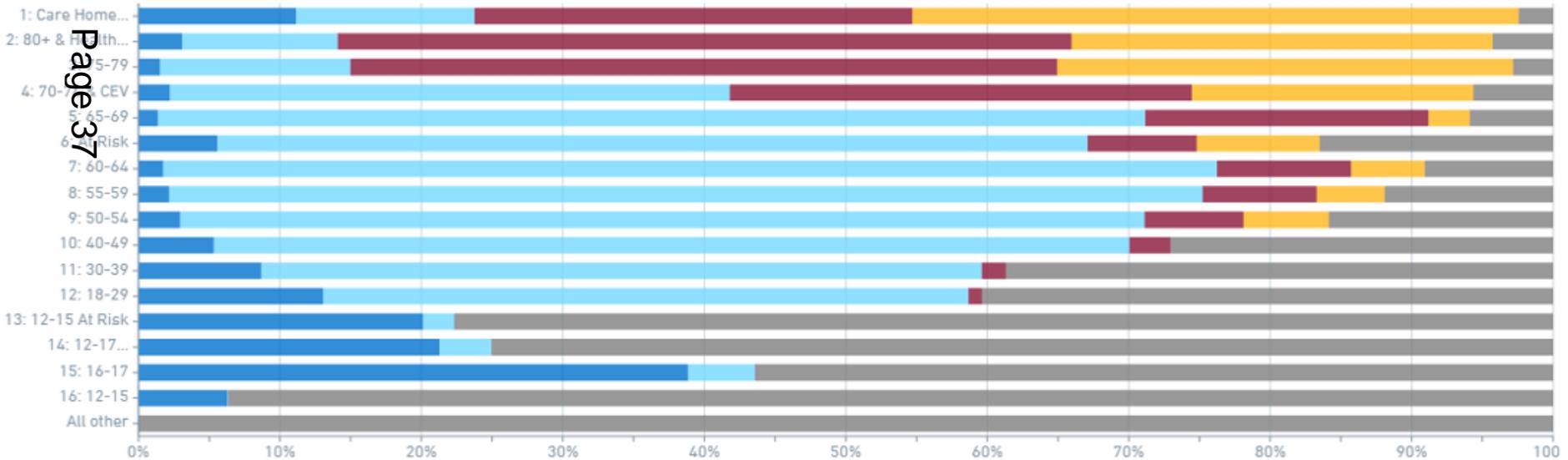
64.6%

Received a booster dose (of eligible population)

16,792

Booster Doses

Unvaccinated    Booster Eligible    Booster Dose    Second Dose    First Dose Only



# Executive update: November reports

**Revenue and Capital projected outturn:** £4.1m overspend met by use of reserves and reflected in MTFP

**Medium Term Financial Plan:** ahead of consideration by Council; no new budget reductions

**Built Asset investment:** seeking £5.2m investment in Town Hall, Resolution House and Central Library

**Strategic Town Centre acquisition:** confidential report seeking approval to negotiate a further Town Centre acquisition

**Middlehaven Outwood Riverside development:** sale of land to DfE to allow build of new secondary school to take place

# Executive update: November reports

**Ambition for Children:** a town-wide strategy with 9 priorities for all children and young people

Best start in life	Our families are supported to give us the best start in life
Place	We feel safe, proud of where we live, and have a chance to do well
Work	We have help to find work opportunities
Community	Making Middlesbrough a community that we feel part of and we are proud of
Family and relationships	We are important and deserve to be supported to have healthy and safe relationships with the people that are important to us
Wellbeing	We will be given the opportunity to be healthy, physically and emotionally
Activities and leisure	Middlesbrough has lots of things that we want to do
Communication and connectivity	Our voice is important, and we feel that we are heard
Learn and achieve	We have a mix of opportunities for education and training

Page 39

# Executive update: December reports

**International Centre freehold:** transfer of freehold to building operators

**Peer Review of Virtual School:** report highlighting findings

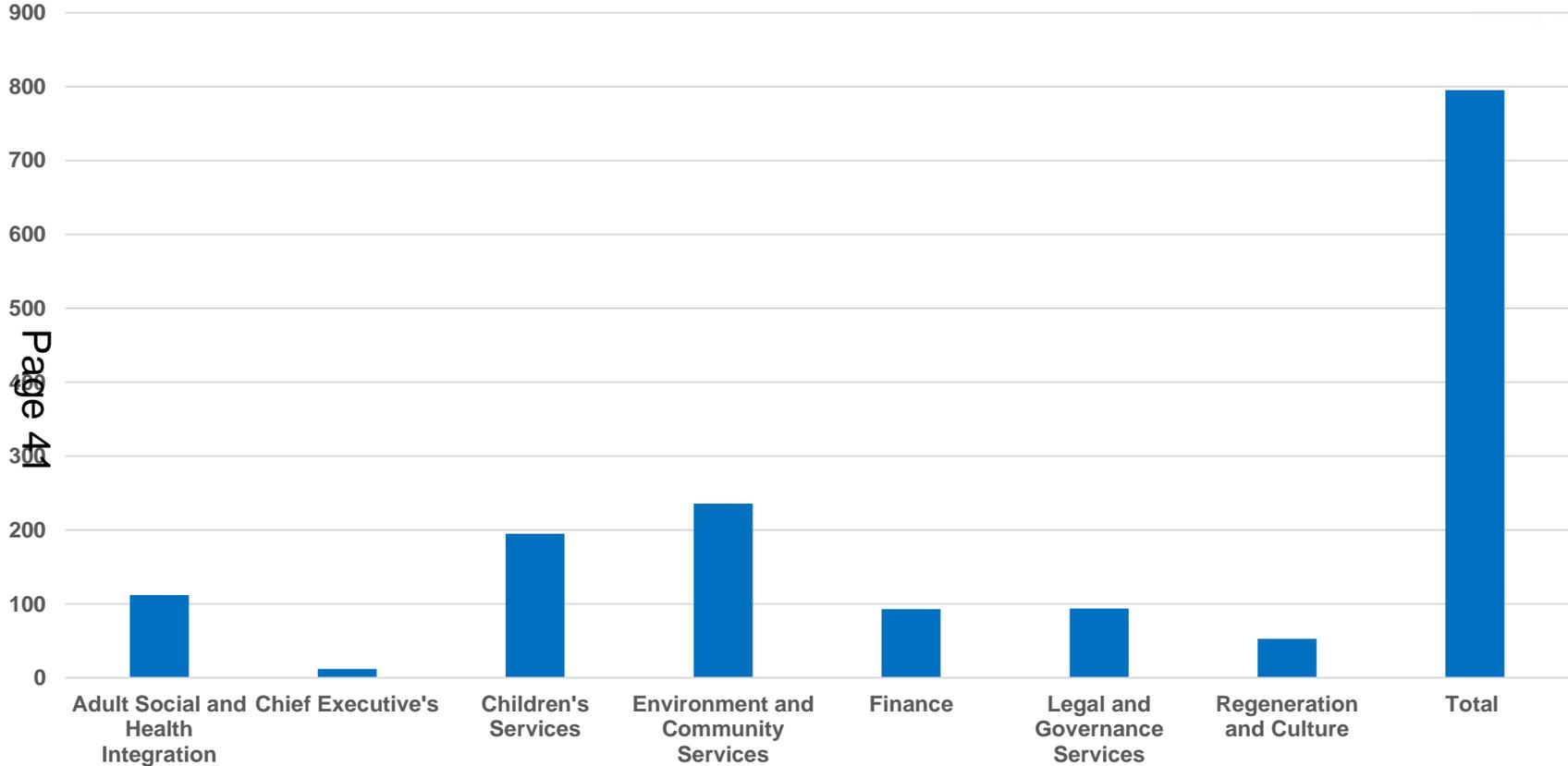
**Alley Gates Public Space Protection Orders:** approval for order to assist in protection of back alleys

Page  
4

**Highways Infrastructure:** assessment of additional investment required in roads, pavements and verges

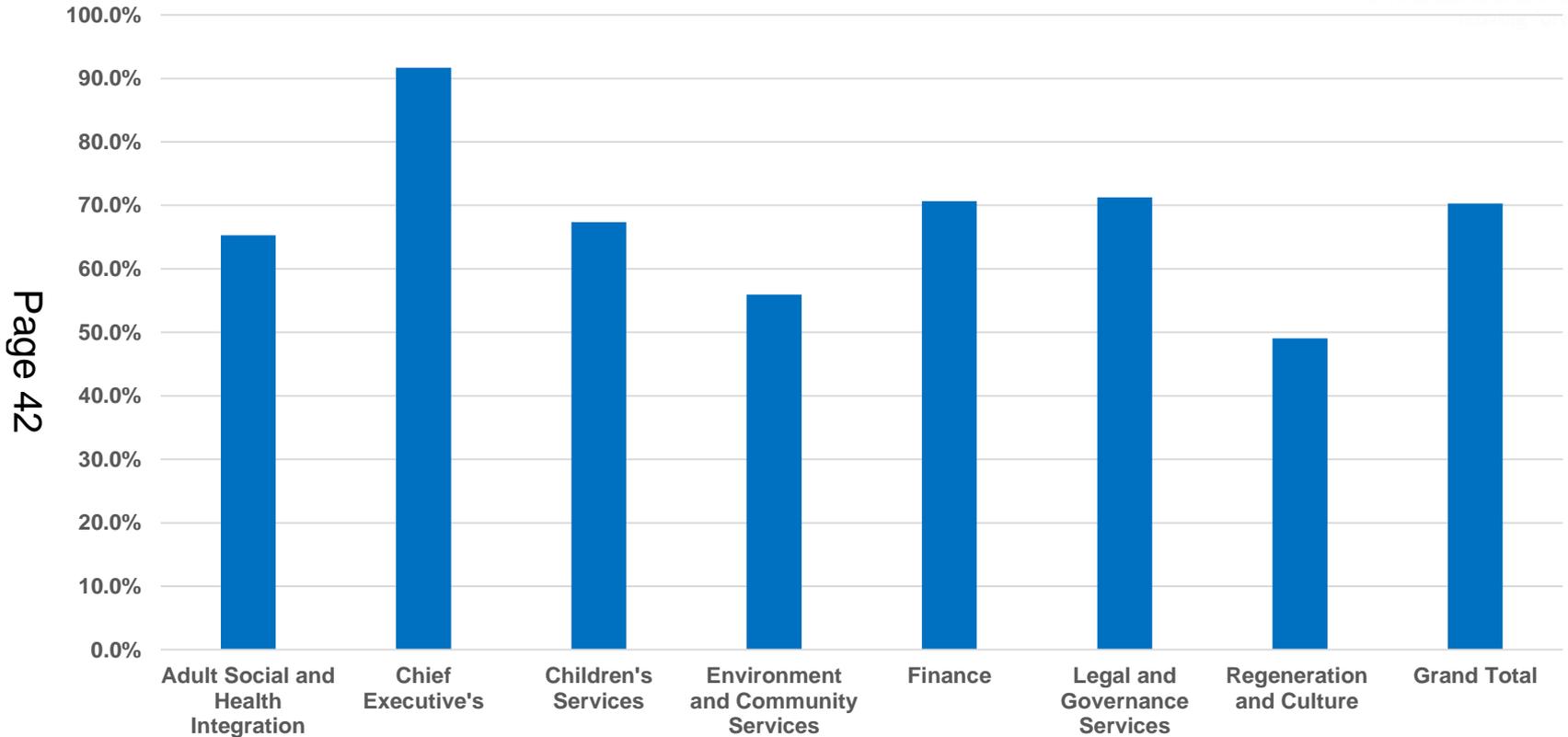
# Staff survey: engagement

Count



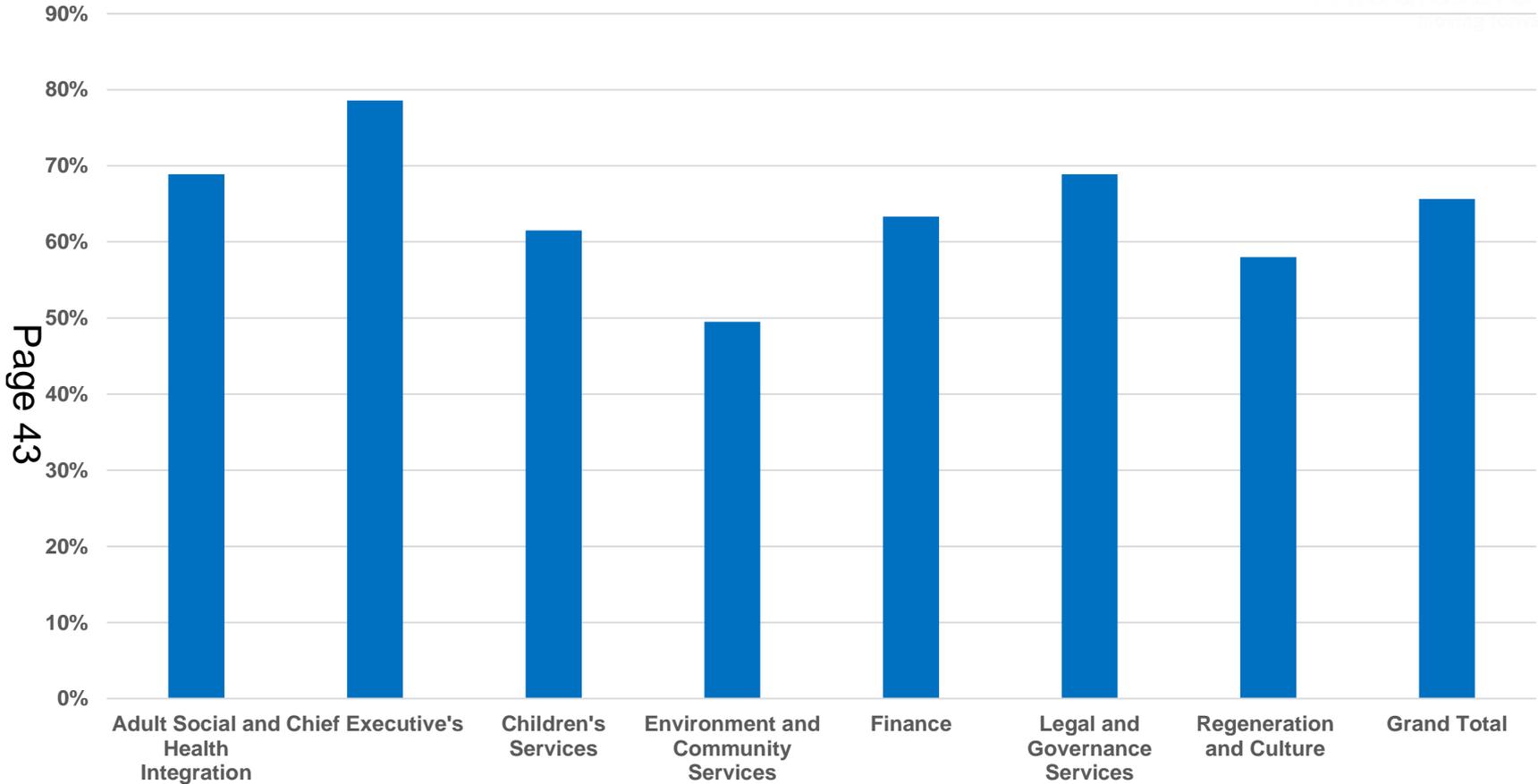
# Staff survey: engagement

I feel well informed



# Staff survey: engagement

I have the opportunity to influence how we work



Page 43



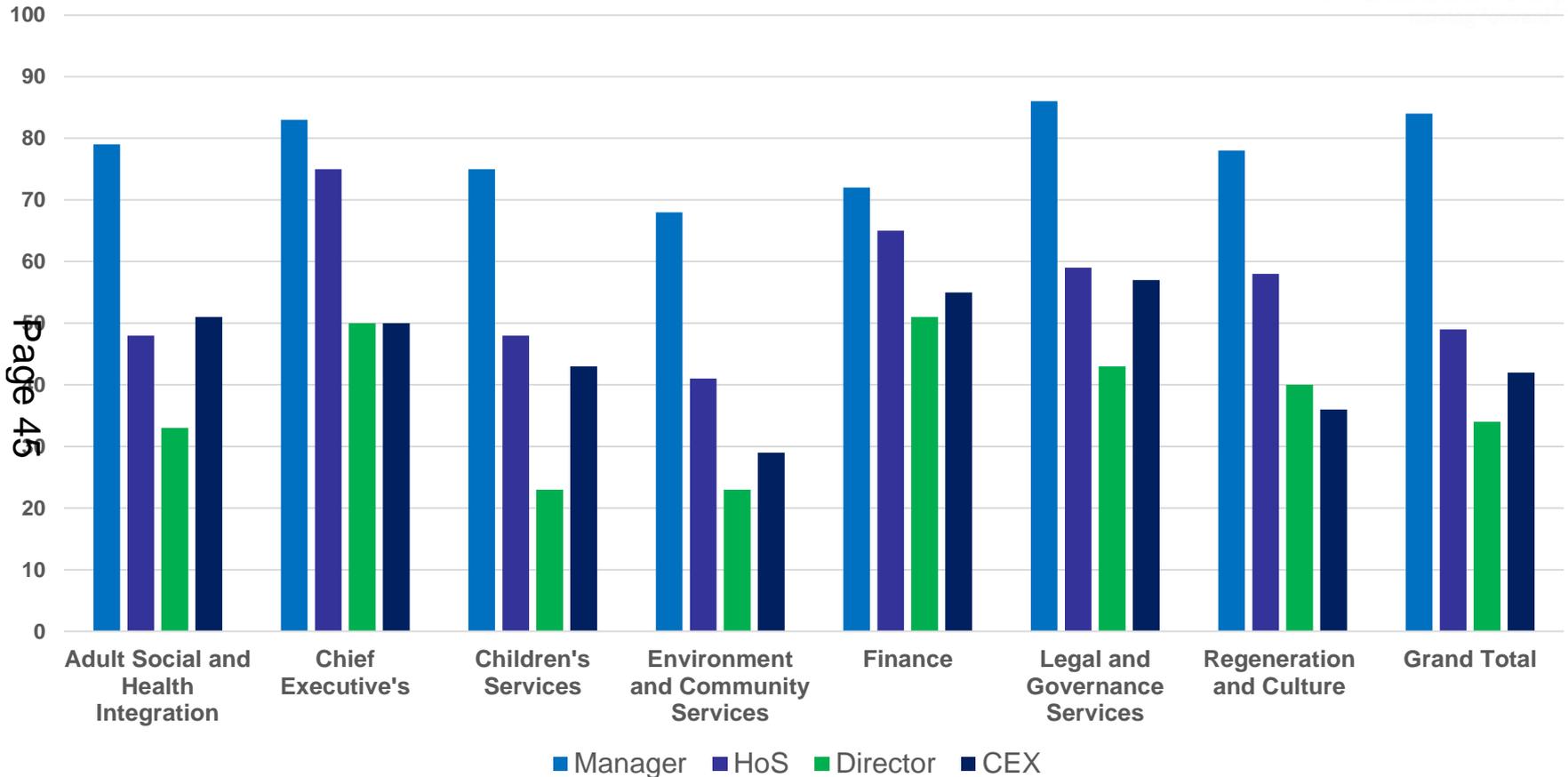
# Staff survey: engagement

I feel connected to...



# Staff survey: engagement

I feel valued by...



# Corporate Performance by discipline

Discipline	End Oct	Last reported	Expected standard	Standard achieved	Trend
Executive Actions	73%	82%	90%	No	Worsening
Strategic Plan: Outcomes	46%	62.5%	75%	No	Worsening
Strategic Plan: Workplan	99%	100%	90%	Yes	Worsening
Strategic Risk Register	88%	97%	90%	No	Worsening
Directorate Priorities	97%	98%	90%	Yes	Worsening
Directorate Risk Registers	91%	99%	90%	Yes	Worsening
PPP	94%	91%	90%	Yes	Improving

Page 46

# Corporate Performance by Directorate

Directorate	End Oct	Last reported	Expected standard	Standard achieved	Trend
Finance	97%	95%	90%	Yes	Improving
Environment and Communities	95%	96%	90%	Yes	Worsening
Legal and Governance Services	90%	97%	90%	Yes	Worsening
Regeneration and Culture	87%	95%	90%	No	Worsening
Children's Services	97%	100%	90%	Yes	Worsening
Adult Social Care Public Health	85%	89%	90%	No	Worsening
Chief Executive	100%	100%	90%	Yes	No change

# Strategic Plan Outcomes

**Crime and anti-social behaviour:** Whilst anti-social behaviour has remained below pre-pandemic levels, crime has returned broadly to its pre-pandemic state. Discussions are ongoing with Cleveland Police to develop an action plan to bring crime down which includes the need to increase and reinforce police numbers across the town.

**Town Centre vacancies:** Middlesbrough has a Town Centre vacancy rate of 22.4% (17.8% in August 2018) and whilst work is ongoing to remedy, it is assumed to be a long-term Red, reflective of the national loss of some major high street brands during and exacerbated by COVID-19. Further detail will be reported in the Quarter Two report

Of the previously reported Red Reds however, one Strategic Plan outcome has improved previously reported position to move to Green:

**Household waste recycling:** The reintroduction of Green waste collections has significantly improved recycling performance and the recycling rate is moving back towards its pre pandemic level.

# Questions?

This page is intentionally left blank

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL –  
MIDDLESBROUGH REGENERATION POST  
COVID-19**

**CONTENTS**

<b>Aim of the investigation</b>	Page 2
<b>Mayor’s Vision</b>	Page 2
<b>Council’s Core Objectives</b>	Page 2
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	Page 2
<b>Background Information:</b>	Page 3
• <b>Future High Streets Fund</b>	Page 3
• <b>Towns Fund</b>	Page 6
• <b>Middlehaven Masterplan</b>	Page 8
• <b>Waltham Forest Council’s Mini Holland and Liveable Neighbourhoods Programmes</b>	Page 9
• <b>Local Implementation Plan</b>	Page 12
• <b>Communication – CityFibre</b>	Page 14
• <b>Housing Local Plan/Planning Reforms/Business and Planning Act 2020</b>	Page 16
• <b>Business Support and Recovery</b>	Page 18
<b>Conclusions</b>	Page 22
<b>Recommendations</b>	Page 24
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	Page 25
<b>Background Papers</b>	Page 25
<b>Acronyms</b>	Page 26

## **AIM OF THE INVESTIGATION**

1. The aim of the investigation was to determine ways in which Middlesbrough Council can support the regeneration of the town physically, economically and socially, following the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **MAYOR'S PRIORITIES**

2. The scrutiny of this topic fits within the following of the Mayor's Priorities:

Covid-19 Recovery: We will ensure the recovery of local communities, businesses and the Council's operations from COVID-19, taking opportunities to build back better.

## **COUNCIL'S THREE CORE OBJECTIVES**

3. The scrutiny of this topic aligns with the Council's three core objectives as detailed in the Strategic Plan 2021-2024<sup>1</sup>:
  - People - working with communities and other public services to improve the lives of our residents.
  - Place - securing improvements in Middlesbrough's housing, infrastructure and attractiveness, improving the town's reputation, creating opportunities for local people and improving our finances.
  - Business - promoting investment in Middlesbrough's economy and making sure we work as effectively as possible to support our ambitions for People and Place.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

4. The terms of reference for the scrutiny panel's review are:
  - A) To examine Middlesbrough Council's current proposals for the regeneration of the town including plans for retail, leisure, housing, urban living, education, enterprise, communication, transport and connectivity.
  - B) To investigate what resources will be required to implement proposed regeneration schemes and what contributions are available and/or required from Central Government, Middlesbrough Council, the private sector and other stakeholders.
  - C) To consider the role and engagement of local communities in shaping a sustainable future for Middlesbrough that will drive social and economic growth and improve the health and well-being of residents.

---

<sup>1</sup> Middlesbrough Council's Strategic Plan 2021-2024

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. In line with the terms of reference, the Scrutiny Panel gathered information in relation to Middlesbrough Council's current plans for the regeneration of the town, as well as considering current and planned legislation and other initiatives which might impact on these plans.

### 6. **Future High Streets Fund**

In late summer 2019 an opportunity arose for town centres that were suffering slow decline to apply to a competitive process from the Government. Middlesbrough submitted an initial expression of interest to the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF). The programme nationally is worth £3.6 billion and includes the Towns Fund as a national programme. The FHSF is a discreet competitive process on its own. Approximately one hundred towns were invited to develop a business case on how their town centre can be transformed in light of changes in the sector, the increase in online purchasing, and changing uses in the town centre environment in general.

7. Since 2019, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of the issues town centres are already facing. However, the general principle of the FHSF is to encourage towns to invest on a structural rather than cosmetic basis, in terms of how the purpose of the town centre will function in future. Whilst retail will always form a large component of what happens in town centres, it is under distress in terms of the costs of maintaining a physical presence in the town centre compared to online retailers.

8. The way consumers live and work in town centres has changed over the last twenty years and the rise of out-of-town shopping centres and commercial parks has slowly drained footfall away from the town centre. Consumers are now more engaged by an experience-led economy, where they can go out and shop, eat, and visit a cinema or see a theatre show as part of an all-day event.

9. Middlesbrough currently has major oversupply of retail space which is spread over four disparate owners, and is fragmented in its ownership across the town. A long-term consequence of over-supply, which leads to competitive rents, is that landlords and owners cannot invest further in their properties as they are not making sufficient income from tenants.

10. The proportionate floor space in terms of residential uses is quite low in the town centre area, and leisure uses are similarly under-represented. Notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic, there is still a strong appetite in the market and other community and commercial uses.

11. There is a national ambition to bring residential offers into town centres and planning regulations have been adopted to allow for ease of conversion of retail units. The focus is on bringing a new workforce with disposable income into the town centre environment. The average worker coming into the town centre spends approximately £20 per day.

12. Middlesbrough's bid is based on the Town Centre Strategy that was developed in 2018/19. Urban living in the town centre, curtilage, and immediate environs of the town centre forms a large part of the bid. This will drive in immediate footfall in terms of the residents and enliven the area, as well as providing an element of passive surveillance, which will reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in the long term.
13. The slow decline of the high street would have occurred over 5 to 10 years but the pandemic had changed that scenario. Distress in the retail market had accelerated and a faster response was required. Diversification was required to bring town centres into the centre of communities - as had been the case historically. Town centres originally emerged as a centre for people gathering, trading, doing business and social community functions.
14. There is a focus on converting some of the retail floor space into a leisure- dominated facility. In 2020, the Council purchased the Captain Cook Shopping Centre and the iconic House of Fraser building for the purpose of long-term intervention in the market, to enable the restriction of the supply of retail floor space, and to encourage a dedicated and focussed leisure hub at the centre of Middlesbrough, as a way to drive up footfall and sustain the existing retail environment.
15. A report submitted to Middlesbrough Council's Executive on 13 April 2021 highlighted: *"Since the announcement of the purchase of the Captain Cook Shopping Centre, the asset has been inundated with interest from many regional and national leisure operators. This has been extremely positive, particularly as interest has remained strong in the wake of COVID. The operators remain optimistic about underlying market conditions and have bought into Middlesbrough's vision. Many investors appreciate the opportunities available due to the FHSF and this further incentivises operators to relocate in the centre."*<sup>2</sup>
16. According to the report, dialogue has commenced with a number of operators, including proposals for:
  - Bowling alley with associated multi-use leisure attractions.
  - Boutique cinema.
  - Multi-leisure venue.
  - Small-medium scale Breweries.
  - Restaurants and eateries, with proposals to maximise outdoor space.
  - Hosting event(s) – temporary/seasonal usage for central square area.
17. On 21 January 2021, EDEI Scrutiny Panel members attended a presentation from the Chief Executive of the British Esports Association and the Chairman of the Advisory Board to the British Esports Association at a meeting of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel. Esports is organised competitive video gaming and is projected to have a global audience of approximately 645 million people by 2022. Leisure venues associated

---

<sup>2</sup> Future High Streets Fund - Town Centre Property and Asset Management (PART A)  
- Report to Middlesbrough Council Executive – 13 April 2021

with Esports, such as Esports Bars are continuing to increase in number and could be considered for Middlesbrough's leisure offer.

18. Some existing retailers have expressed interest in re-sizing or re-leasing in smaller units. With a higher than the national average vacancy rate across the town of approximately 18% in retail floor space, this approach will help to reduce the amount of vacancies in the town. This in turn will lead to a healthier environment, stabilise rents in the long term, and encourage owners to re-invest in their properties and ultimately halt the long-term decline of the town centre.
19. The most recent research by the British Retail Consortium (BRC)-Local Data Company Vacancy Monitor (LDC) found in late April that the UK's overall retail vacancy rate increased to 14.1% in the first quarter of 2021, marking a 1.9% rise from the same period last year. The vacancy rate was also up from the 13.7% recorded in the final quarter of 2020 and marks three consecutive years of increased retail vacancies.<sup>3</sup>
20. The FHSF programme also considers infrastructure: how cycle routes, bus super stops and Covid-19 network adaptations such as pavement widening, can be incorporated. Other measures include improved security and CCTV in car parks and along connecting routes and some modern automated features like the contactless car parking and pay on exit.
21. Since submitting the initial expression of interest, the effect of Covid-19 and the restrictions that have been placed on the leisure and hospitality trades has been reflected in the proposals. Sector specialists are confident that these markets will return as restrictions ease over time and the virus is controlled. There is a three-year timescale for delivery of the FHSF and the timing of a new leisure hub is not at odds with the cycle of the pandemic. People still want an experience-led economy and there is interest from service providers in the leisure sector to be part of this hub in the longer term. In general terms, Middlesbrough is well under-represented in hospitality and leisure as a proportion of its footfall and its demographic and scale. Ten percent of the town centre floor space is dedicated to leisure and those activities, and the industry norm is about 20% of a town centre.
22. Consideration is also being given as to how a range of community services, cultural events and amenities can be integrated into the high street environment. How vacant properties in the street scene can be animated to ensure people have visual stimulus and a pleasant experience, rather than just coming to an area to be transactional, or for work or retail.
23. The original programme has been adapted to look at direct intervention with businesses and existing retailers and any new retailers, for Covid-19 mitigation and preparedness. Businesses are keen to invest in the area but with the experience of Covid-19 and any future pandemic, there needs to be built-in resilience to ensure businesses are best

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.retailgazette.co.uk/blog/2021/05/how-a-rise-in-retail-vacancies-can-affect-the-uks-high-streets/>

structured and physically configured to be able to trade safely through any period of lockdown.

24. Footfall from the Centre Square Office lettings will be extremely well received in the town centre. The presence of the Northern School of Arts in the town centre and the expansion of Middlesbrough College and new developments in Middlehaven, will also assist in giving the future economy the best possible chance of succeeding.
25. The focus is on a relatively tight high street area, which is defined locally, and is around the Captain Cook Shopping Centre feeding into the Linthorpe Road area and then picking up the House of Fraser area, so the vast majority of investment will fall within that boundary. With the urban living agenda and the options there, there is a 300 to 400 metre radius which is the area of influence, at which those housing developments will drive footfall for the area.
26. Middlesbrough Council submitted a bid for £20.5m to the FHSF was awarded £14.1m. Following the final sign off from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and approval and endorsement from the Council's Executive on 27 May 2021, it is anticipated that delivery will commence early in the 2021/22 financial year. A breakdown of the funding for the proposed projects is as follows:
- Conversion of Captain Cook Square to a leisure hub £9,100,000.
  - Boho residential gap funding 2,500,000.
  - Residential gap funding £1,000,000.
  - Pavement widening and trading adaptations £500,000.
  - Safety, security and cashless town centre £300,000.
  - Covid-19 Grants £250,000.
  - Cycling infrastructure £250,000.
  - Events infrastructure £125,000.
  - Interactive cultural installations £70,352.
  - Centralising cultural assets £75,000.

27. **Towns Fund**

The Towns Fund was announced at approximately the same time as the Future High Streets Fund in 2019. The Towns Fund is a much broader and town-wide approach in terms of how local decision-making and the involvement of communities can influence investment in those areas that are of importance to the local economy and for local people. The Council submitted a bid for £25 million and has been awarded £21.9 million.

28. Principally Middlesbrough's eligibility is based on indices of multiple deprivation and the characteristics of its resident population. Equally, Middlesbrough still had to make a strong case encompassing some of the changes that were required in the local economy and bringing the local community into active participation in the design and engagement of some of the funding programmes.

29. There are five main themes in the Towns Fund: Transport and Connectivity, Urban Communities and Place-making, the Middlesbrough Experience, Building a Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Infrastructure.
- Transport and Connectivity - making sure that people could get to and from where they need to be within Middlesbrough.
  - Urban Communities - bringing urban and town centre areas together and making them into communities.
  - Middlesbrough Experience - making Middlesbrough the key destination in the Tees Valley.
  - Knowledge Economy - engaging with Teesside University, Middlesbrough College and other training providers and education institutions.
  - Enterprise Infrastructure - building meaningful and long-term employment and making a thriving commercial environment.
30. A Town Deal Board has been established and includes in its membership, both Middlesbrough MPs, the Tees Valley Mayor, the Mayor of Middlesbrough, the Vice Chancellor of Teesside University, the Chief Executive of Middlesbrough College and stakeholders, business leaders and partners from across Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley. The Board has agreed a Town Investment Plan which details how the economy will be reshaped, where investments will be targeted as a Local Authority, through third parties, and as Tees Valley investors, in order to achieve common aims by 2030.
31. The Towns Deal Board has several themed groups and is the decision making body to steer the investment of the Towns Deal funding and any other future private investment or funding. The minutes of all Board meetings are public and available online.
32. Allocation of the Towns Fund has been agreed by the Board as follows:
- Transport and Connectivity:
- No funding allocated.
- Urban Communities and Place Making:
- Boho Towers (100 residential units) £2,000,000.
  - Boho Village (circa 60 residential units) £500,000.
  - CIAC 2, Middlehaven Dockside (80 residential units) £1,000,000.
  - Middlehaven Dockside (south side) (200 residential units) £3,000,000.
  - Office Conversions (500 converted residential units) £1,875,000.
  - Shepherdson Way/Teardrop Site, Middlehaven (170 residential units) £2,500,000.
  - Wood Street Car Park (circa 200 apartments/potential hotel development) £3,000,000.

#### The Middlesbrough Experience:

- Cargo Fleet Nature Reserve £100,000.
- East Middlesbrough/Southlands Centre Community Hub/Nunthorpe Community Hub (development of new community facilities) £1,250,000. The funding was split £500,000 for the Southlands and £750,000 for Nunthorpe with other funding aligned to it.
- Ward Initiatives £1,000,000.

#### Building a Knowledge Economy:

- Middlesbrough College (expansion and creation of town centre presence) £1,175,000.

#### Enterprise Infrastructure:

- Old Town Hall/former Captain Cook Public House (renovation/restoration) £1,000,000.
- Centre Square (office development/residential) £2,000,000.
- Boho Campus – amphitheatre and plaza £750,000.
- Conversion Queens Square/former Kalinka's (office space) match funding: £750,000.
- Boho 8 £1,000,000 (advance settlement received in 2020). The advance settlement had to be spent by the end of the calendar year and the Boho Site was the only project ready to move forward.

33. The Towns Fund also focusses on the community and meeting community needs and a large part of the fund will be diverted to community uses and facilities. The Council is keen to encourage local decision-making and participatory budgeting. This will involve people at ward level, stakeholders, and community, addressing issues of immediate local importance, with a budget of up to £50,000 per ward.

34. Both programmes will be overseen by the Town Deal Board, to ensure that the Board has an understanding of both funding programmes since there is overlap in many of the projects. The business cases for the Towns Fund projects will be developed over the next twelve months and the Government has provided the opportunity to make adaptations in light of the covid-19 pandemic. Both Programmes rely on a large amount of public sector leverage, so some Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) projects, particularly in terms of the transport elements, have been aligned for that. Where gap funding is involved there will be some public sector involvement to complete projects and ensure a return for every public sector pound spent.

35. The programmes are based on public engagement and well established strategic priorities that have been developed over time. Both programmes will deliver until 2023/2024.

#### 36. **Middlehaven Masterplan**

Following investment from the Homes England (HE) and Middlesbrough Council, clearance work has taken place at Middlehaven to provide a blank canvass for

development. There have been several masterplans for the area but none have come to fruition due to several factors including; the global recession, lack of funding, development values and much of the land being in different ownerships.

37. Almost £30 million has been secured through the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) for various projects and the Towns Fund project is focussed on Middlehaven. The Council has also secured £7.9 million from the Brownfield Housing Fund to spend on site preparation.
38. Market opportunities have changed with a shift to more urban living as well as increased interest in commercial development through the growth of the digital sector and others. As Middlesbrough College expands there is more interest in educational opportunities and the Outwood Riverside Academy, a 900 place school specialising in technology, is being built.
39. Middlehaven needs to be planned and developed in a coherent manner so that different schemes are not competing against each other and open space, public realm and transport infrastructure are complementary. The five brownfield housing sites that will take 634 units of housing require careful planning to ensure it is a coherent place to live, rather than five separate housing developments that bear no relation to each other. The dock bridge has opened the site up from the east and there is close proximity to the A19 and A66 corridors. Investment in the Rail Station and direct trains to London are also a good selling point. Middlehaven is close to the town centre and retail and leisure offer.
40. Boho 8 is 10,000 square feet of new modular commercial space for new companies, and demand for space is high. Bohouse North, which is Thirteen Group's second development, comprising 40 new live/work properties for digital and creative professionals, will be finished by May 2021. Site works have started on Boho Bright Ideas, a development of 60 homes for families and young professionals. A total of 60,000 square feet of Grade A commercial space for the digital sector is in the pipeline and Boho X will be on site in August 2021.
41. Funding is in place to restore the Old Town Hall and the Captain Cook Public House. Work has started on the public house and Officers are planning how the Old Town Hall can sit as the centrepiece of Middlehaven again. There are also proposals for an urban farm to the northwest of Middlehaven.
42. The draft masterplan for Middlehaven will be submitted to the Executive in summer 2021 for approval.
43. **Waltham Forest Council's Mini Holland and Liveable Neighbourhoods Programmes**

*The reallocation of urban space has become one of Covid-19's most tangible effects on the built environment. Cities are being forced to innovate and the car is bearing the brunt.<sup>4</sup>*

---

<sup>4</sup> [www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/12/liveable-streets-how-cities-are-prioritising-people-over-parking](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/12/liveable-streets-how-cities-are-prioritising-people-over-parking)

Mini-Hollands and Liveable Streets or Neighbourhoods Schemes are aimed at transforming the look and feel of public spaces, making it easier, safer and more convenient to walk, cycle or use public transport, rather than travel by car.

44. As part of this investigation, the Scrutiny Panel received a presentation from the Programme Manager, Enjoy Waltham Forest. Waltham Forest is an outer London Borough in north east London. It is a diverse Borough from land use and geography, through to demographics. South of the Borough, towards inner London it is more dense, with a predominantly Victorian road network. To the north the Borough is a lot more suburban with less density of properties and increased green infrastructure.
45. In 2014, Waltham Forest had polluted residential streets, traffic congestions, lack of cycling facilities and green spaces, a poor walking environment and few places to sit and enjoy. Waltham Forest Council set out its objectives to address the issues as follows:
- Join up cycle routes into a network.
  - Rebalance streets to be safer for everyone.
  - Reach 10% of journeys by bike by 2020.
  - Create better public space and environment for everyone.
  - Make Waltham Forest better connected for everyone.
  - Demonstrate best practice – nationally and internationally if possible, by looking at what had worked on the continent and how that could be applied.
  - Attract growth into the area by enabling growth and regeneration and ensuring policies were car free and supported with the necessary transport infrastructure.
  - Support other Council objectives.
46. The Mayor of London introduced the Mini Holland funding programme in 2014. The programme included the introduction of cycle superhighways in London and the quiet network. A number of outer London boroughs that were traditionally car dependent areas, were awarded funding to transform infrastructure and encourage behaviour change. Waltham Forest Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Mini Holland programme, originally for 3 years but eventually for 5 years.
47. The vision for Waltham Forest Council's Mini Holland included:
- Lea Bridge Road – a street for everyone.
  - Four Walthamstow Village schemes.
  - Four Town Centre Schemes.
  - A network of high quality cycle routes.
  - Complementary measures.
  - Secure cycle parking.
48. Some of the key barriers as to why people did not walk and cycle include: way finding, cycle parking, training, road safety awareness and education. The scheme tried to invoke a step change in terms of how people would travel around the Borough. A core grid of high quality cycle routes was implemented on the primary or main road network and given the nature of traffic, they are separated from vehicles and pedestrians.

There are also some quieter routes, using lower volume residential streets and green spaces, to build a skeletal network so that people have a real choice.

49. Around the town centre there are some local area based schemes designed to make roads in these areas better for walking and cycling without putting in dedicated infrastructure. Not necessarily having formal segregated cycle lanes, or crossings but looking at traffic reduction measures and making areas more suitable for walking and cycling so that theoretically, local trips can be made without using a car. Schemes have also been implemented in the secondary town centres to make them more accessible and attractive and try to reduce the need for cars for these trips by joining up areas with cycle routes and public transport. At total of 50 small schemes have been implemented, working with the community to encourage ownership of the spaces created and involve the public in maintenance where appropriate.
50. The project also enables multi-modal journeys. Cycle parking is a major barrier to people both at work and at home. Secure cycle parking has been provided at all train stations so that people can cycle in for their daily commute. There is a £25 annual fee to access the cycle hubs and also secure parking hangars. Spaces for adapted bikes are also provided.
51. In terms of encouraging behaviour change, the following has been made available:
  - Cycle skills training and maintenance.
  - All ability Cycle Club.
  - School Travel Plans.
  - School Streets.
  - Community Walking and Cycling fund.
  - Zero Emissions Delivery (ZED) Service.
52. ZED is a fleet of electric bikes that run deliveries to businesses in the borough; both in the supply chain and providing goods to residents. ZED is now almost fully self-sustaining in terms of the operating finance.
53. Waltham Forest's Liveable Neighbourhoods programme was introduced in 2018 and work has started on several programmes, taking principles from the Mini Holland schemes. Delivery was just about to start when the Covid-19 Pandemic reached the UK which had impacted on the funding available from Transport for London (TfL). The Coppermill Scheme includes some large development areas in terms of sustainable new housing growth and interventions such as new crossings, cycle infrastructure, road closures to through traffic, walking improvements along some of the main roads, looking at the walking environment. It is an area based scheme with 40 or 50 interventions in it.

Key achievements include:

- More than 40km of segregated cycle lanes.
- 80 modal filters (road closures to through traffic).
- 160+ Copenhagen Crossings (continuous footways).
- 35 new formal crossings, 61 upgraded pedestrian/cycle crossings.

- 700 trees planted and 40 pocket parks/public spaces created.
  - 1,850 metres square of land returned back to the forest at Whipps Cross.
  - 540 cycle hangars.
  - Provided 7 station cycle hubs with 546 secure parking spaces. 4 more in construction.
  - Over 10000 school children and 7500 adults have received free cycle training.
  - 311 people have taken part in All Ability Cycling sessions.
  - Almost 4000 bikes have been serviced by Dr Bike.
  - 392 residents have utilised the Community Bike Loan scheme and 101 residents have utilised the Cargo Bike Loan Scheme.
54. A review of the first village scheme in the area shows a reduction in vehicle numbers and increases in walking and cycling. Most people are accepting of the measures although some want them reduced or removed altogether. A study by the University of Westminster finds that people living in Mini Holland areas were walking an extra 32 minutes and cycling an extra 9 minutes per week compared to the outer London average.
55. In the last six to nine months a study on the impact of low traffic neighbourhoods, changes in car ownership, road traffic, road traffic collisions, crime, emergency service response times has shown some change and positive outcomes. It is noted that this study took place during the Covid-19 pandemic.
56. Key arguments and reasons for opposition to the schemes include:
- Impact on emergency services.
  - Displacement – concerns over increased traffic, pollution and congestion on some roads..
  - Longer journey distances and times for those who needed to drive.
  - Only intended to benefit the few.
  - Community severance.
  - Impact on businesses.
  - Lack of consultation.
57. Strategies employed to overcome the challenges included:
- Strong political leadership and senior leadership team.
  - More data and research needed to myth bust/outline benefits.
  - Continually adapting and enhancing engagement approach.
  - Part of wider transport/behaviour change strategy to reduce traffic volume and impact.
58. **Local Implementation Plan**

The Local Implementation Plan (LIP) was formerly the local transport plan and sets out how the Council will implement its transport and infrastructure programme at a local level. The Tees Valley Combined Authority's (TVCA) Strategic Transport Plan has received formal approval and all five Tees Valley Local Authorities will be following that plan to ensure that their LIPs dovetail into the hierarchy of the wider TVCA Plan. The LIP is a

statutory requirement for all Highways Authorities to complete and contains the Council's transport ambitions, objectives and goals. It improves the changes of securing future funding from external sources including the Department for Transport (DfT) and the TVCA. The Council engages with stakeholders to shape its transport policy.

59. The TVCA's Strategic Transport Plan is an investment plan for different travel modes and how they help deliver the key outcomes for the region. The LIP does the same, but on a local level and the key drivers for Middlesbrough's Plan are:

- The Mayors Vision.
- Investment Prospectus.
- Housing Local Plan.
- Network Management Duty – to make sure a suitable transport network is delivered.
- Transport Asset Management Plan – to ensure assets are maintained with the funding available.
- Medium Term Financial Plan.

60. The key components of the LIP focus on:

- Reducing the number and severity of casualties on the Borough's highway network.
- Minimising congestion and managing traffic flow on the highway network.
- Improving highway network reliability and resilience.
- Improving local air quality.
- Removing transport as a barrier to accessing jobs, education and training, leisure and retail opportunities.
- Providing targeted interventions and measures to assist mode shift and allowing highway users to make informed travel choices.

61. A hierarchy of need has been identified to help with a change in behaviour or modal shift, to encourage people to use cars less. Improvements will be made to encourage more walking, cycling and use of public transport. Roads will be used in the best way possible to make improvements for freight and goods, which in turn will improve the local economy and help local businesses to succeed. It has been identified that building more roads is not sustainable as this will induce further demand. If road building continues people will use cars all the time and this will not help the aims and objectives of the Council in terms of the green agenda to be met. There is also a desire to get people as physically active as possible.

62. Traffic congestion is one of the major causes of economic decline, as the movement of people and goods is disrupted. Building more vehicular infrastructure for cars is not sustainable and only achievable at the expense of public space. This does not mean that vehicular improvements will stop, but ensure a more holistic approach was adopted for everyone. All schemes will consider highway users in a priority order to ensure that sustainability is ingrained in projects to ensure that the Council will:

- Meet sustainability targets.

- Meet road safety targets.
- Meet economic growth targets.
- Improve accessibility for all.
- Help behavioural change.

63. There are nine outcomes outlined in the LIP:

- Reduce the incidence of accidents.
- Minimise congestion and manage traffic flow.
- Improve network reliability and resilience.
- Increased public transport patronage.
- Ensuring that that the highway network was fit for purpose and there were no structural failures.
- Improved local air quality.
- More accessible transport network.
- Fewer people unemployed.
- More businesses registered in Middlesbrough.

64. The ambition is to use transport to try and offset some of the impacts of these agendas and the outcomes that the Council is trying to achieve. The outcomes of the LIP will be monitored over the short, medium and long term.

65. Following Executive approval, the LIP will follow a similar six week consultation process to the TVCA Strategic Transport Plan consultation. It will predominantly be online due to restrictions currently in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. A questionnaire is being developed which will be circulated to all statutory consultees, community councils and other regular channels of engagement. Copies of the LIP will be available in public buildings and there will be opportunities for people to call in or discuss via telephone. There is also potential to host drop in sessions if the pandemic restrictions allow. This will give people the opportunity to help shape transport policy. The results of the consultation will be presented to the Executive with recommendations and the final LIP will then be published.

66. **Communication – CityFibre**

A previous review on Infrastructure Delivery undertaken by the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel in 2019, recognised that whilst provision of broadband is not the Council's responsibility, it impacts on many areas of residents' lives, providing economic and social benefits. UK internet use more than doubled in 2020, as people stayed at home and worked from home during the coronavirus pandemic. However, whilst the pandemic has driven the increase in internet usage it has also exposed the divide between people able to access fast connections and those who cannot.<sup>5</sup>

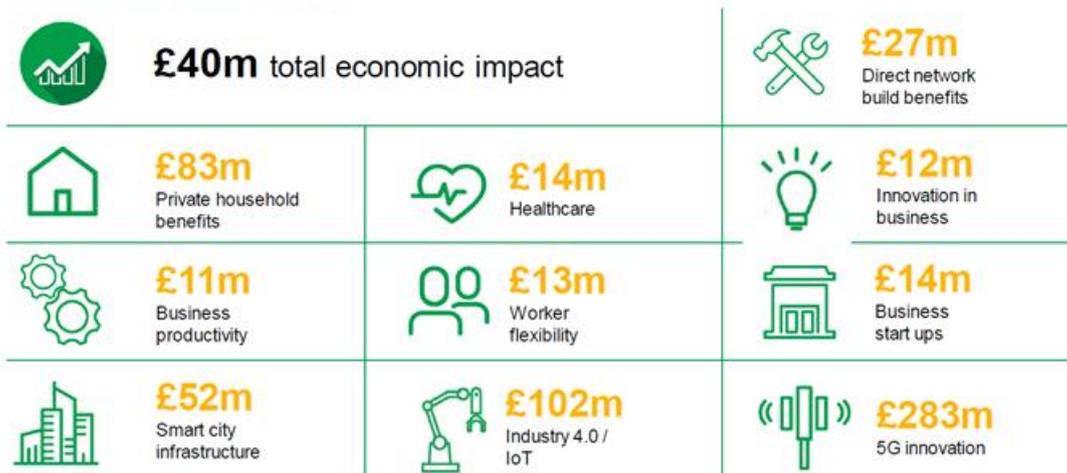
---

<sup>5</sup> [www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55347001](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55347001)

67. CityFibre is a competitive fibre builder, building brand new networks across sixty plus cities in the UK. The overall investment for the project is £4 billion and aims to reach 8 million homes within five years, or approximately 30% of the UK. Connecting all UK homes is the core ambition for all of the telecommunications networks.
68. CityFibre has been in the telecommunications sector for ten years and developed an ambition to build fibre networks. CityFibre initially worked with Sky and TalkTalk on a test project in York and then acquired a larger footprint across the UK. Currently CityFibre is rolling out its network to 60 cities, including Middlesbrough. The company is also working with Government to understand how these city builds can be used as jump off points to connect broader rural infrastructure to fibre builds across the UK.
69. CityFibre builds brand new networks and their approach is to develop a well-planned network and install end-to-end fibre from exchanges to individual premises. As well as the opportunity to connect to every single premises or home, a well-planned network will also connect to all mobile sites, 5G, businesses or business parks, and any public sector sites across the town.
70. The investment in Middlesbrough is approximately £40 million. The initial target of 70 to 80 thousand homes has already been increased towards 90 thousand homes, with expansion beyond Middlesbrough's boundaries into Grangetown, South Bank and East Cleveland.
71. CityFibre has worked with a company called Regeneris, who provided data on the value of this long term investment to the town in terms of the impact on the economy in Middlesbrough over the next fifteen years.

## Our 15 year impact on the economy in Middlesbrough

**GIGABIT  
MIDDLESBROUGH**



Regeneris report: 'Economic Impact of full fibre infrastructure in 100 towns and cities 2018'

6

72. CityFibre will install full fibre, so by taking a network connection and working with one of their Internet Service Providers (ISPs), customers will receive speeds of up to 1000 mbps. It is a synchronous solution providing the ability to upload and download at similar speeds. One of the key differences to other networks is the quality of service and as more people come to rely on the digital structure this is vital.
73. Approximately 92% of homes in the UK with a superfast broadband connection, receive roughly 30 mbps upwards and through a hybrid solution, whereby the connection has fibre at some point, but also copper.
74. CityFibre's Middlesbrough build was due to launch in April 2021 and the first homes will be connected approximately 3 to 6 months later. The build programme will be completed mid-2024. The investment is solely from the private sector and no public sector funding is required.
75. CityFibre is keen to work with Middlesbrough Council as the amount of work being undertaken has implications for the town. CityFibre's build teams want to consider how they might co-invest in infrastructure and schedule the build around any capital works that the Council might be undertaking.

<sup>6</sup> The Economic Impact of Full Fibre Infrastructure in 100 UK Towns and Cities: A Report by Regeneris Consulting for CityFibre March 2018

76. Middlesbrough will have two fibre exchanges: one at Sotheby Road, Skippers Lane Industrial Estate and one at Lytton Street, small industrial estate close to the Town Centre. This enables CityFibre to build the network more effectively because of the natural boundary of the railway line from Nunthorpe all the way into the town centre. Having a fibre exchange on either side reduces the need for specialist engineering and costs. Two fibre exchanges will enable everyone in Middlesbrough to receive service and the area can be extended.
77. The fibre installation in a hybrid town such as Middlesbrough is generally 70% over ground and 30% underground, although this can change depending on the age profile of the specific location. Overhead installation is a much more effective and efficient deployment that minimises impact on the environment. The core network is always underground and water ingress has very little impact on optic fibre, whereas with copper it causes corrosion and electrolyte reaction very quickly. With regard to durability there is a vast improvement with fibre from copper.
78. Connectivity will be to approximately ninety two and a half thousand premises and about 900 km of fibre cable will be deployed. CityFibre has a diverse network and high level of resilience should there ever be a strike by a digging machine for example. The network can be fed in east and west directions and service can be restored quickly. A two flex model will be employed in Middlesbrough, giving better coverage and service for residents and a more acceptable level of challenge in terms of engineering.
79. Residents and Councillors will be kept up to date with what was happening in their area. Residents' communications began at the construction stage and carry on throughout the build. During Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the usual door-knocking team cannot be deployed, therefore a leaflet will be delivered to all premises in the area. This is followed by a letter which explains any action residents need to take – such as moving cars off the street – and also provides a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section and details of the one line customer service telephone number.
80. Once on site, banners will be installed, to make residents aware that CityFibre are digging in the street. Wider community engagement includes local adverts and events, with information provided on how to pre-register on the website once the service is available.
81. Fibre Fans is CityFibre's school engagement project. As the construction process builds past schools in Middlesbrough, CityFibre will engage with them and provide free learning materials for curriculum subjects.
82. **Housing Local Plan/Planning Reforms/Business and Planning Act 2020**

Following the Local Elections in May 2019, and the subsequent changes in administration, the publication of the draft Middlesbrough Local Plan was formally withdrawn in July 2019. One of the key concerns was the impact on the Council's ability to stop developers dictating where house building would take place. The key test was whether Middlesbrough has a five year supply of land for house building and delivery. Middlesbrough still has around a seven year supply of housing land

and the delivery test was also met. However, the Council needs to have a new Local Plan in place to enable it to tackle its priorities.

83. The following elements of the evidence on which the Local Plan is based have been reviewed:
- Retail/Town centre.
  - Housing Needs Study.
  - Gypsies/Travelling show people assessment.
  - Employment Land Review.
  - Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
  - Transport Study.
  - Playing Pitch Strategy.
84. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been a number of impacts on the timetable for publication of the revised Housing Local Plan, including engagement with communities, consultants and key stakeholders. A key area is the Employment Land Review as it is difficult to predict the employment sector going forward, what the priorities will be, or whether more people will be working at home. Similarly the retail study was produced prior to the impact of Covid-19, which has undoubtedly had a huge impact and created much uncertainty. There have been a number of national policy changes and uncertainty around planning reforms had an impact on how the Local Plan was taken forward. In addition, as part of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) there have been changes to how housing numbers are calculated in terms of the Local Plan. It was anticipated that the revised Local Plan would be adopted by March 2022.
85. In relation to planning reforms, two key changes have been made in respect of Permitted Development Rights. For single storey dwellings there are now permitted development rights to add one storey; and for two storey dwellings and discrete blocks of flats, an additional two storeys could be added. There are a number of restrictions in place and prior approval from the Local Authority is required. Secondly, discreet offices and business buildings can be demolished and rebuilt as residential development or apartment blocks without the need for formal planning permission. Again, similar restrictions apply and they can be limited to a maximum size of property that replaces them. Design is another prior approval issue that can be taken into consideration.
86. The Government has also introduced new use classes under the Use Classes Order. Class E for commercial business and service uses and Class F for local community and learning. Class E is split into eleven categories and it is possible to limit a use to within those use classes. It is not yet clear what the permitted development rights will be changing between each. Currently the permitted development rights which were in existence before that new use class still apply. Hot food takeaways are classed as 'sui generis': meaning that any change of use from, or to, a hot food takeaway, will require planning permission and there are no associated permitted development rights. The importance of Class F, which is split into F1: learning and non-residential institutions and F2: local community, is that the provision of local facilities is key in developments. This provides a specific use class for such local facilities.

87. There are five key areas in the Planning Reform White Paper:
- Streamline the planning process with more democracy taking place more effectively at the plan-making stage, and replacing the entire corpus of plan-making law.
  - Take a radical, digital-first approach to modernise the planning process, moving from a process based on documents to a process driven by data.
  - To bring a new focus on design and sustainability.
  - Improve infrastructure delivery and ensure developers play their part, through reform of developer contributions.
  - To ensure more land is available for the homes and development people and communities need, and to support renewal of town and city centres.
88. Whilst the White Paper sets out the principles for reform, the detail with regard to how the proposals will be implemented has not yet been published.
89. The Business and Planning Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 22 July 2020 and includes a range of measures to support economic recovery and growth and help businesses adapt to new methods of working as the UK recovers from the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
90. Temporary changes have been introduced to highway licensing procedures and alcohol licensing laws to enable restaurants, bars and pubs to serve customers seated outdoors and allow operators to serve alcohol for consumption off the premises.
91. Temporary changes have also been made to the law relating to planning in England, as well as new, permanent provision for certain planning proceedings in England to be considered by means of more than one procedure. This will ensure that the planning system can continue to operate effectively and support the planning and safe construction of new development following the impact of Covid-19.<sup>7</sup>
92. **Business Support and Recovery**
- Since the UK Government implemented the first national lockdown in March 2020 the Council's Revenues and Benefits team, Economic Growth/Regeneration and Finance Service, have collaborated to support Middlesbrough businesses. In addition to delivering regular day-to-day service, a range of additional initiatives and grant schemes have been designed and distributed to ensure support is provided speedily and effectively where it is most needed.
93. Information is disseminated through web and social media platforms and business networks to promote and guide businesses through the support available both via the Local Authority and the wider business support landscape. Support mechanisms initiated and promoted by Middlesbrough Council include:
- Buy Boro campaign: promotion of local supply and services.

---

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/16/pdfs/ukpgaen\\_20200016\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/16/pdfs/ukpgaen_20200016_en.pdf)

- 1 to 1 business workshops – targeted to small/independent business to ‘plan it not panic’. The workshops cover managing cash flow, 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 support 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 helplines for businesses to access full range of support.
94. A range of mandatory and discretionary government grant schemes were initiated to support local business. Local Authorities can determine the approach and design of the discretionary schemes to best support their respective local economies. Although this is challenging due to changing legislation combined with the perceptions of the business community on eligibility. Middlesbrough Council was the first Local Authority in the area to distribute an emergency Covid grant.
95. Middlesbrough’s emergency and discretionary business grant schemes seek to support businesses through the Covid pandemic and restrictions by:
- Providing direct grant support to businesses impacted by restrictions.
  - Supporting businesses that are unable to access other business support schemes.
  - Supporting home businesses and sole traders 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.
96. Mandatory grants and discretionary funding is being used to full effect, with grants distributed in accordance with government guidance and discretionary elements tailored to target gap areas and provide the most strategic impact. In the first 6 months of the pandemic, over £25m was initially distributed in grants to support Middlesbrough businesses.
97. Local Restriction Support Grants (LRSG) were issued in November 2020, as restrictions and lockdowns became more prevalent. Alongside the LRSG a discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) was launched to address gaps. Both schemes are regularly reviewed and include several enhancements to the scheme to ensure that gaps in eligibility are addressed, targeted sector support is provided and business support measures are introduced to stimulate the local economy, create jobs, and provide rapid recovery.
98. Almost £16m was distributed through the LRSG schemes and this funding is utilised to provide emergency support to eligible businesses. In addition to those businesses that

had to close, there were others that are essential and required to stay open and trade, but are still impacted.

Local Restrictions Support Grant Distribution:<sup>i</sup>

<b>Local Restrictions Support (LRSG) Grant <sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No of payments</b>
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>

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

99. The ARG grant is awarded to Local Authorities based on population, to identify the gaps, look at the local economy and provide funding to businesses not covered by the other schemes. The Service identified businesses where the grant will make the most impact. The scheme was completed in July 2021, with approximately £4.1 million in grants issued. Home based businesses, supply chain, businesses in shared spaces have all benefitted. Middlesbrough Council collaborates with other local Councils to ensure a similar type of grants are being issued, although there is a particular element that just works for Middlesbrough. From the start of scheme in December it was reviewed every four weeks and enhanced five times over its lifetime, to make sure it includes the sectors that are impacted but still required to trade; such as manufacturing and engineering, as well as taxi drivers and driving instructors.

Additional Restrictions Grant Distribution:<sup>ii</sup>

<b>Additional Restrictions Grant <sup>9</sup></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>
---	----------------	---------------	-----------------------	----------------------------------	--

<sup>8</sup> Report to the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – 21 July 2021 – Covid Business Support and Recovery. Report Author: Debbie Ingoldsby, Strategic Business Manager

<sup>9</sup> Report to the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – 21 July 2021 – Covid Business Support and Recovery. Report Author: Debbie Ingoldsby, Strategic Business Manager

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>

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

100. £45m has been distributed by the Council in grants to support Middlesbrough businesses since March 2020. It is acknowledged that there may be some businesses that are unable to provide evidence that they are eligible for a particular grant. In addition, some businesses are eligible to support through government schemes such as the Furlough Scheme.
101. It is anticipated that a second phase of ARG funding will be triggered as soon as 100% of spend is reported. This will provide Middlesbrough Council 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 start-up businesses, as well as further grants to support businesses in their recovery.
102. A Business Recovery Officer has been appointed on a one year fixed term to offer additional support to businesses to enable them to access grants both from the Council and other sources.
103. Government guidance and rules on self-isolation are having an impact on retail, leisure and hospitality in particular. The Council consults public health regularly to ensure that all the latest information is available on the website. If certain sectors are severely impacted, potentially there will be opportunities for support in the next round of funding.

## CONCLUSIONS

104. The scrutiny panel reached the following conclusions in respect of its investigation:

## **TERM OF REFERENCE A**

**To examine Middlesbrough Council’s current proposals for the regeneration of the town including plans for retail, leisure, housing, urban living, education, enterprise, communication, transport and connectivity.**

The Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global event which has changed how people live, communicate, work and socialise. It is acknowledged that town centres in particular were already in decline and Middlesbrough is no different.

Initiatives including the Future High Streets Fund, Towns Fund, Middlehaven Masterplan, Local Implementation Plan, as well as CityFibre’s investment in superfast broadband infrastructure and many other projects, will enable Middlesbrough to ensure the recovery of local communities and businesses from Covid-19 in line with the Council’s Strategic Plan 2021-24 revised priorities.<sup>10</sup>

## **TERM OF REFERENCE B**

**To investigate what resources will be required to implement proposed regeneration schemes and what contributions are available and/or required from Central Government, Middlesbrough Council, the private sector and other stakeholders.**

Middlesbrough Council has been awarded £14.1 million from the UK Government’s Future High Streets Fund, and £21.9 million from the Towns Fund. Both Programmes rely on a large amount of public sector leverage, and therefore some of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) projects, particularly in terms of the transport elements, have been aligned for that. Where gap funding is involved there will be some public sector involvement to complete projects and ensure a return for every public sector pound spent. The Council also secured £7.9 million from the Brownfield Housing Fund and almost £30 million from the Tees Valley Combined Authority for projects based at Middlehaven.

CityFibre’s investment in Middlesbrough is approximately £40 million, with the aim of bringing superfast broadband to approximately 80,000 homes. A breakdown showing the impact on Middlesbrough’s economy over the next fifteen years is included on page 16 of this report.

Since March 2020, £45m has been distributed by the Council in grants to support Middlesbrough businesses through the pandemic and assist them with recovery. The Council has also provided advice and a Business Recovery Officer has been appointed on a one year fixed term contract, financed by government covid funding.

## **TERM OF REFERENCE C**

**To consider the role and engagement of local communities in shaping a sustainable future for Middlesbrough that will drive social and economic growth and improve the**

---

<sup>10</sup> Middlesbrough Council Strategic Plan 2021-2024 – Revised Strategic Priorities – February 2021

## health and well-being of residents.

There is an allocation of £1,000,000 from the Towns Fund for Ward Initiatives. Middlesbrough Council is keen to encourage local decision-making and participatory budgeting, with up to £50,000 per Ward allocated for community uses and facilities. This will involve consultation with Elected Members, local communities and other stakeholders, to address issues of immediate local importance.

There will be a six week consultation for the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to enable residents to help shape transport policy. A questionnaire will be circulated to all statutory consultees, Community Councils and other regular consultees. Copies of the LIP will be available in public buildings, and, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, there will be drop in sessions and opportunities to contact Council Officers directly.

On 10 August 2021, Middlesbrough Council's Executive approved an Engagement Policy for 2021-2022, the principal aim of which was for *"the Council's service to take an 'asset-based' approach to engagement, working with Middlesbrough's people and its communities and the Council's partners to recognise strengths and from these increase independence and self-reliance over time"*.<sup>11</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

105. Following the submitted evidence, and based on the conclusions above, the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel's recommendations for consideration by the Executive are as follows:
- A) Whenever opportunities arise, and in line with the hierarchy of need identified in the Local Implementation Plan (LIP), the Council should seek to ensure that it is easier, safer and more convenient to walk, cycle or use public transport, rather than travelling by car by:
- Providing additional cycle routes.
  - Implementing traffic free zones.
  - Working with public transport operators to increase local provision.
  - Reviewing existing road networks to identify particular instances of traffic congestion at peak times and address these through the LIP to encourage further economic growth.
- B) Whilst it is acknowledged that there have been a number of impacts on the approval and publication of Middlesbrough's revised Housing Local Plan due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scrutiny Panel asks the Executive to ensure that the revised Local Plan is adopted as soon as practicable and by no later than March 2022.

---

<sup>11</sup> Engagement Policy 2021-2022 – Report to Executive – 10 August 2021

- C) In line with the Middlesbrough Council's ambition for the town to be net carbon neutral by 2039, use the Middlehaven developments as an opportunity to explore, promote and encourage the use of green renewable energy both with Developers and as a selling point for potential investors.
- D) Consideration should be given to extending the Urban Pioneers Scheme, or encouraging similar developments, to provide more live/work accommodation in Middlesbrough, given the shift to increased home working during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- E) The Council should ensure that green spaces around the Middlehaven developments are regularly maintained and attractive to prospective new residents and businesses. One suggestion is that hard-standing surfaces or laybys are built into development masterplans rather having grassed verges. This could also save the Council expenditure on maintenance of and/or repair of more traditional grassed surfaces next to roadways.
- F) The Council could consider collaborating with the local community to encourage ownership and maintenance of public spaces (if appropriate) in Middlehaven to promote pride in the area.
- G) By working closely with Broadband Providers, the Council should seek to ensure that all areas of Middlesbrough can have access to superfast broadband by 2025 at the latest, and that residents and businesses are not disadvantaged by lack of provision given the increased reliance on digital technologies post-pandemic.
- H) The Council should consider developing a multi-purpose venue in the town, which can accommodate entertainment. A venue which attracts the best entertainers in the world will encourage people from across the UK to visit the area, stay and spend, boosting the local economy. The Captain Cook Shopping Centre would be an ideal location for an eSports gaming venue as evidenced by the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel in a recent Final Report on Cultural Events.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

106. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel would like to thank the following for their assistance with its work:

Louise Antill, Programme Management Team Leader, Middlesbrough Council  
 Stephanie Carter-Smith, City Manager – Tees Valley, CityFibre  
 Paul Clarke, Head of Planning, Middlesbrough Council  
 Craig Cowley, Transport and Infrastructure Manager, Middlesbrough Council  
 Selina Deeney, Regional Marketing Manager, CityFibre  
 Stephen Driscoll, Area Build Manager, CityFibre  
 Steve Fletcher, Head of Development, Middlesbrough Council  
 Sam Gilmore, Head of Economic Growth, Middlesbrough Council

Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration, Middlesbrough Council  
Debbie Ingoldsby, Strategic Business Manager, Regeneration  
Jason Legget, City Manager – Tyneside and Wearside, CityFibre  
Peter Millward, City Build Manager, CityFibre  
Chris Orr, Infrastructure Programme Manager, Middlesbrough Council  
Chris Proctor, Programme Manager, Enjoy Waltham Forest

## 107. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following sources were consulted or referred to in preparing this report:

- Middlesbrough Council's Strategic Plan 2021-2024
- Minutes of the meetings of the EDEI Scrutiny Panel held on 7 October and 18 November 2020, 20 January, 24 March, 21 April 2021 and 21 July 2021.
- Future High Streets Fund - Town Centre Property and Asset Management (PART A) - Report to Middlesbrough Council Executive – 13 April 2021
- <https://www.retailgazette.co.uk/blog/2021/05/how-a-rise-in-retail-vacancies-can-affect-the-uks-high-streets/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/12/liveable-streets-how-cities-are-prioritising-people-over-parking>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-55347001>
- Report to the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – 21 July 2021 – Covid Business Support and Recovery. Report Author: Debbie Ingoldsby, Strategic Business Manager
- The Economic Impact of Full Fibre Infrastructure in 100 UK Towns and Cities: A Report by Regeneris Consulting for CityFibre March 2018
- [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/16/pdfs/ukpgaen\\_20200016\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/16/pdfs/ukpgaen_20200016_en.pdf)

## 108. **ACRONYMS**

A-Z listing of common acronyms used in the report:

ARG - Additional Restrictions Grant  
BDC-LDC - British Retail Consortium-Local Data Company Vacancy Monitor  
DfT – Department for Transport  
FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions  
FHSF – Future High Streets Fund  
HE – Homes England  
ISPs – Internet Service Providers  
LRSG - Local Restriction Support Grants  
LIP – Local Implementation Plan  
MHCLG - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework  
TVCA - Tees Valley Combined Authority  
ZED - Zero Emissions Delivery

**COUNCILLOR S WALKER**

## **- CHAIR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

The membership of the scrutiny panel is as follows:

### Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel 2020-2021

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

### Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel 2021-2022

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

#### **Contact Officer:**

Susan Lightwing

Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729712 (direct line)

Email: [susan\\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:susan_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank