

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL

Date: Wednesday 20th July, 2022
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Mandela Room

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Evacuation Procedure
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
To receive any declarations of interest.
4. Minutes - Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - 15 June 2022 3 - 8
5. Update on Teesside Crematorium Income 9 - 14
The Head of Property and Commercial Services will be in attendance to provide an update on Teesside Crematorium following the scrutiny review undertaken in 2020.
RECOMMENDATION that the Panel considers whether further updates are required and the frequency of any such updates.
6. Improving and Enhancing the Physical Environment Town-Wide - Scrutiny Review 15 - 20
The Director of Environment and Commercial Services and the Neighbourhood Safety Manager will be in attendance to provide information in relation to Environmental Enforcement and Fly Tipping.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Panel determines whether further information is required.

7. Work Programme 2022-2023 21 - 22

Council Motion No. 153 - Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees

RECOMMENDATION: For the Panel to give consideration adding this environmental issue to the scrutiny topics in the W Programme in accordance with Motion No. 153 which was carried at a Council meeting held on 6 July 2022.

8. Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters considered at the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22 June and 19 July 2022.

9. Date of Next Meeting - 14 September 2022

10. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Tuesday 12 July 2022

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors J McTigue (Chair), R Arundale (Vice-Chair), D Branson, T Furness, B Hubbard, L Lewis, T Mawston, M Saunders and J Thompson

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Susan Lightwing, 01642 729712, susan_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel was held on Wednesday 15 June 2022.

PRESENT: Councillors J McTigue (Chair), D Branson, T Furness, B Hubbard, L Lewis and J Thompson

OFFICERS: S Lightwing, G Field and R Horniman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Arundale, T Mawston and M Saunders

22/1 **WELCOME AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

22/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

22/3 **MINUTES - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL - 6 APRIL 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 6 April 2022 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

22/4 **OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REGENERATION AND CULTURE SERVICE AREAS**

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

The Regeneration Directorate covered the following areas of work that were under the remit of the Panel:

- Supported the business community to thrive.
- Supported key sectors to grow such as Digital and Advanced Manufacturing.
- Provided the network infrastructure for the town to grow.
- Built new commercial space so businesses could locate or expand.
- Provided opportunities for new housebuilding to retain population.
- Controlled development to protect the town's future.

In addition, the following work was undertaken by the Culture Directorate.

- Provided opportunities for people to experience/enjoy cultural activities.
- Oversaw the sport and leisure offer in the town.
- Promoted the town and the work of the Council.
- Supported people to improve their skill levels and find work.

Some of the work previously undertaken with the Business Community was now done by the Tees Valley Combined Authority, and the Council now had a focus on the Digital sector with TeesAmp and Boho.

The Council had a strategic overview of the road network and this had expanded to cover broadband and bus networks.

New commercial spaces in Middlesbrough included Centre Square, Boho and TeesAmp.

Whilst there was an aspiration to grow and retain the population, the Council also exercised some control over developments to ensure it happened in a coherent way.

The direct and positive impacts on the Council included increased income from Council Tax, business rates and commercial lettings. The commercial lettings were a key component of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan as the generated income was in excess of the expenditure on the original developments.

However, the Regeneration Directorate also received complaints in relation to planning and parking and there was sometimes controversy around new cycle lanes and housing.

Transforming the centre of town was a current focus for the Directorate. The decline of high streets was a national issue and the Captain Cook Square was therefore being repurposed as a leisure destination. The Council was also working with developers on Church House which was a large building that had been empty for some time. Investment had been put into improving the heritage area near to the Rail Station.

Key business sectors such as hospitality had been supported by the Council with investment in Bedford and Baker Streets. The high quality business space available at TeesAmp had all been filled at the rental predicted. Approval for TeesAmp 2 was underway and there was a waiting list for rentals on completion. The Council also liaised with and supported the growing and successful Digital Sector in Middlesbrough.

Middlehaven continued to be re-developed with the Boho X building and a new school, college and housing developments underway.

The Middlesbrough Cultural Capital Investment Prospectus had been developed for economic purposes, setting out the Council's aims for the cultural sector which included transforming the Central Library.

In terms of the learning the 50 Futures initiative supported people to take up opportunities with the Council and other partners with the aim of getting them into employment.

Housing was often a controversial issue for the Council as it tried to get the best quality developments for the town through master planning. The Council also worked to bring Council sites to the market.

The big issues for Regeneration were highlighted as follows:

- Mayoral Development Corporation
- Construction costs rising
- Economic slump
- Planning Service capacity
- Nutrient neutrality
- Local Plan

The Mayoral Development Corporation would hopefully accelerate development in the town although the details of how this would work were not yet available.

Construction costs continued to rise and this affected every scheme planned by the Council. Some costs had risen 40% in a year and some schemes needed to be redesigned so that they could be funded. It was likely that the UK would be hit by an economic slump which would hit harder in Middlesbrough than the south east.

There had been a huge increase in planning applications through new developments and also home improvements and some changes were needed to the current Planning Service capacity.

Natural England had recently added Middlesbrough to the list of catchment areas for nutrient neutrality. Development that was not nutrient neutral in these areas would not be supported. All new planning applications for developments where an overnight stay was required were covered by this directive. Approval of planning applications would only be permitted when appropriate mitigation was in place.

Whilst there was some breathing space there could be issues for the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan in future if new developments were not permitted. It was likely that Developers

would be forced into the expensive mitigation measures which could curtail development.

In relation to questions on the Local Plan, the Director clarified that the Council had a Local Plan in place which was fit for purpose and Middlesbrough was not running out of allocated land yet. A review of the previously drafted new Local Plan was underway.

It was suggested that there should be more promotion by the Council in relation to the developments taking place in Middlesbrough to enable members of the public to see the big picture and understand the Council's ambitions for the whole area. The Director confirmed that a draft plan had already been presented to Executive and was now being refined before being made public.

The Environment and Community Services Directorate covered a whole range of front line services in five areas:

- Environment Services.
- Highways and Infrastructure.
- Property and Commercial Services.
- Community Services.
- North East Migration Partnership.

The Director was the lead Chief Executive for the North East Migration Partnership which worked through the Home Office to coordinate, consult and work with other Councils about migration issues.

Environment Services included:

- Waste services and recycling: Domestic refuse, recycling and green waste collections, collection of household bulky waste, Waste Disposal Contract. Pest control.
- Area care: Green Strategy, Play areas, and alley cleansing, grounds maintenance and animals and needles, street, trees and arboriculture, burials, parks maintenance.

The Area Care team had been voted best team in the country by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE).

- School Catering. It was not compulsory for schools to use the Council's service.

Highways and Infrastructure included:

- Highway engineers: Bridges and Structures, Highway Maintenance, vehicle crossings, highway inspections and intervention, flooding issues, beck maintenance, highway emergency response, winter maintenance (includes gritting and snow clearance), Street Lighting.
- Fleet services: Vehicle and machinery repairs, MOTs, car hire, servicing of Middlesbrough Council vehicles, fuel

The Council maintained its own fleet and equipment which was multi skilled work from repairing grass strimmers to refuse wagons.

Property and Commercial Services included:

- Transporter Bridge.
- Metz Bridge Travellers Site.
- Building Maintenance and Project Management.
- Building Cleaning, Caretaking and Security Services.
- Operational Manager for Bereavement Services.
- Integrated Transport Unit.
- Lead on Emergency Planning.

The Integrated Transport Unit organised transport of children to school either because of the distance they lived from school or special needs. The service transported some children with

complex needs and some who required oxygen bottles. Current issues included a significant increase in demand for the service, recruitment of staff and the availability of contractors.

Communities – although covered by another scrutiny panel there were also implications for the EDEI Scrutiny Panel - included:

- Enforcement.
- Flying Squad.
- Pest Control.
- Volunteers.

The Council had taken more action than previously and had had some success with this approach to enforcement. Middlesbrough now had 48 Street Wardens and 6 Environmental Wardens. Fly tipping was down 30% due to the more proactive approach which had included crushing vehicles. Regular active intelligence meetings were held with the Police and CCTV had been introduced at fly tipping hotspots. An Environment Flying Squad had been established to visit hotspots and react to fly tipping incidents.

A new Pest Control service for residents was being established and staff were currently being recruited.

The Director outlined the priorities for the Directorate as follows:

- Increase Cleanliness of the town and its physical Environment.
- Develop and Implement Green Strategy.
- Tender for Main waste Disposal for post 2025/26.
- Increase recycling.
- Transporter Bridge.
- Improve Highways Assets.
- Light up the Town.
- Provide efficient and effective front line services post pandemic.
- Implement Towns fund.
- Reduce Environmental Crime.

The Council was currently in the tender process to develop a Waste disposal site for post 2025/26 to replace Haverton Hill which would become redundant. This was a significant piece of work with other Tees Valley authorities to build a facility to last 25 years.

In relation to increasing recycling rates it was suggested that school children could be invited to take part in litter picking with the reward of a monthly prize for those who picked up the most litter.

In order to address the priorities, initiatives for this year included:

- Explore outcomes of Environment Bill and its implications for Middlesbrough.
- Implement the Green Strategy.
- Improve A66 through Middlesbrough.
- Highways investment to improve roads.
- Plant another 10,000 trees. (Tree planting days).
- Increase wildflower coverage across Middlesbrough.
- Expand wild spaces across the town and introduce more growing spaces.
- Transporter Bridge investment.
- Light up key buildings across the town.
- Front Garden Competition.
- Community Growing Areas.
- Play areas in conjunction with the Towns Fund.

The Environment Bill would introduce a requirement for food waste collection as well as year round green waste collection. Deposit return schemes would also be reintroduced which should have a positive effect on recycling rates.

Members discussed the current use of allotments within the town and also the introduction of community growing areas and some of the issues associated with both. It was suggested that

this could be a topic for the Panel to consider within its work programme.

AGREED that the information provided was received and noted.

22/5

SETTING THE SCRUTINY PANEL'S WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023

The Democratic Services Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to assist Members of the Panel to consider and agree its work programme for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

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

It was highlighted that two updates from last year's Work Programme: Waste Management/Waste Disposal Facility and City Fibre's broadband installation in Middlesbrough, had had to be postponed and could be re-scheduled for this year if the Panel required.

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

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

Main Topic:

1. Improving and Enhancing the Physical Environment Town-Wide.

This scrutiny review will focus on the following areas:

- Environmental Enforcement/Fly Tipping.
- Damage to grass verges.
- Tree Replacement Programme.
- Enforcement of Planning Conditions.
- Pest Control Service.
- Allotments.
- Empty Properties.

Short Reviews/Updates:

2. Teesside Crematorium.
3. Flood Risk Management.
4. Local Plan.
5. Town Centre Strategy - Update on Future High Streets/Towns Fund.
6. Mayoral Development Corporation.
7. Income to the Council from Housing/Potential impact of increased development costs.
8. Housing – impact on health and wellbeing.

AGREED as follows that:

1. The information provided was received and noted.
2. The topics listed at 1 to 8 above, would be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

22/6

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2022/2023

A proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year was submitted for the Panel's consideration.

AGREED that the proposed meeting dates for 2022-2023 were approved.

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

Final Report on the Green Strategy

The Panel's Final Report on the Green Strategy had been presented to the Executive at a meeting held on 14 June 2022 and deferred at the Chair's request so that some further suggestions could be considered by the Panel.

Additional Meetings

The Chair asked Panel Members for their views on holding additional meetings of the Scrutiny Panel to assist with completing the work programme. It was noted that these did not need to be formal meetings.

Bereavement Services Scrutiny Panel

20th July 2022

Bereavement Service – Broad service overview

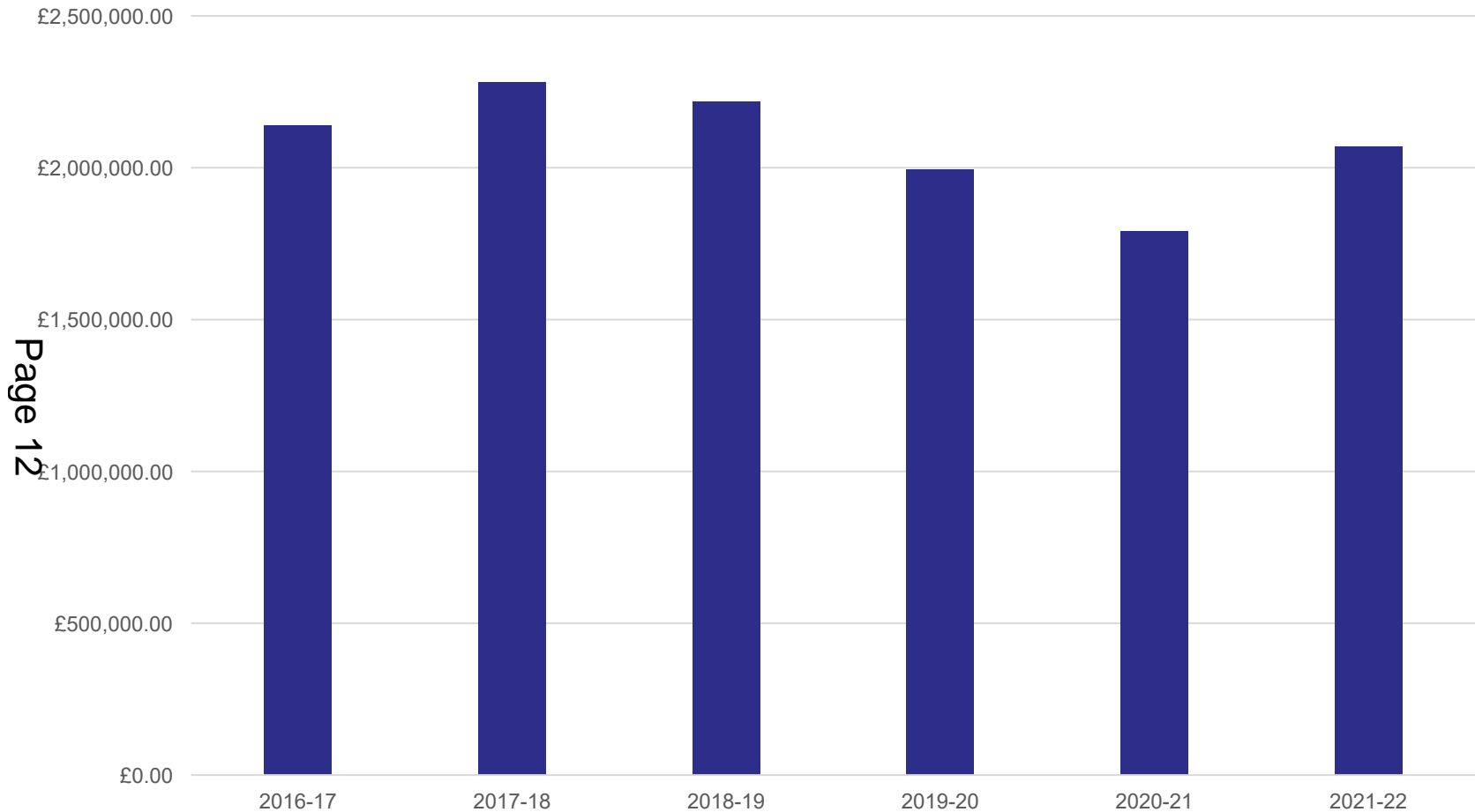
- Cremation & Burial Services
- Teesside Crematorium – Crematory & 2 chapels for funeral and memorial services
- 6 Cemeteries:
 - Acklam Cemetery
 - Thorntree (Protestant) Cemetery
 - Thorntree Roman Catholic Cemetery
 - Linthorpe Cemetery & Nature Reserve
 - St Josephs Cemetery
 - North Ormesby Cemetery
- Burial and Cremation record management and compliance
- Memorialisation
- Supplementary Maintenance (Memorial areas, grave maintenance)
- Customer Service – Public enquiries, bereavement support
- Headstone safety testing (*statutory requirement*)

Recent Improvements

- New Media/Tribute system installed (*Obitus*)
- Committal buttons installed to lectern devices
- New footpaths installed in Acklam Cemetery
- Footpath repair works scheduled for Acklam Cemetery
- Digitisation – Online forms for memorial purchases
- Improved Burial appearance (*soil taken away from graveside*)
- Training & Development – Industry standard training (*Institute of Cemetery Management & Compliance*)
 - *x5 additional members of staff recently qualified to ICCM CTTS qualification (Cremation Technician)*
 - *Exhumation training, Cemetery Management Training, CRUSE Bereavement Training and others*
 - *ICCM Cemetery & Crematorium management diploma – 1 ongoing*
- APSE Performance Network Award: Best Performing Cemetery & Crematorium Service 2021
- 2022 Metal Recycling award: Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery & Nature Reserve and The Friends of Thorntree Cemetery



Financial Summary



Page 12

Recommendations

- Provide update report to scrutiny annually
- Review pricing model annually
- Further digitisation (*Plotbox and Digital Grave mapping 2023 onwards, subject to financial approval*)
- Develop and review service offers

Thank You

Questions



Improving and Enhancing the Physical Environment Town-Wide - Scrutiny Review

- Fly tipping and Environmental Enforcement

Environmental Enforcement

- ▶ Significant need to increase environmental enforcement as part of reducing anti social behavior in the town.
- ▶ Seen a rise in fly tipping across Middlesbrough
- ▶ Some commercial and some domestic
- ▶ Introduce a new approach towards reducing flytipping.
 - ▶ The flytipping squad who's aim is to investigate and clean fly tips within 3 days.
 - ▶ Increase enforcement activity against those who perpetrate fly tipping.
- ▶ Fly tipping down by 28% since its introduction

Environmental Enforcement Team

- ▶ The team is currently made up of 1 Senior Environmental Warden who oversees the day to day management of the team. We have 9 environmental wardens, 5 area care operatives
- ▶ The Environmental Wardens are responsible for taking action and responding to service requests for the following areas:
 - ▶ Fly tipping, Littering, dog fouling, waste accumulation, waste presentation both domestic and commercial, trade waste enforcement.
 - ▶ Illegal waste carriers, untaxed vehicles, abandoned vehicles and vehicles used in environmental crime.
 - ▶ Dog Warden Service - Responsible for providing a statutory stray dog service (Not Dangerous Dogs)
 - ▶ Enforcement of the PSPO
 - ▶ Dealing with ASB and other low level criminality when required

Action / Description	Total
Section 46 Notice issued (not presenting waste correctly)	92
Fixed penalty Notice Issued	65
Fixed penalty notice issued for Dog Fouling	12
Community Protection Warning Notice Issued	35
Community Protection Notice Issued	10
Vehicles Seized in Fly Tipping	10
Vehicles Seized for untaxed or Abandoned	56
Active Investigations pending referral to legal for court action	60+ Cases
Stray Dogs taken to Registered Charity	25
Weight of waste removed by Operatives	650 Ton of Waste removed in last 12 months by Environmental Flying Squad.

Communication strategy

- ▶ We will publicise successful prosecutions in order to deter others from fly tipping.
- ▶ Approach been highlighted on BBC look north
- ▶ Shortlisted for national LGC award,

This page is intentionally left blank

**COUNCIL MEETING – 6 JULY 2022
NOTICE OF MOTION**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 53-60

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
153	Councillor Branson	Councillor Hellaoui	<p>Toxic chemicals in the River Tees</p> <p>In recent weeks, there has been a growing concern over the effects of toxic chemicals in the Tees Estuary, which have had to a significant impact on crab and lobster numbers.</p> <p>There has been some dispute between DEFRA and independent experts in respect of this.</p> <p>In view of the uncertainty over the cause and the potential impact on the marine environment, we ask the council to agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write a letter to the TVCA within 28 days to request that they seek to clarify the existing and conflicting scientific research through the commissioning of a new independent report. 2. Write to the other Councils of the TVCA within 28 days to urge them to work together on addressing these environmental issues through, for example, sending a joint letter to the TVCA expressing our concerns and asking for next steps 3. To recommend that the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel gives consideration to adding this environmental issue to the scrutiny topics in the work programme.

This page is intentionally left blank