

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 10 January 2023

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 18th January, 2023** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes - Council - 30 November 2022 5 – 16
4. Announcements/Communications
To receive and consider any communications from the Chair, Mayor, Executive Members or Chief Executive (if any).
5. Questions from Members of the Public (if any).
6. Mayor's Statement and Report
7. Executive Member reports 17 – 70
8. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 71 – 76
9. Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2023/24 77 - 86

A recorded vote will be carried out in respect of the above item. Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a duty to declare an interest on any councillor who is two or more months in arrears with their Council Tax payments if they attend any meeting involved in setting the Council Tax rate for the local authority. They must abstain from any vote involved in the setting of the Council Tax rate until they are no longer in arrears.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 10. | Capital Strategy 2022/2023 Mid Year Update | 87 – 100 |
| 11. | Urgent Items | |
| | To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any). | |
| 12. | Members' Question Time | |
| 13. | Notice of Motions | |
| 14. | Notice of Urgent Motions (if any) | |
| 15. | Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update | 101 - 110 |



Charlotte Benjamin,
Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

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

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

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

Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 30 November 2022.

PRESENT: Councillors J Hobson, R Arundale, A Bell (Vice-Chair), I Blades, C Cooke, B Cooper, D Coupe, S Dean, C Dodds, T Furness, TA Grainge, T Higgins, C Hobson, N Hussain, L Mason, T Mawston, D McCabe, M Nugent, J Platt, A Preston (The Mayor), J Rathmell, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Storey, P Storey, J Thompson, Z Uddin, S Walker and G Wilson

OFFICERS: B Carr, S Bonner, C Benjamin, G Field, R Horniman, A Hoy, A Humble, D Johnson, T Parkinson, H Seechurn, K Whitmore and A Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D Branson, D Davison, N Gascoigne, A Hellaoui, A High, S Hill, B Hubbard, D Jones, L Lewis, C McIntyre, J McTigue, E Polano, G Purvis, R Sands, M Saunders, M Smiles, J Walker and C Wright

22/50 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

22/51 **MINUTES - EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS - 31 AUGUST AND 19 OCTOBER 2022 AND ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 7 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 31 August 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment: -

Page 4 in relation to comments by Councillor Arundale:

Councillor Arundale stated that in his experience, animosity only came into effect in the council chamber, it did not appear to affect meetings such as the Licensing Committee or scrutiny panels. Members needed to find a constructive way forward.

The minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 7 September 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 19 October 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

22/52 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no announcements or communications for this meeting.

22/53 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

There were no valid questions submitted from members of the public, within the required timescale for this meeting.

22/54 **MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

The Mayor stated that he wished to focus on the budget, which needed to be agreed to balance the books. The Mayor referred to the fact that four other local authorities had indicated that they could go bankrupt because of budgetary pressures.

The Mayor stated that the Council was likely to experience tough times and tough decisions would need to be taken. At this moment in time, the Mayor indicated that the Council had not been informed about the amount of funding it would receive from central government.

The Mayor advised that, if a Council was to go bankrupt, the government would take over the management of Council funds and the government would decide which services to cut.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan report contained a list of suggestions for budget cuts, however all the measures contained in Appendix 2 to the report would be subject to public consultation.

The Mayor highlighted that the Council did not know at this point in time, how much it would need to save.

The Mayor acknowledged the presence at the meeting, of members of the Parents 4 Change group. He advised that he would listen to any questions that the group had, if they contacted him outside of the meeting.

Councillor M Storey commented on the reduction in government funding and urged the Mayor to make representations to the government regarding future funding.

Councillor Rathmell stated that he was concerned regarding proposed cuts to community safety as the Street Wardens provided support to vulnerable people and assisted in preventing crime.

Councillor Rooney referred to a Channel 5 programme which had reported that Middlesbrough was one of the most deprived towns in the country. Councillor Rooney urged the Mayor to approach the government with a balanced argument in relation to the Council's funding requirements.

Councillor Rooney requested that a copy of the question from Parents 4 Change, which was submitted outside the timescale for submission of questions, from members of the public, be circulated to all councillors.

Councillor Blades stated that he would prefer that the increase in Council Tax to be no more than 2.99%.

Councillor Cooke expressed concern with regard to the number of proposed budget cuts in the Medium-Term Financial Plan report that affected children, the youth service and the welfare strategy.

The Mayor emphasised that the proposals in Appendix 2 to the budget report were all subject to consultation, and following the consultation exercise, discussions would be held, and it was possible that some of the proposals could be removed from the list. The Mayor emphasised that if the council failed to agree a budget, the government could take over the management of Council funds and they could decide which services to cut.

22/55

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

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

Question in relation to report of Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services

The Chair advised that the first question was from Councillor Cooke to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services, who had submitted apologies for the meeting.

Councillor Cooke advised that he would like to read his question out at the meeting.

Councillor Cooke stated that regarding the recent Ofsted updates, there was no mention of the fact that the Council had lost the 2 most senior members of that department and he queried why there was no mention of it in the report. What impact had the departure of the two members of staff had and what was the Council doing to recruit to the 2 posts?

Comment in relation to report of Executive Member for Culture and Communities

The Chair advised that the second question was from Councillor Mawston to the Executive Member for Culture and Communities, who had submitted apologies for the meeting.

Councillor Mawston advised that he would like to read his comment out at the meeting.

Councillor Mawston referred to the recent visit to the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum from

the Cook Island rugby league team in the recent World Cup competition. Councillor Mawston stated that the team were a fantastic group of visitors who were involved in everything and with everyone, and they were a credit to the Cook Islands. The visit had a positive impact in Middlesbrough. The staff at the museum had started work on the visit over 3 years ago. Councillor Mawston stated that he would like to thank the museum staff and the curator for their work in making the visit a success.

Questions in relation to report of Executive Member for Environment

Councillor C Hobson in relation to whether the Green Waste Collection service had changed to monthly collections.

In response to the question from Councillor C Hobson, the Executive Member for Environment advised that the website contained a calendar which detailed the dates of collection of green waste. Councillor Cooper advised that the collection dates were carried out in accordance with the information contained on the calendar, however, if anyone had an issue regarding an additional collection, they should get in touch, but it would only be carried out on an individual basis.

Councillor C Hobson advised that the collections were usually on a fortnightly basis, and she queried whether this would be the case in the future.

Councillor Cooper advised that he was unable to confirm that the collections would remain on a fortnightly basis as it would be dependent on the budget.

Councillor McCabe in relation to Flood Management and issues with the gully smart system.

In response to the question from Councillor McCabe, the Executive Member for Environment advised that the Council did have a gully machine but sometimes the gullies were unable to be accessed because of cars parking over them. Councillor Cooper advised Councillor McCabe to report any future issues with gullies to the appropriate Council department.

Councillor Mawston in relation to Carriage Resurfacing regarding a new contract being awarded and whether it was a continuation of the pothole repairs that had been carried out the previous year.

Councillor Mawston also queried with regard to the resurfacing works that had been carried out at Stokesley Road, that had not been carried out effectively and whether any action was being taken in respect of this issue.

In response to the question from Councillor Mawston, the Executive Member stated that he would take legal advice with regard to any action to be taken in respect of the previous resurfacing works at Stokesley Road.

With regard to carriage resurfacing, the Executive Member advised that there was a programme of works to fix potholes, but members should continue to report any pothole issues and they would be evaluated and prioritised accordingly. The Executive Member advised that unfortunately, there was not a large enough budget to fix all potholes in the town.

In response to a request from Councillor Mawston, Councillor Cooper confirmed that a copy of the programme of works would be circulated to all members.

Councillor Blades in relation to Area Care and consultation regarding the planting of trees and meadows.

In response to the question from Councillor Blades, the Executive Member for Environment advised that he would consult with Ward Councillors and residents regarding any future planting of trees and meadows.

Questions in relation to report of Executive Member for Finance and Governance

Councillor Rooney in relation to the Welfare Strategy.

Councillor Rooney commented on the positive impact of the Welfare Strategy and thanked the whole team for their work in assisting people in Middlesbrough to access benefits.

In response to the comments from Councillor Rooney, the Executive Member for Finance and Governance stated that he agreed with the comments regarding the positive impact of the Welfare Strategy, and he thanked all those involved in implementing the strategy.

The Executive Member referred to the fact that Welfare Rights was listed as a potential budget saving in the Medium-Term Financial Plan report, and he advised that he would refer to Welfare Rights under that report, later in the meeting.

Questions in relation to report of Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety

Councillor Bell in relation to Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) in relation to budget proposals.

Councillor Bell in relation to Safer Streets 4 Update and the proposed cuts to neighbourhood safety officers and the reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents at Halloween.

Councillor Bell referred to the work that had been carried out to reduce anti-social behaviour in Hemlington, bringing together staff from relevant agencies into a hub and the concerns he had about whether the proposed budget cuts would have any effect on the work that had been carried out.

The Executive Member advised that difficult decisions would have to be made in relation to budget savings. The £700k funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner was in place and the proposals for using that funding would be implemented. The monthly steering group involving all the different agencies was in place and the recruitment of a Community Development Worker who would be operating in Hemlington, and Pallister Park would also go ahead. The development of a professional witness service would be happening soon. One thousand leaflets had been handed out to homes that were in danger of being targeted by anti-social behaviour to advise on how to remain safe. The additional CCTV cameras had arrived and would be fitted soon.

Councillor Cooke in relation to Community Cohesion

In response to Councillor Cooke's comments regarding those involved in two projects in Newport Ward, the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety congratulated everybody involved in the organisation of the World Cup Tournament at the Newport Community Hub and the Give a Coat a Home Project.

Questions in relation to report of Executive Member for Regeneration

The Chair advised that the Executive Member for Regeneration had submitted apologies for the meeting.

Councillor Blades advised that he would like to read his question out at the meeting.

Councillor Blades queried with regard to how the Council had supported Market Cross Jewellers and how much it had contributed. He also queried regarding whether there was any guarantee that Market Cross would not close the shop in the Hill Street Centre.

22/56

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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

The Chair invited members to note the report.

ORDERED that the report be noted.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE AND BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS 2023/24

The Elected Mayor and the Director of Finance submitted a report, the purpose of which was to provide an update to Council on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the current estimated budget gap for 2023/24.

The report also set out the proposed budget savings and other proposals, and the proposed Council Tax increase for 2023/24, and noted that, where required, those proposals would be subject to public consultation.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance presented the report.

Councillors Bell, Cooke, Higgins and Rooney commented on the report. Councillor Cooke requested in relation to paragraph 70 of the report, that there should be consultation with political groups.

The Chair invited members to note the report.

It was **ORDERED** as follows:

That Council:

- Note the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position, and the potential budget gap of £10m to £20m in 2023/24, with £15m being the mid-case assessment.
- Note the following measures to contribute towards the potential budget gap in 2023/24, and notes that consultation would commence, where required, on 1 December 2022 and conclude on 23 January 2023:
 - the proposed budget savings and other proposals for the 2023/24 budget. These totalled £14.2m in the full year, of which £4.6m were deemed to potentially affect service delivery levels and would be subject to public consultation (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report).
 - the proposed total Council Tax increase of 2.99% for 2023/24 (comprising of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1% Adult Social Care Precept), subject to potential further review in light of the revised referendum limits announced in the Government's Autumn Spending Review of 17 November 2022.
- That in relation to paragraph 70 of the report, political groups be included as part of the consultation process.

LOCAL PLAN SCOPING REPORT

The Director of Regeneration and the Executive Member for Regeneration submitted a report, in respect of the Local Plan Scoping Report and Evidence Base.

The Mayor presented the report.

The Mayor advised, that in September this year, the Council decided to officially cease work on the emerging Local Plan and start work on a new Local Plan.

The first stage of preparing the new Local Plan was the Local Plan Scoping Report. This explained that the Council intended to prepare a new Local Plan for Middlesbrough, and that it would cover all planning matters except Minerals and Waste (which would continue to be dealt with jointly with the other Tees Valley authorities).

A public consultation would take place between 5th December 2022 and 31st January 2023 to notify statutory and general consultees of the intention to prepare a new Local Plan and invite representations on what it ought to contain. A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report had also been prepared and would be subject to consultation at the same time.

The Local Plan Scoping Report and the public consultation would ensure that the initial legal requirements for preparing a Local Plan were met.

In addition, the Council would undertake a 'Call for Sites' to run alongside the Local Plan Scoping Report consultation. Landowners and their agents would be asked to submit any available sites to the Council so their future development could be assessed.

Every response received during this consultation would be considered by the Council and used to help prepare the new Local Plan.

The Mayor requested that members approve the Local Plan Scoping Report.

Councillor Rathmell queried whether the timescale for consultation could be extended to 14 February 2023 given that part of the consultation period fell within the festive period.

The Mayor advised that the first stage in the Local Plan process was to agree the Local Plan Scoping Report. The details of the consultation period could be dealt with outside of the meeting.

The Chair of the Council advised that the report would in effect, give the Council permission to create a new Local Plan.

The Chair invited the Monitoring Officer to conduct a vote on the report.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** that the Local Plan Scoping Report be approved.

22/59 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

22/60 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

There were no Members Questions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

22/61 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Prior to consideration of Motion No. 155, Councillor Rathmell sought a point of clarification. He stated that at the previous Council meeting, he had proposed an administrative motion to proceed to the next item of business following questions raised by him, Councillor Saunders, Councillor McTigue and Councillor Hubbard. A response to those questions had not been received.

Councillor Rathmell stated that CIPFA had identified that the current Council Constitution was not fit for purpose and needed refreshing to make it accessible and user friendly.

Councillor Rathmell requested that the Chair exercise his right under Article 5 and Procedure Rule 1 of the Constitution to put the item on hold until responses to the previous questions that had been raised, had been received.

The Chair advised that he had given this matter some considerable thought. The motion was brought under the current Constitution, and it was likely that a new Constitution would not be available for some time. The motion had already been considered by the Council on two separate occasions, and in his view, it was appropriate for the matter to be dealt with at this meeting.

Councillor Rathmell clarified that the subject matter of the motion related to the 2018 Constitution which included the 6-month rule in relation to complaints, and he queried whether the Chair was willing to proceed with the motion. The Chair confirmed that he was willing to proceed with the motion.

Councillor Rooney clarified that CIPFA had not indicated that the Constitution was not fit for purpose, but that it did require improvement.

Consideration was given to Motion No. 155, moved by Councillor Mawston, and seconded by

Councillor M Storey of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Public Censure

A Standards Committee Meeting held on 11 May 2022 concluded that Councillor J McTigue, acting in her capacity as a member of Middlesbrough Borough Council ('the Council'), had breached items 3.2, 3.5 and 3.12 of the Members Code of Conduct on social media posts on 28 November 2019 and on 23 December 2020, in that she did not respect others, conducted herself in a manner which was likely to bring the authority, office, or the Member into disrepute and did not use social media responsibly.

Following consideration of the Standards complaint, the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Person, ordered that a number of sanctions be imposed, one of which included that Councillor McTigue to be subject of a motion of public censure at the full Council meeting.

Cllr McTigue has also failed to comply with the other sanctions that were imposed by the Standards Committee at the hearing on the 11th May 2022, namely:

1. Councillor McTigue was to provide a written apology to the Council employee who was the subject of the complaint, by 6 July 2022, with a copy provided to the Standards Committee.
2. Councillor McTigue to receive one-to-one training on the appropriate use of social media and the Member/Officer Protocol, to be provided by the relevant Council Officer(s), and this should be completed by 6 July 2022.

In accordance with the Standards Committee's resolution, the matter of a motion of censure is now placed before Council in respect of Councillor McTigue's conduct in respect of the matters detailed by the Investigating Officer in the report to the Standards Committee meeting held on 11 May 2022.

Councillor Cooper spoke in opposition to the motion in his role as Deputy Leader of the MICA group. He posed questions to Councillor Mawston and Councillor M Storey.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the Council meeting and the Standards Committee had received advice on the issues raised by Councillor Cooper on a number of occasions. The decision by the Standards Committee to censure Councillor McTigue had been unanimous, and on the basis that the issues raised had already been addressed at previous meetings of the Standards Committee, Councillor M Storey, and Councillor Mawston should not be required to respond to the questions posed by Councillor Cooper.

Councillor M Storey outlined the reasons why the councillor should be censured.

Councillor Mawston advised that if the Council did not take action on the recommendations of the Standards Committee, members would be failing in their duty.

The Chair advised that he had received a statement from Councillor McTigue to be read out at the meeting.

Councillor M Storey stated that in his view, the statement should not be read out at the meeting, as Councillor McTigue had the opportunity to attend the meeting.

The Chair advised that it was unclear as to why Councillor McTigue was not present at the meeting, and on that basis, he would read the statement out, as requested.

Councillor Rathmell pointed out that under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 1, the Chair had authority to read the statement out.

The Chair read a statement out on behalf of Councillor McTigue in relation to the proposed censure.

The Mayor stated that he would be voting against the censure, and he set out the reasons for his decision.

Councillor Arundale stated that this was a case of natural justice. He stated that the Standards Committee recommendations should not be ignored.

Councillor Rooney stated that she concurred with the view of Councillor Arundale. The investigation into the complaint was carried out by an Independent Investigator and there had been much debate about it. Councillor Rooney advised that she would be voting for the censure.

Councillor Rathmell stated that all members should have all the information before them prior to the vote. He queried whether Councillor McTigue had been provided with the name of the officer who was the subject of the complaint.

Councillor Rooney stated that the issue had already been subject to discussion at two meetings of the Standards Committee, and she moved that the meeting proceed to the vote. Councillor M Storey seconded the proposal to move to the vote.

Councillor Rathmell queried whether Councillor McTigue had been provided with the name and contact details of the officer who was the subject of the complaint, he also queried with regard to which dates had been provided in respect of the one-to-one social media training.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the queries raised had already been dealt with at the last Standards Committee.

The Chair requested that the Monitoring Officer proceed to the vote on the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was **CARRIED**

Consideration was given to Motion No. 156, moved by Councillor P Storey, and seconded by Councillor Thompson of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Free School Meals

Middlesbrough Council acknowledges that Britain is in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis that is affecting household's right across our borough. We are particularly concerned about the impact on low-income families with school aged children.

This Council notes that figures from The North-East Child Poverty Commission showed that 41.2% of children in Middlesbrough are currently living in poverty.

This Council notes that at this time only pupils in reception and KS1 are entitled to Free School Meals in Middlesbrough. Given the cost-of-living crisis, this Council is deeply concerned that Nursery children in our maintained schools and nurseries are excluded from this offer.

This Council therefore believes that ensuring our youngest students are included in our Free School Meal offer is a critical tool to achieving those goals.

This Council acknowledges the Mayor and his executive have forecasted an overspend on this year's budget and that additional costs cannot be incurred lightly. However, given the longer-term benefits a healthy start in life brings, it is right that the potential of such a scheme be explored.

This Council therefore calls upon the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services to publish costs associated with an extension of Middlesbrough's Free School meal offer to include all 3 and 4-year-olds in nursery and primary schools in the Borough, and to do so by the end of December 2022.

The Council also calls upon the Schools' Forum to set out the implications for schools, by the end of December 2022.

This Council requests that the Children and Young People Learning scrutiny panel then consider the Mayor's assessment of the costs at its meeting in January 2023.

The Mayor stated that if the proposal was feasible, he would consider it. He queried whether the timelines for the completion of the actions could be extended?

Councillor P Storey spoke in support of the motion. In response to the request from the Mayor in relation to an extension to the timelines, she advised that the December date could be changed to January and the January date could be extended to February.

Councillor McCabe, Arundale and Rooney commented on the motion.

Councillor J Thompson spoke in support of the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was **CARRIED**

Motion 157

The Chair advised that he had been notified by Councillor Cooke that he had an amendment to his original motion and requested that members agree to the request for an amendment. It was agreed that Councillor Cooke be permitted to amend the original motion.

Consideration was given to the amended Motion No. 157, moved by Councillor Cooke, and seconded by Councillor P Storey of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Safe haven for veterans

As we mark Bonfire Night in the month of November, it is important that we consider the effect that fireworks and loud displays can have on those who are or have served for our country and suffer long term effects such as PTSD and will find fireworks particularly hard to cope with. A safe and peaceful space is needed during this time.

Middlesbrough Council resolves:

1. To work with Middlesbrough based armed forces charities to set up a safe and quieter space, and enable veterans to come together in support of one another.
2. In the event that the council is setting up events with fireworks, the council should be mindful of the effects on others and look at ad-hoc provisioning of a safe space.
3. Middlesbrough Council resolves, where possible to only commission companies and issue permits to those for public events in MBC boundaries that use low noise fireworks only.

Councillor Cooke thanked Councillor Rathmell for the amendment to the original motion and spoke in support of the amended motion.

Councillor Arundale, Mawston, Rathmell, C Hobson and Cooper commented on the motion.

Councillor P Storey spoke in support of the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was **CARRIED**

22/62 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

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

22/63 **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Mayor and the Chief Executive submitted a report, the purpose of which was to present the work of the Corporate Governance Improvement Board.

The Board was given the mandate to develop and agree a detailed improvement plan to drive

the Council's response to the issues identified by the Council's external auditors EY and further investigated by CIPFA. It was the first in a series of reports to provide a summary of progress made since the last meeting.

The Mayor presented the report.

ORDERED that Council note the detailed improvement plan and the progress made since information on the required corporate governance journey was last presented.

22/64

VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY

Council received a report which sought nominations for appointment, following resignations from Committees and vacancies that remained outstanding following the Annual meeting.

The report included a list of current vacancies on various committees and an outside body and nominations were put forward at the meeting by individual members.

ORDERED that the following vacancies allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups, be approved by Council:

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

1 Vacancy (initially for Labour) - **Councillor Cooke appointed**

Ad hoc Scrutiny Panel

2 Vacancies (initially open to 1 MIG - **Councillor Dodds appointed**

Any MICA nominations for the 2nd vacancy? No nominations

Open to all Councillors – **Councillor Mawston appointed**

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

1 Vacancy (initially for Labour) No nominations received

If no Labour nominations – open to all Councillors – **No nominations received**

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

1 Vacancy open to all Members - **No nominations received**

Economic Development Environment & infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

1 Vacancy on the panel open to all Members - **Councillor Dodds appointed**

Vacancy for Chair of Economic Development Environment & infrastructure Scrutiny Panel – **Following a vote, Councillor Arundale appointed**

Vacancy for Vice Chair of the Panel - **Councillor Saunders appointed**

South Tees Health Scrutiny Committee

1 Vacancy (initially open to Independent Member) - **No nominations received**

If no Independent Member nominations – open to all Councillors – **No nominations received**

Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Committee

1 Vacancy (initially for MICA/MIG Member) - **No nominations received**

If no nominations from MICA/MIG – open to all Councillors – **No nominations received**

Licensing Committee

1 Vacancy (initially for MIG Member) 1 nomination: **Councillor C Hobson appointed**

VACANCIES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Middlesbrough Environment City Trust

1 Vacancy for a MIG Member: 1 nomination: **Councillor Dodds appointed**

Tees Valley Audit and Governance Committee

1 Vacancy for a Labour Member substitute – 1 nomination – **Councillor High appointed**

This page is intentionally left blank



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

Council Meeting: 18 January 2023

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

This page is intentionally left blank



INTRODUCTION

This document contains Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **18 January 2023**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact details

Bernie Carr – Democratic and Registration Manager - (01642) 729714

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 18 JANUARY 2023

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children’s Services <i>Councillor M Smiles</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion <i>Councillor D Coupe</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Culture and Communities <i>Councillor S Hill</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Environment <i>Councillor B Cooper</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Councillor S Walker</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety <i>Councillor T Grainge</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Councillor E Polano</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Young Adults and Democratic Engagement <i>Councillor L Mason</i>

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 22 November 2022.

SECTION 3 – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting.

SECTION 4 – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting.

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Mayor & Lead Member for Children's Services

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

This report aims to provide an update to members on activity within my portfolio and performance against the strategic priorities I either lead on or am involved with.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Consolidate and build on recent children's services progress to improve Ofsted rating.

WHAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN:

I wish to put on record my thanks to our previous director of children's services Sue Butcher.

I know that my fellow councillors had great respect for Sue and are thankful for the progress that she guided.

I also want to express gratitude to Rachel Farnham, our previous director of children's care, who has now moved to Durham County Council. I wish them both the best of luck for the future.

I am delighted to welcome our new interim director for children's services Sue Myers. We have also appointed Claire Sowerby as interim director of children's care.

Sue was previously a consultant practice improvement lead in the service. I feel she has brought a fresh perspective to the role whilst also providing continuity.

As well as continuing our improvement journey, Sue is very much focusing on the budget challenges that children's services face across the country. These pressures are caused by a number of factors such as the cost of external residential placements, the need for agency staff and a drop in foster carers. We are developing a plan to deal with these issues with urgency.

I am sure you will join me in giving the new leadership team our full support.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Consolidate and build on recent children's services progress to improve Ofsted rating

Children's services received its sixth monitoring visit from Ofsted focusing on older children in care and care leavers in early November.

There was a two week lead in period and two inspectors Jan Edwards and Jo Warburton were with us for two days. As well as staff the inspectors interviewed me as lead member for children's services and the chair of corporate parenting Chris Hobson.

Jan was the lead inspector for our original inspection in November/December 2019 - so was able to gauge the progress we have made in this area since that time.

Since the last inspection, services for older children in care and care leavers has started to improve. Most older children who are approaching leaving care are supported to develop the necessary independence skills needed to live alone.

There was lots of positive feedback – and there were also areas for improvement. The whole findings can be read here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50201203>

One piece of feedback was that care leavers told inspectors that most of them had experienced a positive transition from care and that they had been well supported by their social workers and their personal advisors.

However, a small number of care leavers described feeling rushed when moving out of care and some young people said they needed more financial support to enable them to buy food and pay their energy bills.

We have now got an action plan in place tackle any weaknesses ahead of the full Ofsted inspection, which we believe will take place early this year.

DIRECTORATE PRIORITY: Deliver the Learning and Education Strategy to help school improvement and support educational outcomes in Middlesbrough.

WHAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN:

It was a delight to visit young people at Outwood Academy Ormesby to hear about their work with The Talent Foundry and global finance business M&G.

The aim of the project is to deliver inspirational workshops and mentoring to the town's young people - helping them discover what they are amazing at, develop valuable employment skills and prepare them for the world of work.

The group of young people I met were selected for a workshop that really got their creativity flowing and helped them think about career paths they might not have otherwise considered.

The Year 7 and 8 students took part in role playing as event organisers, arranging their own music festivals for thousands of people by using numeracy skills to make decisions on artist bookings, site layout and catering.



The first three Enterprise Challenge workshops have taken place with students from Outwood Academy Ormesby, Outwood Academy Acklam and Acklam Grange School providing brilliant feedback.

Comments from students included:

“It helped me to get more confident in speaking in front of people.”

“I had the chance to be creative and solve problems at the same time.”

“I learnt that maths is involved in most jobs and I had lots of fun”.

DIRECTORATE PRIORITY: Deliver the Pupil Place Strategy, to ensure sufficient appropriate, high-quality school place are available for children and young people now in the future.

WHAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN:

Middlesbrough’s newest secondary school is now expected to move to its new home in September 2025.

The Department for Education (DfE) is leading the project to build Outwood Riverside’s permanent base on land near Middlesbrough College and whilst the DfE had confirmed an opening date of September 2023 in September 2021, its latest update has stated 2025. This is in the main due to building setbacks.

It’s hoped Outwood Riverside will be able to provide additional places at Russell Street for future years whilst other options within the town are also being pursued.

Outwood Riverside continues delivering excellent education at its temporary home in the town centre and - having visited and been in contact with the school regularly - it is clear the students and staff are enthusiastic and committed and the school continues to deliver brilliant education.

The council has been assured by the DfE that a slightly longer stay in the temporary accommodation is the best course of action.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: Support for Hospital Discharge over the Christmas and New Year Period

Update: Excellent work went on over the Christmas and New Year holiday period to ensure that Adult Social Care was able to facilitate discharge at a time of acute pressure for James Cook University Hospital and North-East Ambulance Service. Staff have continued to work on all but Christmas Day and New Year's Day and have done a very effective job in minimising the number of delays to discharge. We should be proud of the work undertaken by our Hospital Social Work staff; our Trusted Assessors; our Brokers and all the other staff members who have been involved in whatever capacity.

Unlike some other Local Authority areas the independent providers that we contract with for domiciliary care provision have managed to maintain sufficient capacity within the market to avoid the long waiting lists for services seen in some areas. This has been a major success for us and speaks to the high standard of the domiciliary care providers in our area (which is also true of our residential care providers) and has also relied on the excellent service provided by our own Contracts and Commissioning Team. This work continues as pressure on the NHS is sustained, or growing, through the combination of winter, COVID, flu and industrial action.

Strategic Priority: Strategic Work on Discharge

The Director of Adult Social Care and other senior managers in the directorate have been involved in almost daily strategic calls with senior staff from the Integrated Care System, acute hospitals, North-East Ambulance Service and other Local Authorities throughout the holiday period to ensure there is strategic co-ordination and direction for the operational work on flow out of hospital. Close links between the Directors of Adult Social Services across the North-East region, under the auspices of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, have ensured that we have been

able to share learning across the region and this has been reflected in the additional schemes around hospital discharge that we are implementing in response to central government's additional short-term hospital discharge funding. For Middlesbrough these measures include, for instance, additional investment in Tees Community Equipment Service to support the provision of Occupational Therapy and Community Nursing equipment on the day that it is requested and the block-booking of residential care beds for specific groups of service users, such as patients receiving end of life care, to ensure availability at the point of need. Close working between the Local Authority at Director level and the Integrated Care System Director for "place" continues on an almost daily basis.

DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

Directorate Priority: Preparations for the commencement of CQC Inspections of Adult Social Care in Local Authorities and ICSs

Update: April 2023 sees the commencement of inspection by the Care Quality Commission of how well Local Authorities (and Integrated Care Systems) deliver their duties under the Care Act 2014. Extensive work is now under way within our Adult Social Care directorate in, co-ordination with the North-East branch of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, to ensure that the service area is well prepared and that the wider Local Authority understands the process. The first round of inspection of all North-East authorities will commence in April 2023 and is expected to take two years to complete – when we will be inspected is as yet unknown. A round of briefings on the inspection framework for officers and Elected Members will begin in the forthcoming weeks and further information on the CQC process will be shared as it emerges.

Directorate Priority: Homelessness

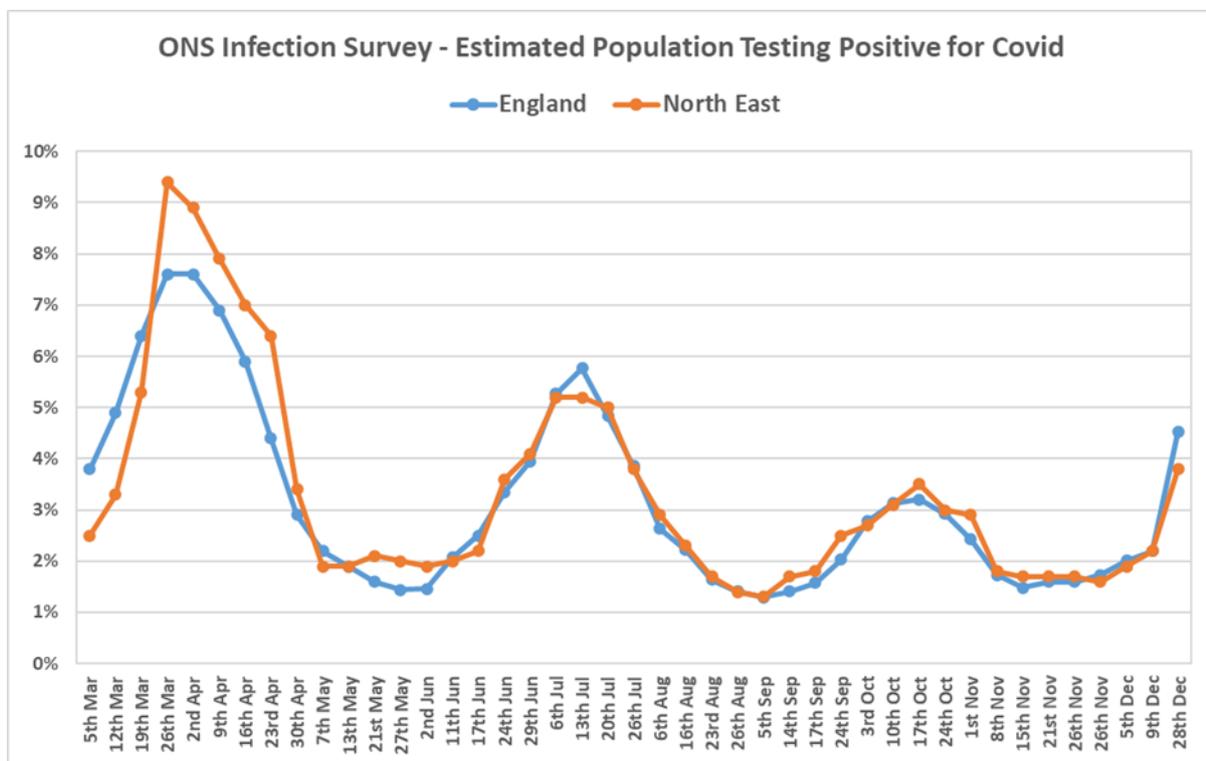
The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities recently announced undertook a series of roadshows announcing their Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) which was announced in September 2022 and is intended to increase the supply of high quality accommodation and support to address gaps in homelessness pathway provision. SHAP will be focussed on areas with high levels of need, specifically where there are adults with a history of rough sleeping who experience multiple deprivation, and Middlesbrough has been identified as such an area.

We are required therefore to undertake a "gap analysis", working with other Council directorates and with partners, to identify areas for development and potential solutions; we intend to work towards submitting a bid to the scheme in advance of the final submission date on 22 February 2023. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Covid Current Picture

- ONS infection survey - (w/e 28th Dec) shows weekly infection rate of 4.5% (1 in 20 people) in England, an increase from previous figure of 2.2%. The North-East increased from 2.2% to 3.8%. South-West was the highest at 5.4%. Trends shown in the graph below.

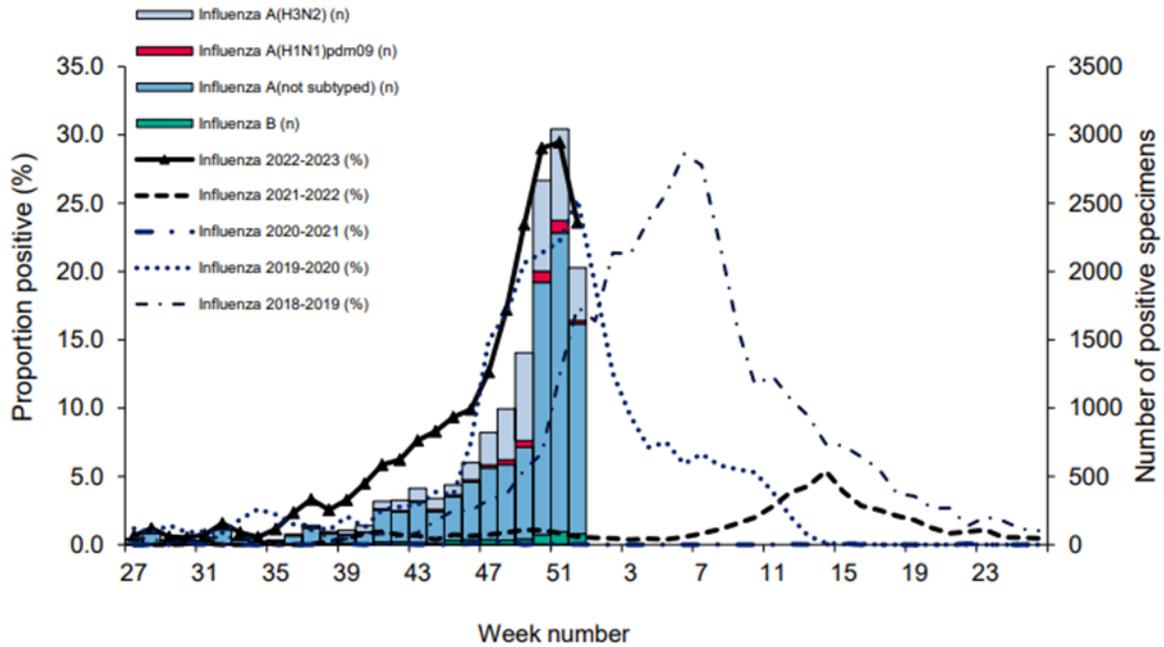
- Variants – Since the end of June 2022, most COVID-19 infections in the UK have been Omicron variant BA.5. One of these BA.5 sub-lineages, BQ.1, has been increasing in recent months. In the week ending 18 December 2022, BQ.1 comprised 56.2%, and other BA.5 variants comprised 12.3%. The variant BA.2.75 and its sub-lineages (that includes XBB which you might have seen in the news) comprised 29.7%.
- Covid Cases - Middlesbrough’s rate was 51 per 100,000 in 7 days to 2nd Jan (up 13% from 45 previous week). This was 93rd highest nationally. Redcar & Cleveland’s rate was 51 per 100,000 (up 40% from 36 previous week) and ranked 92nd highest. The highest rate was in Plymouth at 133 per 100,000. Nationally there has been a 15% decrease in positive cases compared to previous week.
- Hospital Patients - Latest data from South Tees Trust (6th Jan) shows there are 55 Covid positive patients at South Tees Trust, an increase compared to 45 in the previous week. Currently 1 in critical care compared to 2 in the previous week.
- Deaths – There has been 0 Covid deaths in Middlesbrough for the week ending 23rd Dec with a total of 2 Covid deaths in the previous 4 weeks. There has been 0 Covid deaths in Redcar & Cleveland with a total of 0 Covid deaths in the previous 4 weeks.
- Vaccinations – Of those eligible for the seasonal booster the uptake rate for Middlesbrough as of 4th Jan was 57.7% and for Redcar & Cleveland was 64.7% compared to rate of 63.5% across Cumbria & North-East. In Middlesbrough, Holgate PCN was highest with 62.8% and Greater Middlesbrough PCN lowest with 55.1%. In Redcar & Cleveland, East Cleveland PCN was highest with 67.7% and Eston PCN lowest with 59.2%.



Flu Current Picture (some data delayed due to Christmas and New Year)

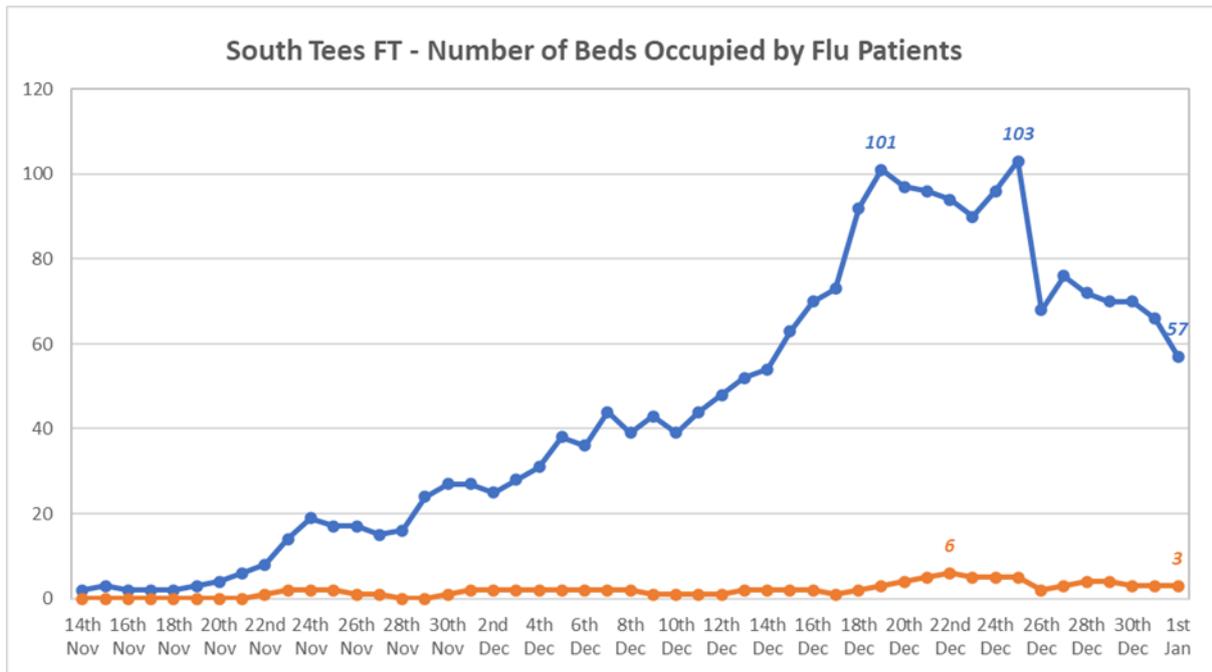
National data shows Influenza swab positivity has remained high. In week 52, influenza positivity decreased to 23.6% compared with 29.4% in week 51; with highest positivity seen in the 15 to 44 years age group at 31.0%. The number of positive specimens for 2022/23 increased above the 2019-20 season but is now at a similar level.

Figure 10: Respiratory DataMart samples positive for influenza and weekly positivity (%) for influenza, England



Through primary care surveillance, the influenza-like-illness consultations indicator increased in week 51, before decreasing in week 52 and remains at medium activity level. Influenza hospital admissions increased in week 51 to very high. The week 50 admissions rate was retrospectively updated to high activity level. The rate decreased in week 52 to the medium activity range. Admissions data is provisional. Influenza admissions were highest in the 85 years and over and 75 to 84 year olds' age groups. Influenza ICU admissions increased in week 51, before decreasing slightly in week 52, remaining within the medium intensity range

Locally the number of flu patients in South Tees Foundation Trust hospitals in general and acute beds peaked on 25th December 2022 with 103 patients, before reducing to 57 on 1st January 2023. Number in critical care beds peaked at 6 patients on 22nd December 2022 and now at 3 patients as of 1st January 2023.



NAME: Councillor David Coupe
 DATE: 10 January 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Stephen Hill

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: *Increase ticket sales at town hall performances*

Update:

As we move into the winter season the Town Hall program has continued to be strong. Highlights for November & December included:

- The Stylistics, who received a warm welcome from a well sold audience.
- Jason Manford, who finished his round of his 'Like Me' tour. We hosted four of these shows both before and after the pandemic, as the tour was put temporarily on hold.
- We welcomed back the Middlesbrough College Graduations to the Hall, and these have already been booked in for the ceremonies of 2023.
- We hosted a comedy version of the Shakespeare classic Macbeth with over 300 attendees.
- Neil Warnock, the former Middlesbrough FC manager, hosted an evening discussing his life and career. The Town Hall staff received some fantastic feedback about the venue & the team from both Neil & the promoters.
- Sara Davies (of Dragons Den and Strictly fame) brought her first tour of 'Crafting Christmas' to the Town Hall, and our team again received lovely feedback via email from Sara herself.
- Garth Marengi- the spoof horror-writing creation of comedian Richard Ayoade- held a book reading and Q&A as part of an eight date tour. Middlesbrough Town Hall was one of only two venues hosting this outside of London.

- “Theatre Go-Round in the Crypt – Christmas Gothic” totalled 156 sales which is our highest total audience figures for a drama in the Crypt since its post-COVID relaunch.
- The Town Hall and Centre Square played host to the annual Christmas reindeer parade and the Festive Orange Pip. This iteration of Orange Pip returned to its traditional home in the Main Hall this year (following a very blustery time in Centre Square last Christmas), growing in scale to also include the Civic Centre Car Park for the first time. Pip attracted thousands of attendees, many of whom also got to enjoy the inaugural, ticketed, Pip After-Party, which was headlined by the Arctic Monkeys tribute band, The Mardy Bums, who well and truly kicked off the festive season in style!
- Less Is More presented A Winters Tail family Christmas show, engaging 409 audience members from ages 0+.
- The Southmartins- supported by local artists Jen Dixon (AIR Project) and SHE (who will be performing in the Crypt for the first time in 2023)- finished the 2022 show programme in the Main Hall at Christmas with over 1000 attendees.
- The New Years Day Royal Northern Sinfonia concert held in the Main Hall attracted over 400 attendees from Middlesbrough and beyond.

Strategic Priority: *Increase visitor numbers to museums and attractions*

Update:

The Dorman Museum and Teesside Archives

The Dorman Museum held its Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th of December. This event saw the VR sleigh ride attract its usual incredibly high number of visitors, selling out well in advance- though the fantastic team did manage to squeeze in as many extra families as possible on the day, to avoid any disappointment.

As part of the weekend, we also hosted Chloe’s Crafts and an elf trail through the museum, which were both very popular with children of all ages, with lots of sparkly creations made throughout the day for the children to take home as a memento of their visit. The elves also added to the experience, interacting with families and posing for plenty of pictures, and helped to welcome a very special guest who came all the way from the North Pole.

In addition to the family fun, our Collections and Archives teams joined together to offer a combined activity, showing a range of material from Teesside’s past Christmases, with the images and photographs providing an added bonus for our slightly older visitors over the weekend.

The festive market which was held in the learning space also went down a treat, with many of the stall holders saying they much preferred it to the temporary gallery space in which it was held last year. All of the stalls made lots of sales, which provided a great

addition to the museum offer, and, as it was volunteer driven, helped to raise funds towards the museum's income.

Teessaurus Park

Happily, the new, accessible play equipment in Teessaurus Park has finally been installed. This, coupled with the ever popular virtual dino trail and freshly painted dinosaurs, is helping to make the park a go-to venue for many Middlesbrough families.

Strategic Priority: *Aim for all children to get an experience of live theatre*

Update:

Musical events

Over the past few months, several activities and concerts have taken place, many of which were designed specifically for children with learning difficulties or other specialised needs, as well as looked after children and children from migrant and ethnic minority families. These included:

- Performances from Cobweb Orchestra, who are now set to feature in our schools Classical Café programme, and who are aiming to provide at least 1 orchestral concert per year in the Town Hall.
- Classical Café for schools performance of The Snowman. This featured the score of The Snowman performed live on the piano, alongside a number of dances from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker. One teacher from Sacred Heart Primary fed-back that their pupils had loved the event, and the school had then built on the performance by holding Snowman related craft sessions.
- On 28th November 360 young people attending our Classical Café for Schools: The Snowman concert. The programme featured the score of The Snowman performed live from the piano as well as a number of dances from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker.
- The Town Hall's first "Big Gig: Rockin' Christmas" event, which was a participatory gig which included festive sing-alongs for children. 600 young people attended from several Middlesbrough schools, including Beverley and Sacred Heart Primary, with feedback from teachers praising the atmosphere, participatory nature and inclusivity of the event.

Play On

Over the past school term, 13 primary-aged young people have been attending "Play On", a new musical instrument club for cello and clarinet tuition, with a focus on classical orchestral music.

These young people have completed their first term of instruction, and shared what they learned in a performance for 20 members of their friends and family, with all of them being very enthusiastic about it.

One child's foster carer commented: "I'm so pleased the sessions are going to continue in the new year, she's got the sparkle back in her eye!"

Strategic Priority: *Implement and extend locality working/ Work with the voluntary sector to create and promote volunteering opportunities and an increase in volunteers.*

Update:

Stronger Communities

Our Stronger Communities team worked together with several partner organisations over the past few months to ensure mothers and babies who are currently seeking asylum received a selection box and were able to attend community events, which allowed the team to identify a particularly vulnerable woman and child in a property, leading to partnership working between our Childrens Social Care team and the NHS.

Our team also organised a Christmas party alongside the Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary Club for Middlesbrough's Ukrainian guests. The party was attended by the local ITV news team who did a feature, and which lead to a BBC Radio 1 interview with one of the families who attended.

The team are also continuing to support a family of 5 Ukrainian refugees who have a child with complex needs. This is in partnership with colleagues in our social care and education teams.

HIGHLIGHTS

- On Christmas Eve, 14 volunteer drivers from Middlesbrough Council and Cleveland Police helped to deliver 393 Christmas dinners to 176 addresses throughout the town. The meals were donated and prepared by The Oven restaurant on Linthorpe Road, with the deliveries being managed by our Stronger Communities team, with three members of the team working all day at The Oven to ensure the deliveries went smoothly. So a huge thank you must go to all of the volunteers and, of course, The Oven, who donated all of the meals and the containers they were delivered in.



Volunteers and staff overseeing deliveries from the Oven.



Two of the volunteers, Alma and Sharon, delivering their meals.

- Our Stronger Communities team won two awards at the annual BME Achievement Awards on the 25th November. The team as a whole won the Public Sector Award, which recognises work undertaken with some of the most vulnerable members of the local community. The team were specifically recognised for always going the extra mile to build strong, resilient communities. One of our apprentices, Gopal Singh, also won the annual apprentice award for his service.



The Stronger Communities team with their Public Sector award.



Gopal Singh collecting his Apprentice-Individual Award.

THE TIME AHEAD

Unfortunately, our Head and Deputy Head of Culture are both leaving the Council this month. Combined, Charlotte Nichol and Leanne Littlewood have given over 2 decades of service to Middlesbrough, and I'd like to personally thank them both and wish them the best of luck in their future careers.

Cllr Stephen Hill
18.01.23

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Barrie Cooper

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

Firstly I would like to remind everyone what my Portfolio Responsibilities are. I have responsibility for ensuring a safer environment for Middlesbrough ensuring Middlesbrough is cleaner and more resilient to a changing climate. This includes:-

- Environment Sustainability
- Refuse, Waste Reduction and Recycling
- Roads and Highways
- Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries.

I'm sure Full Council is well aware of the difficulties we have all faced over the past 24 months and the difficulties we face in 2023 so as this is my First Report to Full Council for 2023 I would like to offer my Heartfelt Thanks to All the Staff for their devotion to duty and hard work.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: Too many to list at every Council Meeting so I intend to select 3 for each meeting.

Today I will report on:-

Flood Management- the use of our gully smart software and continuing proactive working with NWL (Northumbria Water Ltd) and the EA (Environment Agency) has reduced the number of reported flooding incidents throughout Middlesbrough compared to previous years and enabled us to resolve some long standing flood problems including issues at High Rifts and Hartington Interchange. This is a work in progress and I have highlighted Flooding at Acklam Road junction with Cambridge Road, I invite all Councillors to update me with issues in their Wards.

Area Care - Have completed round 3 of the UTCF part funded scheme. This entailed planting the remaining 555 standard sized trees in 8 locations across the borough. Urban Meadow Cutting will be completed this month. The areas will then be prepared for re-sowing in spring 2023. An additional 10,000m² are to be added to next year's programme which will include extensions of some current areas and also some new areas throughout the town.

Winter shrub & hedge pruning will continue throughout the month. Due its age/condition we are currently looking to replace the side arm flail mower, in readiness for the 2023 season. The team have recently installed a Christmas tree at Linthorpe rest gardens, following request by the ward councillor.

Green Strategy - The new community garden at Grove Hill is complete and we have now commenced the next one at Trinity Church North Ormesby (see below picture). The consortium bid for hydrogen vehicles and fuelling stations across Tees Valley has now been submitted by the consultants.

A number of tree planting events have been held with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust as part of National Tree Week including sites at Bluebell beck, Middlemarsh and Marton West beck.



HIGHLIGHTS

Bus Station - After an audit in early December 2022 with the Police and Ryan Davey from Safer Bus Station and Car Parks. We achieved the levels to be awarded the Safer Bus Station Award.

There is a lot of work that goes into making the Bus Station a safe place. This includes the security the street wardens and the cleaning staff who on a daily basis deal with all types of incidents and requests from the public.

The management within the Bus Station pull all these services together to deliver a safe environment for the stakeholders and users of this facility.

Crematorium - Maria Brancati was nominated and crowned the 2022 Grave Digger of the Year award at the national Good Funeral Guide Awards.

Maria was nominated and won as she was recognised by Funeral/Bereavement experts given her integrity and passion to ensure dignity and respect for a deceased. Maria has helped break down barriers and concepts and is the first female winner of the award.

Built Asset/Property Services - Built Asset were involved in the Installation of new heating boilers that supply Municipal Buildings and Middlesbrough Bus station to provide assistance to Design services where required. Both properties had boilers installed which were at the end of life and required urgent replacement and this was carried out between November and December to improve the ability to provide comfortable temperatures to

the buildings for staff and visitors. This was completed in time and with no impact to the service users. Property Services also installed a new electrical heating system to the main Fleet workshops at Resolution house which involved a new electrical supply and a mixture of wall mounted heaters and also heaters suspended from workshop roof beams to provide infra-red heating to strategic working areas for mechanics. This project was completed in the programmed 6 weeks from ordering materials to completion of electrical certification.

Winter maintenance-

I continue to receive daily updates on our roads and how they are affected by the Winter Weather.

We have a good supply of Road Treatment Salt in preparation for the forecasted February 2023 weather.

Our Drivers are ready for any challenging conditions but mostly the reports summarise as

- **No Hazards for Rain resulting in Ice, Snowfall, Black Ice, Hoar Frost**

Occasionally I receive the following:-

Planned action for Day / Date / Time. Road Type: Roads Route Type: Primary

Decision: Treatment Only

Treatment type: Curative

Coverage: Full Routes

Ploughs: No

Chemical: Chemical: Dry salt (NaCl), Amount: 20

Comments:

RST's below forecast temperatures and update showing ice hazards on high routes.

We keep our roads safe but I invite all drivers to alter their driving standards to be appropriate to the driving conditions.

THE TIME AHEAD

I have meetings scheduled for 2023 with the North East Regional Coast and Flood Committee, Climate Action Group and Environment City.

I also intend to continue Ward Walkabouts with any Ward or Parish Councillor that feels they have Environmental issues to discuss in their area of responsibility.

NAME: Councillor Barrie Cooper

DATE: 09/01/2023

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Finance and Governance

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

Update:

- 1.1. Since our last meeting held on 30th November 2022, we have progressed with the public consultation of the 2023/24 budget saving proposals and public feedback is being collated.
- 1.2. In conjunction with the public consultation, I have met with group leaders of almost all political groups at this stage to obtain whatever feedback might exist on the saving proposals presented and in particular to facilitate a dialogue between executive and group structures on what level of council tax rise would be politically acceptable as well as pragmatically acceptable when considering the intertwined issues of council resource requirements and residents whom may already be struggling financially. Feedback and discussions have been useful, and I intend to continue this dialogue.
- 1.3. As I mentioned in my previous report, on the 17th November the Chancellor announced in his autumn budget statement that councils were allowed to raise the overall council tax collection from 2.99% (including the adult social care precept) to 4.99%. Since this time the government have also announced provisional settlement for local councils. Whilst overall the settlement figures represent a 9% increase from the previous year for all councils, the specific impact on Middlesbrough Council is being analysed by council officers to incorporate within our MTFP. Some of the challenge of additional income as I understand it is that some grants (and any increase within those grants) are essentially ringfenced and any increase cannot necessarily be utilised to reduce budget savings, although the full impact of the provisional settlement is yet to be determined.
- 1.4. Regardless of the increase, my view is that the funding of social care in general is still a fundamental challenge for Middlesbrough Council for a variety of

factors, including the lack of adequate funding from central government which ultimately appears to have little relationship with demand and cost drivers.

- 1.5. During the time from our last meeting some progress has been made on the governance improvement plan however due to the Christmas break and the shorter meeting date of this meeting there are no material updates to provide at this stage other than to confirm that we are progressing with the journey, and this is detailed further in the governance plan improvement report contained within this agenda pack.
- 1.6. I am keen in my role to be as front footed as possible to understand and where possible plan for fundamental issues before they arise. With this in mind I have had a pay briefing from council officers regarding national pay negotiations which are occurring for 2023/24. As members may be aware, for the year 2022/23 the final pay settlement was a flat pro-rata increase of £1,925 which was backdated to April 2022. For the next year, national negotiations on potential pay increases have commenced with inflation in particular being a foundation upon which unions are making their representations for pay increases. Depending upon the outcome, the result could have a significant impact on our MTFP and as such this is a subject I am closely monitoring providing feedback on via the official channels which remain open to us.
- 1.7. On the 14th December I held a single member executive decision on 3 items – approving the annual equality and exclusion report, approving the surveillance policy and finally approving the corporate food poverty policy. The new policy provides an holistic approach in line with our welfare strategy to residents seeking support and significantly improves the councils links with voluntary groups who are vital partners in ensuring not only that our strategic goals are delivered but in ensuring that residents in need have the best possible support when they ask for assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS

On Friday 6th January I met with an assessor from CSE to discuss an application submitted by the Revenues and Benefits services within Resident and Business Support successfully for Customer Service Excellence accreditation.

It is with great delight that I can announce that following our assessment day on Friday we have received confirmation from Hugh Keachie that we have maintained our CSE accreditation, and that he is recommending that we receive approval for 11 separate Compliance-Plus elements.

This is a testament to the brilliant work performed by this team over a challenging few years. Even when the resources of this team are being utilised by the various central government supports which have been made available to residents they have been continuously learning and using their experience to help inform policy on forward thinking items such as the welfare strategy.

NAME Councillor Stefan Walker

DATE 9 January 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: Reward and champion individuals for being good neighbours

Update:

I'm really happy to let members know that we have had our first winners of the Good Neighbour Award.

The very worthy winners included Freddie and Irene McCormick from Marton Manor. The pair pick litter across south Middlesbrough five times a week as well as volunteer in the local café.

Sarah Golding and Hannah Hawkins were also acknowledged for developing local drop off points for donations and assistance for Ukrainian refugees.

One of the objectives of the Good Neighbour Award is to celebrate good news stories from across Middlesbrough. It is also to highlight the good in the town and shine a light on residents who help make a difference.

I encourage all councillors to nominate residents in their ward who are making a difference. We've had exceptional winners so far, but would like to receive a wide selection of nominations.

Google Middlesbrough Council Good Neighbour Awards or follow this link to nominate someone: [Good Neighbour Awards | Middlesbrough Council](#)

Strategic Priority: More environmental action and punishment for fly tipping

Update: Fly tipping has received a lot of publicity in recent months.

Publicly sharing posts, like the ones included in this report have multiple benefits. They show Middlesbrough residents that the council and police are being proactive and fly tippers are being brought to justice. It also deters future fly tippers from offending as they can also be made 'infamous' due to social media

I ask all councillors to share these social media posts and promote the good work done by the council. Encourage residents to confidentially pass on vehicle registrations to the police or council. With evidence, action can be taken against perpetrators.



Neighbourhood Safety Overview

To support the work of the Neighbourhood Safety wardens we have a team of 6 dedicated Neighbourhood Safety Officers who take positive action against perpetrators, and adopt a problem solving approach to tackle issues that present within their ward areas. Since the last report the Neighbourhood Safety Officers **engaged/ supported 136 victims of Anti-Social Behaviour across the borough**. The team have progressed several actions against perpetrators of Anti-Social Behaviour and some examples of this work can be seen below. In the reporting period the team have carried out in excess of **700 actions** within communities. **This includes 9 cases for the PSPO being progressed to court** for breaches of the order, several successful youth Civil Injunction applications and four applications for adults causing issues in and around the town centre. A persistent beggar appeared at Teesside Crown Court on the 10/01/2022 where he received a two month custodial sentence.

The Neighbourhood Safety Service in the reporting period have **dealt with 2478 service requests**. The leading category for the service area for this month was reports of **ASB at 899 reports**. **Fly tipping/ dumped material with 733 service requests is the second highest demand on the service area**. We dealt with in excess of **200 requests for service relating to untaxed and abandoned vehicles**. We also responded to **120 requests for service relating to stray dogs/ animal related issues**.

The Environmental Wardens have issued a total of 12 fixed penalty notices in the month for environmental related offences. The team have also issued a total of 9 Community Protection Notice warnings and one full Community Protection Notice. Work has commenced to support Teesside University to improve the general environment and take action against private residents who are effecting the general environment close to the university. A new bating programme has commenced in areas where rodents have been prevalent. **The Environmental Wardens also removed a total of 30 vehicles from Middlesbrough roads for them being untaxed or abandoned.** As part of their roles the team also act as the authorities stray dog warden and we responded to in excess of 100 stray dogs and **recovered 9 stray dogs that were taken to our kennel provider.**

The Neighbourhood Safety Wardens issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to motorists who break the rules. The Council enforces waiting and loading restrictions to:

- Improve road safety
- Reduce congestion
- Support the local economy
- Improve access to public transport
- Reduce commuter parking in residential areas
- Improve accessibility for people with disabilities

PCN's Issued 2022-23	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
	1124	764	653	583	694	676	761	699	420				6374

Middlesbrough Council
17 December 2022 at 09:57

The persistence and professionalism of a Middlesbrough street warden has been commended after she saved a stricken elderly woman trapped in her flat.

Responding to a call from a concerned GP after a missed appointment, Liz and colleague Alan Kelly were tasked to a property off Linthorpe Road but quickly found the 89-year-old resident wasn't answering her buzzer.

Trying neighbours and the building management, Liz managed to gain entry to the building and persevered at the w... [See more](#)



Middlesbrough Council
11 December 2022 at 09:11

Idiotic fly-tippers who were caught red-handed dumping rubbish in Middlesbrough have received £400 fines.

The brazen law-breakers were either caught on camera or left their details in the goods they dumped in separate incidents at Ayresome Park Road and Exchange Walk.

This allowed investigators to track them down... [See more](#)





Middlesbrough Council
19 December 2022 at 13:50 · 🌐

The seizure of an untaxed vehicle in Middlesbrough has led to a haul of illicit tobacco being seized by Middlesbrough Trading Standards.

The untaxed vehicle, a Volkswagen Passat, was discovered on Acton Street in Middlesbrough town centre by Neighbourhood Safety Wardens last month.

After being removed, the vehicle was inspected and found to contain more than 5,600 illicit cigarettes and 1.5kg of illicit hand rolling tobacco.... See more



Middlesbrough Council
17 December 2022 at 18:04 · 🌐

A house has been closed down in relation to alleged drug dealing and disorder after partnership work between the council, Cleveland Police and the local community.

Officers had received 38 reports since September regarding incidents at a property on Meath Street and two occupants have now left.

It follows a successful application at Teesside Crown Court this week. ... See more



DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Action Plan

Town Centre ASB & Crime Action Plan

- Funding secured to deliver ASB & Crime Action Plan approved (£1,962,000)
- New dedicated Town Centre Enforcement Team will be live February 2023:
- 12 Town Centre Enforcement Officers
- 1 x Town Centre Enforcement Manager
- 3 x Police Officers (3x pairs of boots on the ground, paid for when they are there only) by April 2023
- Working 8am – 8pm Monday to Sunday
- 8 staff out every day: 4 Officers between 8 am – 11 am, 8 Officers between 11 am – 5 pm and 4 Officers between 5 pm – 8 pm
- PSPO in TS1 is now extended for 3 years and includes bin rummaging and 'chugging' - when those without a proper licence ask people to donate money or sign up to charitable schemes
- Funding will cover the cost of 2 years membership of the Middlesbrough Retail Crime Partnership (MRCP) for 100 town centre businesses

Town Centre ASB & Crime Action Plan

- 'Make your spare change count' campaign relaunched – aimed at encouraging the public to give directly to local organisations and charities that support homeless people in Middlesbrough ([Small Change | Middlesbrough Council](#))
- Investigating the availability of cheap alcohol:
 - Visits have been made to 36 off licence premises in the town centre
 - A Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) has been in place for off licence premises in the town centre since 2015 – all new

premises have conditions on their licences which prohibit the sale of high strength products with an ABV above 6.5%.

- Proposal to continue with the CIP policy – consultation to start in February 2023.
- Review of the licence for 22-24 Princes Road which resulted in the revocation of their licence.
- Objections to an application to extend the opening hours for Morrison’s Local, Corporation Road. Hearing on 10th Jan.
- Successful funding bid for a street audit to be carried out to identify rough sleeping locations, types of alcohol products consumed (through litter and visuals) and potentially the off licences which are selling them.

Town Centre ASB & Crime Action Plan

- New CCTV installed in the town centre and Middlesbrough Council has been successful in securing funding to provide an additional CCTV Operative for the nighttime economy. This is in place until the end of March 2023 and covers from 6pm to 6am Thursday through to Sunday/ Early hours of Monday morning
- Town Centre ASB & Crime Grant Fund launched: businesses can apply for up to £2,000 to put new initiatives in place to tackle causes of anti-social behaviour
- Establishing a new NTE Board and appointing a Place Management Specialist to carry out NTE audit
- New marketing and communications plan for town centre (launching January 23 – December 24) to:
 - Change perceptions - alter the conversation - disrupt the narrative
 - Support new and established businesses through increased footfall and spend
 - Attract more investment

THE TIME AHEAD

Neighbourhood Watch. As a council we are linking with Neighbourhood Watch nationally. There are neighbourhood watches running across Middlesbrough at present and we are hoping to introduce more across the town. Further details will be given at the next meeting. There are existing Neighbourhood Watch schemes across Middlesbrough and councillors are encouraged to join a local neighbourhood watch and to promote it. Councillors are also encouraged to find suitable residents who may wish to start a neighbourhood watch scheme.

Cllr Tony Grainge

18/1/23

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Eric Polano, Executive Member for Regeneration

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: *Open three entertainment facilities within Captain Cook Square*

Update: The lighting works to the main square and the link between the centre and the car park have now been completed. This work sits alongside the public realm works that were recently completed, with new seating, bins and improvements to the facades. Further work will also be undertaken in the spring to clad the façade of the bus station to provide a better frontage facing onto the square. The first operators should be open by the end of February, with others following throughout the spring and summer, with an official launch currently being planned. In terms of security, management arrangements between the Cleveland Centre and Captain Cook Square have been merged to provide greater physical presence and improved CCTV coverage. The opening hours of the car park will also be extended from the current 7pm to cover evenings once the leisure operators start to open, with additional security presence to accompany this.

Strategic Priority: *St Hilda's housing starts around the Old Town Hall*

Update: The first 17 units of the Boho Village housing scheme at Middlehaven have been completed and handed over to North Star Housing Association. The first tenants have moved into the units, with others lined up to receive their keys as the remaining 44 units are completed by April 2023. The development represents the first phase of new housing at St Hilda's that will ultimately see over 500 new homes constructed.

DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

Directorate Priority: *Market the premium housing sites at Nunthorpe Grange and Newham Hall*

Update: The Council has entered into an agreement with Homes England with a view to collaborating on the long term development of the Newham Hall housing site. The site, which is allocated in the Local Plan for 1,000 new homes will require significant infrastructure investment to bring it forward, and Homes England will seek to bring in both

funding and expertise to enable this to happen - in partnership with the Council. Homes England are currently undertaking the necessary due diligence on the site to enable a masterplan to be prepared, and infrastructure to be designed – ahead of any plans coming forward for Planning. It is anticipated that plans will be available for public consultation later in 2023.

Directorate Priority: *Commence programme of investment at Middlesbrough Station and the areas around it*

Update: Work is due to commence in the next few weeks to complete the physical improvements at Exchange Square. The area exposed / disrupted by the demolition of the former Slam nightclub will be repaved to blend in with the recently completed public realm works. Further work has also commenced on the Bloom and former Chequers nightclub buildings, that will take the number of buildings restored in the area to four once complete. Work on the overall restoration of buildings is expected to be complete by March 2024.

Directorate Priority: *Develop central Middlehaven for commercial space (Boho X)*

Update: After much delay, the Council has been provided with dates for the connection of the power supply at Boho X. The current national backlog with Northern Power Grid had delayed the expected completion of the works at Boho X, as the permanent power supply is critical to the completion and commissioning of the mechanical and electrical infrastructure in the building. This should enable the contractors to complete their work on site, with an overall completion date likely to be around May.

HIGHLIGHTS

Housing Growth Performance

The Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon sites at Hemlington Grange continue to perform extremely well, with completions, sales and values all exceeding expectations. The increase in values achieved will provide the Council with a financial boost, as overage agreements capture any uplift from the values included in the original 'pre-development' appraisal. The Hemlington North site is also due to go on the market in January for the development of a further 40 units of affordable housing. Progress at other sites such as Bracken Grange (Brackenhoe) are also driving excellent performance against the annual targets for housebuilding, with a year to date figure of 405 against an annual target of 450.

THE TIME AHEAD

Reports are being brought forward for consideration by the Council's Executive on 24th January regarding:

- Middlesbrough Development Company
- Disposal of Site L at Coulby Newham
- Purchase of a Town Centre Asset

Eric Polano

9th January 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Young Adults and Democratic Engagement

DATE OF MEETING: 18 January 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority 1: To increase levels of Youth Engagement across the town on a wide range of issues and ensure that ideas and concerns raised by young people are at the forefront of everything that we do as a Council.

Update: Work continues to engage with young people across the town. I have begun visiting schools throughout Middlesbrough, discussing a wide variety of topics depending on the respective age of the children/ young people. For younger students, much of the discussion has centered around the importance of participating within school council and the importance of following ambitions/ aspirations. For some of the older students discussions have mostly focused on some key issues locally and nationally such as the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on education.

When considering young people's priorities in the town currently, there appears to be a correlation with the current national trend. The environment and mental health consistently feature as some of the greatest concerns for young people. This is further echoed in discussions with our MYPs (Members of Youth Parliament) who have also identified similar concerns.

The Council continues to move towards making Middlesbrough Council a Carbon Neutral organisation by 2029 and making Middlesbrough as a town net Carbon Neutral 10 years later. If members wish to know more about how this will be done, I would encourage them to peruse our Green Strategy. Poor Mental health is an issue which has only been on the increase in recent years and nationally we need to do more. At a local level, the Council remains committed to directing residents towards appropriate resources and further guidance can be found on our website.

DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

Directorate Priority 1: To consider how we might boost political and democratic participation across the town by ensuring residents have the opportunity to take part in consultations and are aware of them. In addition, the Council is consistently encouraging residents to register to vote and consider standing in elections themselves.

Update: The current budget proposals went out for public consultation on November 30th 2022 and will continue for a Seven week period to ensure all members of the public have the opportunity to comment on the current proposals. A summary regarding the level of response and nature of suggestions will be provided in the next full Council report. I would like to encourage all members to inform residents of this process and be sure to put forward their own thoughts and ideas as soon as possible- the more input we have on the budget the better.

Regarding the recent annual canvass undertaken by the Council the following data is now available:

Total Properties Canvassed: 60732
Properties receiving a personal visit: 13606
Total households reporting a change: 7180
Total electors added: 5716
Total electors deleted: 6805

This data shows the importance of our annual canvass. It enables us as a local authority to update our register and confirm who is living at a given property. It also provides us with the opportunity to get people placed onto the electoral register so they are eligible to vote.

Members have recently received an update regarding the Elections Act and some notable upcoming changes. If members of the public wish for a more extensive update then please contact myself or our electoral services department. The key point to note however is that Voter ID will now be required at all future elections and a national campaign was launched on Monday 9th January to raise awareness of this fact. We as an authority will also be launching a variety of campaigns targeting local residents and stakeholders in the coming months.

HIGHLIGHTS

I recently had the pleasure of visiting several of our Community Learning hubs which offer a range of fantastic services. Lingfield Choosing Pathways is aimed at 16-19 year olds and helps provide a wide variety of qualifications and skills ranging from Maths and English qualifications to employability, personal and social development. Our Multi Media exchange enables adults to gain vital skills necessary to succeed in the world of work. It was truly brilliant to meet so many Council staff who genuinely care for those they teach. They are helping to make such a huge difference to both the lives of the individuals who are taking part and to Middlesbrough as a town.

THE TIME AHEAD

Moving forward, my intention is to continue actively engaging with young people across the town by visiting schools and colleges and ensuring the thoughts and concerns of our young people are directly considered in all decisions the Council makes. Young people fundamentally have just as much a stake in the success of our town and wider area as anyone, and sadly too often their ideas are not given the consideration they deserve.

In addition to this the Council will begin to develop a range of initiatives to help mitigate some of the challenges which will invariably arise due to changes in national legislation surrounding upcoming elections. We as members also have a role to play in this and we need to actively start promoting these changes through our social media forums and when canvassing.

As a final note, members may also be aware that there is an upcoming information session for prospective Councillor Candidates on Wednesday 25th January. This should be a hugely beneficial session for anyone wishing to become a Councillor and potentially considering standing in the upcoming May election. It would be appreciated if members could help relay this information to residents.

NAME Luke Mason
DATE 10/01/23

This page is intentionally left blank



EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
06/12/2022	Executive	Cost-of-living Crisis	The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of activity to mitigate, as far as is reasonably possible within the Council's limited resources, the impact of the cost-of living crisis on residents, businesses and council employees	No
06/12/2022	Executive	Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2023/24	This report is part of the process to set the council tax base for the financial year 2023/24 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2023.	Yes
06/12/2022	Executive	Exchange House – Disposal (PART A) and (PART B)	The purpose of the report is to seek Executive approval to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in Exchange House.	Yes
06/12/2022	Executive	Residential Block Contract (PART A) and (PART B)	To seek Executive agreement to publish a VEAT notice notifying the market of our intention to award a 5 year, with the option to extend for a further 5 years, block contract in respect of a new 3 bedded home opening in Middlesbrough.	Yes
06/12/2022	Executive	Urgent Report – Capital Strategy	1. Consider the current position on the capital strategy for	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			2022/23. 2. Endorse the change being proposed on Minimum Revenue Provision and make any comments on this prior to submission to Full Council.	
14/12/2022	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Annual Diversity and Inclusion report 2021	The report presents the Council's Equality and Inclusion report 2020-2021 and asks the Executive Member to agree a number of actions to improve outcomes for local communities and the Council's workforce	No
14/12/2022	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Surveillance Policy 2022/23	The report seeks approval of the proposed Surveillance Policy 2022/23	No
14/12/2022	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Corporate Food Poverty Policy	The report seeks approval for adoption of the Corporate Food Poverty Policy	Yes



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

There are no decisions to be taken during this time period

This page is intentionally left blank

SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
24 Jan 2023	Executive	Approval for consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-2027 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	This report seeks Executive approval for the draft Statement of Licensing Act Policy 2022-27 for a period of consultation to be undertaken. It sets out the proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy 2022-27 and the proposed Cumulative Impact Assessment which support the Cumulative Impact Policies in the town.	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	Middlesbrough Development Company	To consider the next steps for the Council's Housing Delivery Vehicle in light of recent guidance.	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Site L (North) Coulby Newham – Disposal [Part B]	This report advises on the proposal to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in Site L (North)	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	Site L (North) Coulby Newham – Disposal [Part A]	This report advises on the proposal to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in Site L (North)	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	2022-2024 Community Safety Plan	Executive approves the content and priorities of the 2022-24 Community Safety Plan.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
24 Jan 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - The Crown Property Purchase	Approval required to spend over 150k purchasing a key town centre asset.	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	EXEMPT Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC) Day Service Contract – Future Commissioning Part B	This report seeks approval to enter into a new contract with a key provider of day opportunities until 31st March 2026 with the potential full term to 31st March 2030. The primary reason for this recommendation is to provide consistency of service to current attendees, whilst achieving a better financial agreement under a block contract rather than spot purchasing, in addition to providing financial assurance to a key provider. The Executive decision is required due to the financial commitment required by entering into a block contracting arrangement.	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - In-House Fostering - Part B	To present an invest to save proposal in relation to increasing the band payments made to in-house foster carers in order to ensure retention of and increase recruitment of new carers in order to meet our sufficiency demands and reduce reliance on external fostering and residential placements for our children looked after.	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	In-House Fostering - Part A	To present an invest to save proposal in relation to increasing the band payments made to in-house foster carers in order to ensure retention of and increase recruitment of new carers in order to meet our sufficiency demands and reduce reliance on external fostering and residential placements for our children looked after.	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	Re-procurement of a Bereavement and Suicide Postvention Support Service (South Tees)	To seek approval for Middlesbrough Council to undertake re-procurement for a Bereavement and Suicide Postvention Support Service with a view to commence 1st April 2023 for a period of 3 years with an option to extend dependant on funding.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
24 Jan 2023	Executive	Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC) Day Service Contract – Futures Commissioning	The proposed contract from April 2023 requires a Key Decision due to the financial commitment required	Yes
24 Jan 2023	Executive	Final Report of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel - The Role of the VCS in Supporting Adult Social Care - Service Response	TBC	Yes
9 Feb 2023	Executive Member for Regeneration	Transport and Infrastructure 2023/24 Capital Programme	To gain approval to develop and deliver the proposed projects associated with the Local Transport Plan allocation.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	FEBRUARY Report Manager Test	Test Workflow	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Tees Valley Waste Report	To seek approval for MBC to enter with seven other councils a Special Purpose Vehicle company in order to manage the Tees Valley energy recovery facility that will be responsible for the disposal of Middlesbrough municipal waste.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Adult Social Care: Respite Charging	Review of the charging policy for respite care services	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Special and Educational Needs and Disabilities	Request to have a Local Government Association SEND Peer Review	No
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Asset Disposal Business Case for Special Free School for Neurodiverse children	Business Case to be presented to seek decision on proposal to lease land on Stainsby Road to the Department for Education to build a Special Free School	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Tender Pipeline 2023/24	Report to present Middlesbrough Council's tender pipeline for 2023/24 in order to seek Executive agreement for the tender publication and award if appropriate.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Breastfeeding Borough Declaration	to outline summary of a proposed local authority declaration on breastfeeding also known as 'Breastfeeding Boroughs'.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Nunthorpe Community Centre	Approval required to spend over 150k developing a new asset at Nunthorpe.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Refugee Resettlement	To seek agreement to resettle 5 families per year, being a mixture of ARAP/ACRS and UKRS.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Newham Hall - Collaboration with Homes England - Part B	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Newham Hall - Collaboration with Homes England - Part A	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Corporate Performance Report: Quarter Three 2022/23	To review the corporate performance of Q3	Yes
14 Feb 2023	Executive	Healthy Weight Declaration Adoption	This report outlines the purpose and process of signing up to the Healthy Weight Declaration in Middlesbrough.	Yes
7 Mar 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Expansion of the Digital Sector - Boho 11 Part B	To seek approval for the capital funding to progress with the expansion of the digital sector in Middlesbrough through the development and delivery of Boho 11.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Expansion of the Digital Sector - Boho 11 Part A	To seek approval for the capital funding to progress with the expansion of the digital sector in Middlesbrough through the development and delivery of Boho 11.	Yes
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park – Phase 2 Funding Agreement	Executive to approval an additional 1.5 million pounds of capital which will be repaired through retention through business rates of the enterprize zones site.	Yes
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Middlehaven - Electricity Reinforcement Works	The report is seeking approval from Executive for funding to facilitate the upgrade of electricity provision in Middlehaven.	Yes
		Adult Social Care Reform Update (Date TBA)	To update Executive of local progress against central government's Adult Social Care reform agenda and the planned commencement of inspections of Adult Social Care by the Care Quality Commission in 2023	Yes

This page is intentionally left blank

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
------------------------------	--

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
-------------------	--

Submitted to:	Council
----------------------	---------

Date:	18 January 2023
--------------	-----------------

Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
---------------	--------------------------

Report for:	Information
--------------------	-------------

Status:	Public
----------------	--------

Strategic priority:	All
----------------------------	-----

Key decision:	No
----------------------	----

Why:	Not applicable
-------------	----------------

Urgent:	No
----------------	----

Why:	Not applicable
-------------	----------------

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

Purpose

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

Background and relevant information

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 13 December 2022.

At that meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Work Programme;
- Executive Member Update (Regeneration)

- Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected outturn position at Quarter 2 2022/23
- Corporate Performance update – Quarter 2 2022/23
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.

SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES

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

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

4. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel last met on 30 November 2022.

5. Members received updates from:

- the Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) regarding the Annual Report 2021/22 and the Strategic Plan 2022-25;
- the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration regarding the Integration of Health and Social Care; and
- the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration and the Head of Resident and Business Support regarding the impact of the energy and cost of living crises on caring for vulnerable adults.

6. The Scrutiny Panel's next meeting is scheduled to take place on 8 February 2023. At this meeting, Members will receive updates regarding the Integration of Health and Social Care; Residential Care and Domiciliary Care Packages; and The Recruitment and Retention of Staff Within Adult Social Care (previous investigation).

Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

7. The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel last met on 12 December 2022.

8. At the meeting, the Scrutiny Panel continued gathering evidence in respect of its current review of 'Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools' and the Head of South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) was in attendance to provide information on the barriers to young people in the youth justice system engaging in education.

9. The Scrutiny Panel heard that young people involved in the youth justice system have often experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences and consequently, there can be numerous and complex reasons contributing to a child not attending school or being excluded. At the meeting, information was received on the work undertaken by the STYJS (in partnership with other agencies) to support those with drug or alcohol issues, those vulnerable to exploitation and those with the most complex needs.

10. The Scrutiny Panel's next meeting is scheduled to take place on 16 January 2023. At this meeting, Members will receive evidence to demonstrate how the STYJS works with schools in Middlesbrough to:

- react swiftly and firmly to early signs of criminal behaviour;
- promote engagement in the education system;
- improve attendance;
- prevent exclusions (fixed-term and permanent);
- improve attainment; and
- deliver well-targeted educational support.

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

11. The Panel last met on 20 December 2022. The meeting was attended by the Voice and Influence Manager and the Communications and Engagement Officer who advised the Panel about the work being undertaken by Middlesbrough's Participation Team.
12. Several care experienced young people also attended the meeting to speak to Members about their own experiences in terms of the support they received, or had received, in preparing for adulthood and independence, including their goals and aspirations.
13. The Panel's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 17 January 2023. Arrangements are underway for the Panel to be provided with further information regarding its current scrutiny topic and the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services will be in attendance to provide an update in relation to the findings of the Ofsted Monitoring Visit undertaken in November 2022.

Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

14. The Culture and Communities Panel met on Thursday 17 November 2022 and received further information into off road bikes by Chief inspector Wendy Tinkler (Cleveland Police) and Chief inspector Jon Hagan (Redcar and Cleveland). The panel had an indepth discussion about ways to assist the police in raising awareness of the dangers of off road bikes.
15. The panel also met on 15 December 2022 in the Dorman Museum, where they received their first evidence session on the museum service. The panel also receives a tour of the galleries and exhibition spaces.
16. The date of the next meeting of the panel is 26 January 2023.

Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

21. The Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel met on 9 November and 8 December 2022. The Panel received a Flood Risk Management update and discussed the future Work Programme at the November meeting.
22. Councillor Arundale was appointed as Chair, and Councillor Saunders as Vice Chair of the Panel, at a Council meeting held on 30 November 2022.
23. At the December meeting the Director of Environment and Community Services gave a presentation on School Transport. Members were advised of the legislation in place, the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, the annual cost and the current challenges the service faced. Members acknowledged that an incredible amount of work was taking place daily to ensure Middlesbrough children were able to get to school.
24. The Panel also received a presentation in relation to Phase 1 of the Linthorpe Road Cycleway and details of the uptake to date. It was anticipated that Phase 2 of the scheme would commence in 2023/2024 and the Panel asked for an update in a year's time.
25. Councillor J Thompson had made a site visit to Teesside Crematorium and provided her feedback to the Panel.
26. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 10.30 am.

Health Scrutiny Panel

27. The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 13 December 2022. The Panel received information from representatives of NHS England regarding its ongoing review into Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19. For example, prior to Covid-19, 88% of commissioned dental capacity was being delivered and was seen as meeting demand. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic had added significant pressures to dentists' ability to deliver treatment, especially considering increased safety mitigations. These meant that a routine 15-minute appointment was extended by up to 60 minutes, a situation that has led to dental services having to reduce patient backlogs.
28. A wider challenge facing dental services concerned difficulties in recruiting staff, especially in areas of higher deprivation. The Covid-19 Pandemic had both upstream and downstream effects on this, with older dental professional taking a step back from frontline services while undergraduate dental students lost up to a year of clinical experience.
29. The Panel heard that various initiatives were underway to try and resolve the issues being faced, such as contractual reforms.
30. The Panel also received an update regarding the Acklam Road site of the Foundations Medical Practice. The Panel heard that Foundations provided specialist misuse contracts, including the Diamorphine Assisted Treatment programme. This service supported a relatively low number of patients compared to General Practices, however such patients had complex needs.
31. The Panel heard that due to various contractual changes there had been an initial extension to the contract until March 2023, but that notice had been served on all Foundations Contracts. Work was being undertaken to secure a new provider for the service. A temporary contract extension had been agreed by both the Council and ICB until 2024. A new provider will be agreed by September 2023 who will then take over the contract to deliver services from 2024. Importantly, the Panel heard that there was to be no disruption to patients and that the services seemed more secure going forward.
32. The date of the Panel's next meeting was scheduled for 17 January 2023.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

33. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (TVJHSC) met on 16 December 2022.
34. At its meeting on the 16 December 2022 the Committee considered the following:-
 - Winter Planning, Integrated Urgent Care Engagement, Vaccination and Primary Care Access – Update
 - North East Ambulance Service Performance Update
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - Quality Account Q2 Update
 - Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust - CQC Inspection Update
 - Work Programme

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

35. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 14 October 2022.
36. At its meeting on the 14 October the Committee considered the following:-
 - The appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Group update from Helen Kemp Director of Business Skills;

- A discussion took place on TVCA,s investment plan which the Cabinet had asked the group to look. This was completed and passed back to Cabinet for consideration at their meeting on 28th October;
- Presentation on Culture;
- Date of next meeting – 12 January 2023.

SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE

37. Since the last update to Council, there has not been any Final Scrutiny reports submitted to Executive.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

38. That Council note the report.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

39. The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

40. That an update on the work of the scrutiny function is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for updates on the scrutiny function, to be reported to full Council.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

41. The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.

Strategic priorities and risks

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

Risk No	Risk Description	Impact
O8-054	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.	If updates on the work of the scrutiny function were not provided to Council, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

43. The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.

Financial

44. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
------------------------------	---

Report of:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance Director of Finance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	18 January 2023
Title:	Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2023/24
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £150,000 and have a significant impact in two or more wards
Urgent:	No
Why:	

Executive summary	
<p>The Council has a legal obligation to calculate a council tax base each financial year. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and as such must be agreed by Full Council. This report is to set the council tax base for the financial year 2023/24 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2023.</p> <p>The report requests that the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the contents of the report • Approves the council tax base for 2023/24 as 35,749 • Approves 2,269 and 1,319 as the council tax bases for the parishes of Nunthorpe and Stainton & Thornton respectively for 2023/24 	

- Following approval, agrees to notify the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority, and the Parish Councils of the 2023/24 council tax base

Purpose

1. This report is to set the council tax base for the financial year 2023/24 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2023.

Background and relevant information

2. The Council has a legal obligation to calculate a council tax base each financial year. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and as such must be agreed by Full Council.
3. The starting point for the calculation of the 2023/24 tax base is the number of dwellings on the Valuation List, provided by the Government's Valuation Office. The figures are also adjusted for exempt dwellings and for dwellings subject to disabled reduction.
4. The number of chargeable dwellings in each band is further adjusted for discounts, exemptions, premiums, and council tax support.
5. The resultant figure (line 1 of Appendix 1) is the total equivalent number of dwellings which are then converted using ratios (in line 2) into the number of Band D equivalents (line 3), specified in the 1992 Act. For 2023/24, the equivalent number of Band D properties is calculated at **36,703.4**.
6. The council tax base is finally determined by multiplying the sum of the Band D equivalents by the Authority's estimated collection rate, which has been assumed at 97.4% for 2023/24. This is the estimate of the percentage of the 2023/24 Council Tax set which will be collected in total, and not the expected in-year collection rate in 2023/24. The rate used is re-considered each year and the rate of 97.4% used for 2023/24 is higher than the 96.6% which was used for 2022/23. The collection rate used in 2020/21 was 97.4% but this was reduced to 96.6% for 2021/22 and 2022/23 due to the effects of Covid-19, and as Covid-19 has now largely ended the assumed estimated collection rate has been reverted back to that which was applied pre-Covid-19. The resulting council tax base for 2023/24 for the whole of Middlesbrough (Appendix 1) is **35,749**, rounded to a whole number.
7. Since 2013/14 the Council's Housing Growth Strategy has delivered an increase in the Council Tax Base of 5,578 Band D Equivalent properties, an increase in Middlesbrough Council's Tax Base of approximately 19%. The cumulative effect is approximately £10.4 million and reduces the need to make further annual savings within Council services by this amount.
8. The regulations also require a council tax base to be calculated for parishes, and similar calculations have been made for the parishes of Nunthorpe (Appendix 2) and Stainton & Thornton (Appendix 3). The council tax bases for 2023/24 are **2,269** and **1,319** respectively, rounded to whole numbers.
9. The billing authority must notify the major precepting authorities (Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleveland Fire Authority) of its council tax base within seven days of making the calculation, or no later than 31st January 2023.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

The report requests that the Council:

- Notes the contents of the report
- Approves the council tax base for 2023/24 as **35,749**
- Approves **2,269** and **1,319** as the council tax bases for the parishes of Nunthorpe and Stainton & Thornton respectively for 2023/24
- Following approval, agrees to notify the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority, and the Parish Councils of the 2023/24 council tax base

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

10. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons: -

- a) The Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires a billing authority to calculate its council tax base for each financial year.
- b) The method of calculation is specified in the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, which requires the calculation to be approved before 31st January in the year proceeding the relevant financial year.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

11. Not applicable to this report, as the Council has no option but to calculate a council tax base as it is a statutory requirement.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

12. It is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for billing authorities to calculate a council tax base.

Strategic priorities and risks

13. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, and as such must be agreed by Full Council.

14. The report ensures that the Council's meets its statutory duty to calculate a council tax base for each financial year.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

15. Not applicable to this report.

Financial

16. A comparison with the 2022/23 council tax base is summarised in the table below:

	2022/23	2023/24	% Increase / (Decrease)
Total Number of Dwellings after Discounts	44,151.7	44,200.6	0.1
Band D Equivalent	36,467.7	36,703.4	0.6
Council Tax Base	35,228	35,749	1.5

17. The table above demonstrates that there is a net increase of 49 (0.1%) in the actual number of dwellings after discounts for council tax base purposes. This is a result of new house building over the period. The net increase in the council tax base from 2022/23 is 521 (1.5%) band D equivalent properties, assuming the collection rate of 97.4% for 2023/24. The growth in the council tax base is estimated to have reduced the need for budget reductions by approximately £943,000 in 2023/24 and on an ongoing basis, based on the 2022/23 Basic Council Tax.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Following expected approval by Council on 18 th January 2023, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cleveland Fire Authority, and the Parish Councils will be notified of the 2023/24 council tax base before the statutory deadline of 31 January 2023.	Head of Financial Planning & Support	31 January 2023

Appendices

1	Calculation of the 2023/24 Council Tax Base for Middlesbrough area (including parishes)
2	Calculation of the 2023/24 Council Tax Base for Nunthorpe Parish Council (included at Appendix 1)
3	Calculation of the 2023/24 Council Tax Base for Stainton & Thornton Parish Council (included at Appendix 1)

Background papers

None

Contact: Andrew Humble, Head of Financial Planning & Support
(Deputy S151 Officer)

Email: andrew_humble@middlesbrough.gov.uk

**CALCULATION OF THE 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR MIDDLESBROUGH AREA
(INCLUDING PARISHES)**

	COUNCIL TAX BAND									
	A (with disabled relief)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
		£0-£40,000	£40,001-£52,000	£52,001-£68,000	£68,001-£88,000	£88,001-£120,000	£120,001-£160,000	£160,001-£320,000	£320,001 and over	
Total number of dwellings after discounts	24.4	17,938.1	8,147.7	9,276.2	4,886.3	2,453.6	918.4	524.9	31.0	44,200.6
Ratio to band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Number of band D equivalents	13.6	11,958.7	6,337.1	8,245.5	4,886.3	2,998.8	1,326.6	874.8	62.0	36,703.4

Assumed collection rate of 97.4%

0.974

Council tax base for 2023/24 (rounded to a whole number)

35,749

**CALCULATION OF 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR NUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
(INCLUDED AT APPENDIX 1)**

	COUNCIL TAX BAND									
	A (with disabled relief)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
		£0-£40,000	£40,001-£52,000	£52,001-£68,000	£68,001-£88,000	£88,001-£120,000	£120,001-£160,000	£160,001-£320,000	£320,001 and over	
Total number of dwellings after discounts	0.0	10.7	74.3	347.7	716.4	327.6	211.3	306.9	11.0	2,005.9
Ratio to band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Number of band D equivalents	0.0	7.1	57.8	309.1	716.4	400.3	305.2	511.6	22.0	2,329.5

Assumed collection rate of 97.4%

0.974

Council tax base for 2023/24 (rounded to a whole number)

2,269

APPENDIX 3

**CALCULATION OF 2023/24 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR STANTON & THORNTON PARISH COUNCIL
(INCLUDED AT APPENDIX 1)**

	COUNCIL TAX BAND									
	A (with disabled relief)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	TOTAL
		£0-£40,000	£40,001-£52,000	£52,001-£68,000	£68,001-£88,000	£88,001-£120,000	£120,001-£160,000	£160,001-£320,000	£320,001 and over	
Total number of dwellings after discounts	0.0	21.9	99.7	369.7	396.5	235.4	119.5	44.6	1.0	1,288.3
Ratio to band D	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9	
Number of band D equivalents	0.0	14.6	77.5	328.6	396.5	287.7	172.6	74.3	2.0	1,353.8

Assumed collection rate of 97.4%

0.974

Council tax base for 2023/24 (rounded to a whole number)

1,319

This page is intentionally left blank

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
------------------------------	--

Report of:	Director of Finance (S151 Officer) Executive Member for Finance & Governance
-------------------	---

Submitted to:	Council
----------------------	---------

Date:	18 January 2023
--------------	-----------------

Title:	Capital Strategy - 2022/23 – Mid Year Update
---------------	--

Report for:	Decision
--------------------	----------

Status:	Public
----------------	--------

Strategic priority:	All
----------------------------	-----

Key decision:	Yes
----------------------	-----

Why:	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £150,000
-------------	--

Urgent:	Yes
----------------	-----

Why:	Decision needed in the 2022/23 financial year to change the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision.
-------------	--

Executive summary
<p>The Capital Strategy is one of the main elements of the Council's budget approach, alongside the Revenue Budget and the Investment Strategy. Although some high-level metrics on progress have been reported as part of the quarterly budget monitoring process, it is good practice to review this information in more detail at Quarter 2.</p> <p>This report therefore reviews the position on the Investment Strategy, any changes that have occurred during the year to date, plus any implications for affordability since the original budget was set in February 2022. In addition, the report reviews the position on treasury management, including borrowing, investments, and debt repayment.</p> <p>The second aspect of the report considers a change to the Council's current policy on Minimum Revenue Provision which may lead to some cost reduction. This will need formal approval by Council as the original policy was part of the budget setting process from February 2022.</p>

Purpose

1. That the Council:

- Consider the current position on the Council's Capital Strategy for 2022/23.
- Approve the change being proposed on Minimum Revenue Provision for 2022/23. This was approved by Executive on 6 December 2022.

Background and relevant information

2. The Capital Strategy report for the Council covers the following areas:

- How the Investment Strategy is funded.
- The relevant Prudential Indicators to monitor the performance, affordability and sustainability of the capital expenditure being proposed in line with the requirements of the prudential code.
- Treasury Management arrangements in place for investing surplus funds and borrowing to fund capital expenditure.
- The types of investments the Council makes as part of managing its cash balances – the Annual Investment Strategy.
- Minimum Revenue Provision policy – including outlining how much the Council sets aside to re-pay debt built up to fund prior year's capital expenditure in the Borough.

3. The Capital Strategy report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activities contribute to the provision of local public services at the Council. In addition, it also gives an overview of how the associated risks involved are managed and the implications for our future financial sustainability.

4. This is a mid-year review of the strategy, which is considered best practice in line with the CIPFA Codes on the Prudential Code of Capital Finance and Treasury Management, to see how the strategy has developed in the first six months of the year. In addition, the Council is considering a change in its policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). This change in policy needs approval by Full Council as the decision-making body.

5. Capital Expenditure relates to what the Council plans to invest in long-term assets and infrastructure (such as property, equipment, vehicles, roads etc.). The Council must consider how this expenditure is paid for and what the long-term financial implications are of undertaking this investment. The Council is also permitted to borrow funds to finance the investment strategy under the Local Government Act 2003. It needs to consider the impact on the revenue budget of the level of borrowing being proposed, how it funds the repayment of this debt and the period over which this debt is repaid.

6. The Capital Strategy and the key assumptions that influenced the 2022/23 budget are included within the original budget setting report for the financial year, which was approved by Council on 23 February 2022 – Appendix 5.

Prudential Indicators and Capital Investment Plans

7. The Council demonstrates the concepts of affordability, sustainability and prudence on its investment plans by setting a range of Prudential and Treasury Management

indicators. These are set out in the various tables in the Capital Strategy and are key metrics to the Director of Finance when setting the budget plans each year. Any breach of these indicators during a year indicates either a higher level of indebtedness or a lower level of overall prudence on the capital activities of the Council than when the budget was set. The following paragraphs give a brief commentary on these key indicators to assess any changes that have occurred during the financial year to date.

8. Although the Capital Strategy covers the whole of the medium-term financial planning period, this mid-year review focuses solely on the position for 2022/23. Due to the current review of the Investment Strategy and any further changes that may occur before the financial year-end on 2022/23 budgets, it is not appropriate to review the other years at this stage. These will be updated as part of the budget setting report to Council in February 2023.
9. The position at the end of quarter 2 was as follows. This was reported to Executive as part of the regular quarterly budget monitoring arrangements on 8 November 2022:

<u>Prudential Indicators - 2022/23 Quarter 2</u>		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>(£M)</u>	<u>(£M)</u>
Capital Expenditure	124.825	69.241
<u>Financing</u>		
External Sources	74.344	41.579
Own Resources	6.296	3.257
Debt	44.185	24.405
Capital Financing Requirement	295.865	283.324
External Debt	268.350	205.667
Investments	15.630	21.020
Capital Financing	10.466	10.587
Cost as a % of Revenue		
Budget	8.8%	8.9%

10. The first point to note is that Investment Strategy for 2022/23 has reduced significantly during the financial year to date. In summary, this relates to slippage on approved capital schemes into later years in the programme, with the funding before re-profiled also. Further analysis of this at individual scheme and directorate levels can be seen within the Quarter 1 & 2 budget monitoring reports.
11. It can also be seen that the amounts of funding needed have reduced below the original budgeted levels. Some of this is for schemes funded by capital grants and contributions by other bodies, but also there is an in-year reduction on the level of borrowing needed of £19.8m (original budget of £44.2m less current budget of £24.4m).

12. There is total outstanding debt of £205.7 million (including debt and lease liabilities) on 30 September 2022, with a further £40 million - £45 million expected to be needed before 31 March 2022. Cash balances are generally higher in the first two quarters of the financial year as grants and contributions tend to be paid in advance of need. This means that the level of external debt above is lower than it should be based on the level of capital expenditure forecast, as borrowing needs have been deferred.
13. The total amount given for additional borrowing in this financial year is higher than the figure quoted in paragraph 11. This is due to additional cash flow demands, because of using earmarked reserves to fund the revenue budget position, plus the early use of grant income in advance which needs to be replaced.
14. The forecast overall total long term external debt at the end of 2022/23 is expected to be around £250million. This should be compared with the estimated *Capital Financing Requirement* (the underlying value which the Council needs to borrow to fund capital activities) of £283m million. The Council therefore has an expected under-borrowed position of circa £33 million or 12%, which has provided some annual savings in interest payments, as other revenue and capital cash has been used in lieu of external borrowing. This is a key strategic decision each year as to whether the under-borrowed position is increased or reduced and does not diverge from that used as part of the budget position.
15. Table 6 in the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 shows the profile of outstanding debt over the whole of the medium-term financial planning period and that this was expected to rise to a maximum of £268 million on 31st March 2023, before starting to reduce in the following financial year. This increase in debt is not expected to rise much further than £250m now given the recent review of the capital programme, which has reduced borrowing requirements from when the original budget position was agreed. This position will be updated again as part of the budget setting report.
16. The Council holds revenue budgets for repaying debt (known as Capital Financing Costs covering MRP and external interest). This costs £10.6m (8.9% of the net revenue budget) for the 2022/23 financial year. The Council has a nominal threshold of 10% of its revenue budget as a cap for capital financing, so there is still some headroom for borrowing on urgent priorities if required, subject to overall council affordability
17. Table 9 in the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 shows that the proportion of capital financing costs is relatively stable at a time when the level of external debt is rising. This is due to the commercial income achieved on recent capital investments in Centre Square, Teesside Advanced Manufacturing Park and Captain Cook Square. It is important that these income levels are maintained otherwise the proportion of the revenue budget attributed to capital financing costs will start to increase.
18. One way to reduce capital financing costs is to reschedule the debt. This means to repay the debt earlier than expected and then to reborrow at a rate lower than the existing interest rate on the loan. This has been very difficult to do since 2008 due to low borrowing rates and high premiums on any early repayment options. Given the increase in interest rates in recent months, these premiums are starting to reduce and there may be some options for the Council to pursue. These are monitored on a regular basis by our treasury management advisers and if any of these are felt to be financially beneficial, they will be highlighted to Members by the Director of Finance.

19. It is also a statutory requirement for the Council to set an authorised limit for external debt at the start of each financial year. This is an amount beyond which it would be ultra-vires (or outside of the Council's legal powers) to exceed in a particular financial year. The authorised limit for 2022/23 is £356 million.
20. It should be noted that the authorised limit for the Council is currently much higher than either the level of external debt or the capital financing requirement. This is not uncommon within local authorities, to build in extra headroom for unexpected capital investment, possible debt re-financing opportunities and the remote possibility of needing to borrow for exceptional revenue purposes. At present, the Council's authorised limit is set at £73m above its capital financing requirement and allows a degree of flexibility within the Council's planning processes and this legal limit. It should be noted that any unexpected debt financing in a year could breach some of the other prudential indicators so this would need to be identified as part of the quarterly performance monitoring reports to Executive.

Treasury Management

21. Treasury Management is defined as the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The main risks that affect a local authority include credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and refinancing risk.
22. The Council is generally cash rich in the short term, as many grants and contributions are paid in advance of need. Because of this, any excess cash is invested with an appropriate counterparty until the funds are required. When making an investment, the Council follows the advice set out in the Local Government Act 2003 and within the Treasury Management Code, with paramount consideration given to the security of the sum invested, followed by the liquidity position of the Council, and finally the interest rate achievable on the investment.
23. Given that credit criteria is the most important factor when making an investment decision, the Council receives regular updates from its external adviser, Arlingclose, on changes in credit ratings for individual financial institutions. They also advise on maximum amounts to be invested with each counterparty and maximum durations for any fixed term deposits made. This framework helps to protect against the loss of any sums invested (credit risk), ensures liquidity is not compromised and earns interest to support the revenue budget (not a major factor at present).
24. In relation to external borrowing, the Council seeks to achieve a low but certain cost of finance, whilst retaining the flexibility to borrow for short-term periods, and to respond to demands of the Investment Strategy as needed. The Council therefore has a balance between taking advantage of currently low rates of interest for short term borrowing (predominantly from other local authorities), versus the need to achieve certainty over rates of borrowing in the longer term from either government or financial institutions (mainly from the PWLB or other banks).
25. Out of the £205.667m worth of external debt on 30 September 2022, 65% is long term from the Public Works Loan Board – the government agency for local authority borrowing and 30% is long term with financial institutions (generally banks). There is around 5% of short-term borrowing in place at present from other local authorities. The

average interest rate on this debt is around 2.5% with an average life to maturity of just under 25 years. All longer-term debt held by the Council is at fixed rates of interest.

26. Current long term interest rates for borrowing from the PWLB are between 4% and 5% depending on the length of the loan (local authorities can borrow up to 50 years from central government), with short term rates being between 2.8% and 3.9% for up to one year in duration. These are significantly higher than in recent financial years and reflect the Bank of England's attempt to control the levels of inflation in the UK economy at present. Although it is expected that interest rates for both borrowing and investments will level off over the next 1-2 years and then start to reduce, any borrowing implemented over the remainder of this year is likely to be short-term in nature. Higher than expected interest rates will put pressure on the capital financing budget as the year progresses.
27. On local authority borrowing, there has been much interest from both regulators and the media in recent months around individual councils taking significant amounts of long-term debt from the PWLB for the sole purposes of commercial activity – generally property investment. Under the Prudential Code, local authorities have lots of freedom to conduct and self-regulate their own borrowing and investment activities.
28. Both the Government and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy have said that borrowing for the sole purposes of commercial investment is against the spirit of the Code. The PWLB no longer provides loans for this type of activity from 1st April 2021 with Section 151 Officers having to confirm each year that their investment plans do not contain any of these types of activity. CIPFA is also updating the Prudential Code during 2022/23 to stop any borrowing for yield purposes and to also highlight and non-prudential practices.
29. Although the Council has undertaken some capital projects in recent years that have generated a revenue income stream as set out in paragraph 16 above, the primary aim has always been to regenerate the areas involved and to grow the wider economy within the Town. As a result, these activities would be able to continue under the Code and with funding from the PWLB if required.

Minimum Revenue Provision

30. The Council is required to maintain an annual policy for the repayment of debt incurred over previous financial years. The current policy is split into different elements which are based on: when the borrowing was originally incurred, the type of assets, and the useful economic life of the assets which the borrowing is funding. The Council in 2016/17, amended this policy to more accurately reflect the useful economic life of these assets. No changes have been made since then. The current policy is set out in the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 – appendix to the February 2022 Budget Report for information.
31. Given the current economic environment the Council has held discussions with our treasury management adviser, Arlingclose, on whether any further changes can be made to the policy whilst still remaining within the statutory guidance issued by government. The rest of the report will set out an option for change on MRP that will better accommodate the revenue costs of the capital programme and provide greater consistency between supported and unsupported borrowing.

What is MRP?

32. Local authorities are required each year to set aside some of their revenue income as a provision for debt repayment. This is termed the Minimum Revenue Provision. There is a simple duty for a Council each year to make an amount of available, which it considers “prudent”. The MRP Guidance makes recommendations to authorities on the interpretation of that term.
33. Local authorities are asked to prepare an annual statement of their policy on making MRP and to have this approved by their decision-making body before the start of each financial year. This is an important element of the budget setting process each year.

What is a prudent provision?

34. The main part to the guidance is concerned with the interpretation of the term “prudent provision”. The guidance proposes several options. It explains that provision for repayment of the borrowing, which financed the acquisition of an asset, should be made over a period bearing some relation to that over which the asset continues to provide a service or has economic benefit. It should also cover the gap between the Capital Financing Requirement (the underlying need to borrow) and the various sources of capital income available to the Council to finance its capital programme, such as capital receipts, capital grants, contributions and direct revenue financing.
35. The current options that government recommend for being prudent are set out towards the end of the current Capital Strategy (Options 1-5). These differ between supported borrowing (pre-2008 debt) and unsupported borrowing (post 2008 debt). The difference between the two relates to the fact that government provided direct funding for supported borrowing, whereas for unsupported borrowing, these resources need to be provided based on the overall resources allocated to the Council via the local government finance settlement.

Council Policy

36. The current Council policy on MRP is as follows:
- For supported capital expenditure, Middlesbrough Council intends to use option 5 - a 2% annuity basis for the coming financial year. This part of the CFR is currently £80.5m.
 - For unsupported capital expenditure, Middlesbrough Council intends to use option 3 - the asset life method for the coming financial year. This part of the CFR is currently £202.8m.
37. The total MRP budget for the 2022/23 financial year is £5.9m or 2.05% of the capital financing requirement.
38. The MRP policy for the Council was last reviewed and changed for the 2016/17 year where a 4% allowance for supported debt was changed to a 2% annuity basis. This policy was backdated to 2008 when unsupported borrowing came into being. This resulted in a total backdated saving of £15m plus a lower on-going cost in earlier years.

Increased payments in later years have been factored into the Council's budget projections.

39. On unsupported borrowing, the Council maintained the asset life policy which spreads the revenue charges equally over the life of the assets funded by prudential borrowing.

Annuity Basis of MRP

40. An annuity is a type of financial repayment model which repays a loan amount plus interest over the term of the financial instrument. To ensure certainty, it uses a fixed annual payment. Each year of the loan, a combination of principal and interest are repaid.
41. As there is a fixed repayment period, plus a nominal interest rate on the loan, the annuity calculation splits the individual payments between principal and interest. In earlier years, the repayments are predominantly interest based but as the loan period advances, principal is gradually repaid, and the interest charges become lower. In the latter years of the loan the repayments are predominantly principal. This method of debt repayment is very much akin to a mortgage when the sum borrowed is cleared in the later years of the agreement, at the expense of the first half of the term.
42. Increasingly local authorities are moving to an annuity basis of MRP provision which caters for lower debt repayments in earlier years, with the consequence of greater amounts in later years, recognising that interest paid is higher in the earlier years.

Suggested Future Approach for MRP

43. It is proposed that the Council move to an annuity basis of MRP provision on unsupported debt from 2008. This is the significant part of the Council's capital financing requirement.
44. The 2% annuity basis uses a 50-year financial model to allocate principal and interest payments over the life of the asset but as highlighted above, this results in lower charges for the first half of the asset's life and then higher charges over the remaining period. Conversely, interest payments are higher in the early years. This is advantageous to the Council in the light of rising interest rates where new borrowing is required.
45. The impact of the MRP change will be to improve the management of the revenue budget for capital financing and to smooth the total cost of capital financing over many years.
46. Under regulation we are unable to backdate the policy for prior financial years and the Council will continue to hold MRP already provided on our balance sheet. It will only be future charges that are influenced by the new policy.

Is this change prudent?

47. This policy change is fully compliant with the MRP statutory guidance under Section 21(1A) of the Local Government Act 2003. Many local authorities are using this basis for their current MRP policies on both supported and unsupported borrowing, and it is a method that is recommended by treasury management advisers and accepted by government and regulators. The amendments made to the current policy are highlighted in red on **Appendix 1** to this report.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

That the Council:

- Consider the current position on the capital strategy for 2022/23.
- Approve the change being proposed on Minimum Revenue Provision for 2022/23.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

48. Members should note the progress to date against the key elements of the capital strategy and challenge any areas that vary from when the budget was set in February.

49. The proposed policy change harmonises the Council's policies in respect of debt repayment and ensures a smoothed profile which is more affordable from the current revenue budget.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

50. The other decision that could be made is to reject the above change being proposed and remain with the existing MRP policy, charging £5.8m to the revenue budget for debt repayment in 2022/23. This would mean that the revenue budget overspend would continue at a higher level than if the change in policy was approved, but more indebtedness would be redeemed this financial year.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

51. All activity on capital financing, investments and borrowing under current local authority powers is within the local government act or the capital finance & accounting regs.

Strategic priorities and risks

52. There are no implications for the policy framework of the Council. The main point to note in relation to risk is that all capital investment, borrowing, and investment decisions are of significant value and thereby of necessity involve a significant degree of financial, credit and interest rate risk. The relevant details are always set out for Members to note in either the capital strategy each year or in the financial instrument elements of the Statement of Accounts.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

53. There are no issues to note on these areas as part of this report.

Financial

54. The financial implications of the various issues covered are highlighted within the main body of the report. The MRP already set aside on the balance sheet will be retained, however, we anticipate that the smoothing impact brought about by the change will lower financing costs on the revenue budget. Any in year savings will be set aside to manage future cost pressures possibly through higher interest rates.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
To effect the changes to the MRP Policy, being proposed by Council, in the 2022/23 year-end accounts.	Head of Finance & Investments	By end of April 2023.

Appendices

1	Revised Policy Statement for 2022/23 on Minimum Revenue Provision.
---	--

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Corporate Affairs & Audit Committee	Capital Strategy 2022/23	9 th December 2021
Executive	Capital Strategy 2022/23 – Mid-Year Update	6 th December 2022

Contact: Justin Weston, Head of Finance & Investments
Email: justin_weston@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY 2022/23

INTRODUCTION

1. Local authorities are required each year to set aside some of their revenue income as provision for debt repayment. There is a simple duty for an authority each year to make an amount of revenue provision, which it considers “prudent”. (Minimum Revenue Provision) MRP Guidance makes recommendations to authorities on the interpretation of that term.
2. Authorities are legally obliged to “have regard” to any such guidance – which is exactly the same duty as applies to other statutory guidance including, for example, the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and the CLG Guidance on Investments.
3. Authorities are asked to prepare an annual statement of their policy on making MRP and to have this approved by the body before the start of each financial year.

MEANING OF “PRUDENT PROVISION”

4. The main part to the guidance is concerned with the interpretation of the term “prudent provision”. The guidance proposes a number of options. It explains that provision for repayment of the borrowing, which financed the acquisition of an asset, should be made over a period bearing some relation to that over which the asset continues to provide a service or has economic benefit. It should also cover the gap between the Capital Financing Requirement and the various sources of capital income available to the Council to finance its capital programme, such as capital receipts, capital grants, contributions and direct revenue financing.

OPTIONS FOR PRUDENT PROVISION

Option 1: Regulatory Method

5. For debt supported by (Revenue Support Grant) RSG in previous years, authorities will be able to continue to use the formulae in regulations, since the RSG was provided on that basis.

Option 2: CFR Method

6. This is a technically simpler alternative to Option 1 and may also be used in relation to supported debt. While still based on the concept of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which can be derived from the balance sheet, it avoids the complexities of the formulae in the regulations.

Option 3: Asset Life Method

7. For new borrowing under the Prudential system (from 2008) for which no government support is given, there are two main options. Option 3 is to make provision for debt repayment in **equal annual instalments** over the estimated life of the asset for which the borrowing is undertaken. This is a possibly simpler alternative to the use of depreciation accounting (Option 4), though it has some similarities to that approach.
8. The formula allows an authority to make **voluntary extra provision** in any financial year that this is affordable.
9. In the case of the construction of a new building or infrastructure, MRP would not need to be charged until the new asset comes into service. This “**MRP holiday**” would be perhaps 2 or 3 years in the case of major projects and could make them more affordable. There would be a similar effect in the case of Option 4 under normal depreciation rules.

Option 4: Depreciation Method

10. Alternatively, for new borrowing under the prudential framework for which no Government support is being given, Option 4 may be used. This means making MRP in accordance with the standard rules for depreciation accounting.
11. Councils will normally need to follow the standard procedures for calculating depreciation when making this revenue provision.

Option 5: 2% Annuity Method

12. This method recognises the time value of money and the useful life of the assets funded from borrowing and is seen as a fairer way of charging MRP. It is supported by the Council’s treasury management advisers (Arlingclose) and is being adopted by many local authorities nationally as the way of accounting for pre 2008 debt.

2022/2023 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION -

REVISED STATEMENT FOR MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

13. The Secretary of State recommends that before the start of each financial year a local authority prepares a statement of its policy on making MRP in respect of that financial year and submits it to the full council as part of its budget setting process. The statement should indicate which of the options listed above are to be followed in the financial year.
14. For supported capital expenditure Middlesbrough Council intends to use option 5, a 2% annuity basis for the coming financial year.
15. For unsupported capital expenditure Middlesbrough Council intends to use **option 5, 2% annuity basis** for the coming financial year.

This page is intentionally left blank

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
------------------------------	--

Report of:	Mayor and Chief Executive
-------------------	---------------------------

Submitted to:	Council
----------------------	---------

Date:	18 January 2023
--------------	-----------------

Title:	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update
---------------	---

Report for:	Information
--------------------	-------------

Status:	Public
----------------	--------

Strategic priority:	All
----------------------------	-----

Key decision:	Not applicable
----------------------	----------------

Why:	Not applicable
-------------	----------------

Urgent:	Not applicable
----------------	----------------

Why:	Not applicable
-------------	----------------

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to share the work of the Corporate Governance Improvement Board - and associated task and finish working groups - which drives the Council's response to the issues identified by Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young and further investigated by CIPFA through delivery and implementation of the Corporate Governance Improvement plan.

This report also provides an update on progress achieved since the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan was last reported to Council on 30 November 2022.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of progress made since the last reported position, in November 2022.

Background and relevant information

2. At a meeting of Council on 30 November 2022, the detailed Corporate Governance Improvement plan, developed by a cross-party group of Members and officers from across the Council through a series of task and finish working groups was approved by the overarching Corporate Governance Improvement Board, was shared for information. That plan is now mid-delivery and progress against the improvement plan will be shared through regular reports to Council.
3. On 5 December 2022, Ernst & Young (EY), the Council's external auditor, provided an updated position on the Council's corporate governance arrangements to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee.
4. The positive action taken in response to EY recommendations was recognised, acknowledging that progress taken to date has been both appropriate and given sufficient prominence in the organisation. On that basis, EY do not consider that it is either necessary or beneficial to escalate its recommendations through the exercise of additional auditor reporting powers at this time, as the Council is "taking appropriate steps and should be given time to demonstrate whether those steps can have the necessary impact on the Council's culture and governance".

Progress since November 2022

5. During December 2022, regular task and finish working groups and associated sub-groups have met, with an initial focus on developing detailed milestone delivery plans, to enable effective performance management, specifically against those priority actions due to be delivered within the first 30 days of the corporate governance improvement plan, since last reported to Council on 30 November 2022.

Completed and awaiting full Council approval

- Constitution user-guide developed to support the updated Constitution, pending completion of Constitution re-write and any associated changes required as a result
- Revised Member / Officer Protocol and supporting user guide

Completed / implemented, with no Council decision required

- Culture workshops held, to shape development of cultural change framework
- Informal meeting space for Members has been introduced (with further improvements planned)
- Member / officer engagement plan, alongside planned opportunities for Members to visit and experience Council services

Progressed or awaiting Governance Improvement Board / working group decisions

- A review of Scrutiny panel arrangements has been conducted, with the summary report of recommendations to be considered at the next meeting of the Constitution Working Group.
- An assessment of the Standards Regime is underway and will be considered at the next meeting of the Constitution Working Group.

- A Communications Protocol for officers and Members has been created and will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Roles and Responsibilities Working Group (and which will require full Council approval).
 - Constitution re-write / refresh is underway.
 - A review of the current Member / officer training provision in its entirety has taken place and work is underway to update, refresh and enhance the training provision overall.
 - A One Stop Shop Member Enquiries briefing session is scheduled to reinforce best practice use of existing system and also to seek opinion on a wants and needs for a future Member Enquiry process
6. As the corporate governance improvement plan has moved into the delivery phase, it has become clear that certain actions will require a greater level of planning, work and activity to ensure successful and effective delivery. On that basis, timescales have been amended to reflect this and / or to align delivery with the forthcoming elections and is reflected within the revised version of the plan, which is appended to this report for information.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

7. That Council notes the progress made to date and the revised improvement plan.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

8. The Corporate Governance Improvement Plan ensures an inclusive approach to addressing the issues identified in the CIPFA diagnostic work and EY's Value for Money judgement.

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

9. Not applicable.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

10. There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

Strategic priorities and risks

11. This report and next steps demonstrate a continued positive impact on the strategic risk of 'failure to achieve good governance'.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

12. Not applicable.

Financial

13. There are no financial costs as a result of this report which is for information only.

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

14. Not applicable.

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons Learnt – Best Value Inspection of Liverpool City Council	5 Aug 2021
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Boho X – draft findings from internal audit and proposed management response	6 Apr 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Audit Results Report 2020/21	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Statement of Accounts 2020/21	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons learned – Best Value and external assurance within other councils.	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Commencing a corporate governance improvement journey	22 Jul 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Journey – CIPFA findings and next steps	19 Oct 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update	30 Nov 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	External Audit – Value for Money Governance Update	5 Dec 2022

Contact: Mayor, Andy Preston and Chief Executive, Tony Parkinson

Appendix 1: Middlesbrough Council Corporate Governance Improvement Board Action Plan

Task and Finish Working Groups will require development of a robust delivery plans, supported by CIPFA and Council officers, complying with the corporate Programme and Project Management Framework.

Roles and Responsibilities Task and Finish Working Group		
<p><i>The desired outcomes for this task and finish group are expected to be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Defined roles / job descriptions are in place for political groups and group leaders</i> • <i>There are clearly defined and understood roles and responsibilities of Members and Officers</i> • <i>Improved / more productive relationships between Members and Officers</i> • <i>Improved Member Enquiry process / system</i> 		
Action	Progress timeframe	Progress RAG
Consider how a line can be drawn under past issues from a Member perspective e.g., revised Member Code of Conduct	60 days	Green
Review and update Member / Officer protocol	30 days*	Yellow
Review existing process for Member enquiries, considering alternatives	90 days*	Yellow
Develop plan to improve engagement between Members and officers	30 days *	Yellow
Amend political group terms of reference, to reflect revised code of conduct and expected behaviours, protocols, and principles	60 days	Blue
Develop a communications protocol for Members and Officers	60 days*	Yellow

Training and Development Task and Finish Working Group		
<i>The desired outcomes for this task and finish group are expected to be:</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That training is measurable, effective and has impact</i> • <i>There is collective engagement and buy-in from Members for the need to undertake / attend training and development</i> • <i>Members are better prepared / positioned to take on role</i> 		
Action	Progress timeframe	Progress RAG
Review current Member training provision and consider any changes / updates required:	90+	
Consider what training should be delivered to Officers in respect of working with Members and understanding of Member/Officer protocol	90+	
Develop learning materials in relation to the Constitution	90+	
Develop training around Member and Officer codes of conduct	90+	
Develop training for candidates before elections to set expectations for the role and ensure candidates are well prepared	90+	
Consider further opportunities to develop Executive Member and LMT use of Insights	90+	
Consider extending use of Insights to committee chairs	90+	
Deliver LGA-facilitated development sessions for Executive Members and LMT	90+	

The Constitution Task and Finish Working Group

Desired outcomes for this task and finish group are expected to be:

- *Improved understanding of the Constitution, its role and purpose*
- *A refreshed, fit for purpose, accessible and user-friendly Constitution*
- *Constitution document to support effective decision making*
- *A clear role and purpose for the Council*
- *More effective discharging of functions / duties*

Action	Progress timeframe	Progress RAG
Develop framework for reviewing and updating Constitution, including looking at best practice examples and planning how and when a new Constitution will be developed	90 days	
Develop Constitution user guide	90+	
Deliver training/knowledge sessions to explain new Constitution to Members and Officers	90+	
Review Scrutiny Panel arrangements and map to structure or priorities to ensure alignment across LMT, Scrutiny, Executive portfolios and strategic priorities	90+	
Look at options to address concerns that Council's Standards regime is 'toothless', and consider if providing greater powers to Standards Committee is appropriate or possible in Law	90 days	

Culture and Communications Task and Finish Working Group		
<p><i>Desired outcomes for this task and finish group are expected to be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A shared understanding of ways of working / service pressures / key events between Officers and Members</i> • <i>A forward-looking and shared understanding of town-wide / strategic priorities between Officers and Members to manage residents' expectations</i> • <i>A kinder and more open culture</i> • <i>Confident and open two-way discussions and communication between Officers and Members</i> 		
Action	Progress timescales	Progress RAG
Continue to review working from home arrangements for LMT and other key Officers	90 days	Green
Re-establish an informal meeting space for Councillors that meets their needs	60 days*	Yellow
Deliver communications programme/workshop for Members to outline the impact of austerity on Council finances	90 days*	Yellow
Conduct a staff survey to baseline current mood in relation to governance concerns and repeat this survey regularly as needed and establish feedback loops	30 days	Green
Conduct a complementary survey of Members to baseline their views and repeat to assess progress and report to the Board	30 days	Blue
Develop vision for new culture	60 days*	Yellow
Review and update social media policy	60 days	Green
Review the current access to information rules put in place to support members without the need to resort to FOI and consider ways in which the culture around information can be improved	60 days*	Yellow
Set expectations of behaviour / etiquette in meetings	60 days*	Yellow
Create opportunities for Members to visit and experience Council services e.g. open days for Members, neighbouring LA's, etc.	30 days	Blue
Create internal search directory to support Officers and Members to find the right person to speak with	60 days	Green
Embed accessibility and communications of information (e.g. FWP, modern.gov, reports) for Members	30 days*	Yellow

General actions		
Action	Progress timeframe	Progress RAG
Establish and diarise regular meetings of Mayor and Group Leaders	30 days	Complete
Establish regular meetings of Mayor / Chief Executive	30 days	Complete
Schedule for ward walkarounds to be reinstated, enabling two-way feedback / updates to be developed	30 days	Complete
Schedule quarterly Executive and Leadership Team strategic away days	30 days	Complete
Develop process to ensure Member questions to Executive Members are published in full and in advance, of full Council meetings	90+	On-track
Refresh approach to Strategic Plan to reflect strategic priorities of Council and town, providing a framework for measuring the Council's contribution to KPIs, and which reflect political priorities	90+	On-track
Ensure move to new Council headquarters, enables shared working space for Executive Members and Leadership Team	30 days	Complete

****requires amendment to progress timeframe, proposed for approval at January Corporate Governance Improvement Board and which takes into consideration forward work programme dates for future meetings of full Council***

Key:	
Complete	Complete
On-track	On-track
Some slippage	Some slippage
Off-track	Off-track

This page is intentionally left blank