

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

<b>Date:</b> Tuesday 25th October, 2022
<b>Time:</b> 10.00 am
<b>Venue:</b> Mandela Committee Room

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 19 July 2022 3 - 8
4. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 21 September 2022 9 - 12
5. Executive Forward Work Programme 13 - 22
6. Executive Member Update 23 - 34
7. Scrutiny Chairs Update
  - Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor J. Platt (Chair)
  - Children & Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor D. McCabe (Chair)
  - Children & Young People's Social Care and Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor D. Davison (Chair)
  - Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor C. McIntyre (Chair)
  - Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure  
Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor J. McTigue (Chair)

Health Scrutiny Panel  
Councillor D. Jones (Chair)

8. Any other urgent items which, in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.
9. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Wednesday, 16 November 2022 at 10:00am

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Monday 17 October 2022

#### MEMBERSHIP

Councillors M Saunders (Chair), T Mawston (Vice-Chair), C Cooke, D Davison, C Hobson, B Hubbard, D Jones, D McCabe, C McIntyre, J McTigue, J Platt, M Storey and J Thompson

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

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

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Tuesday 19 July 2022.

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Saunders (Chair), T Mawston (Vice-Chair), C Cooke, C Hobson, D Jones, D McCabe, C McIntyre, J McTigue and J Thompson

**OFFICERS:** C Breheny, S Butcher, T Parkinson, G Cooper, C Benjamin, A Hoy, S Reynolds and R Brown

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors D Davison, B Hubbard, J Platt and M Storey

20/106 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

20/107 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 11 MAY 2022**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 11 May 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/108 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD - 22 JUNE 2022**

20/109 **EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

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

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

**NOTED**

20/110 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE**

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services, Cllr Mieka Smiles, was in attendance to update the Board on her aims and aspirations, progress made to date and to highlight any emerging issues relating to her portfolio. The Director of Legal and Governance, the Executive Director of Children's Services and the Director of Education and Partnerships were also in attendance.

The Deputy Mayor / Executive Member opened by thanking the Board for the invite and advised that she would highlight some of the key areas she had been working on, as well as some of the emerging issues relating to her portfolio. During the presentation the following key points were made:-

- The Deputy Mayor / Executive Member stated that there was no greater responsibility than the future generation of Middlesbrough.
- In 2019 Middlesbrough Council's Children Services had received an inadequate rating from OFSTED in every single area. Not only had this been worse for Middlesbrough children financially it had been ineffective.
- The Deputy Mayor advised that she now felt reassured in every respect that Children's Services was delivering what the people of Middlesbrough deserved. The recently developed departmental score card was on track and the Board could be reassured that the headline figures - the number of children in care and the number of children in external residential places - had decreased. In June 2020 Middlesbrough had 670 children in care but that had figure had now reduced to 507.
- Reference was made to the cost of external residential placement and it was highlighted that it was extremely alarming for local authorities across the country that the average cost of a placement had risen significantly in recent years from an

- average of £3,500 per week to £5,500.
- In addition the recruitment of Social Workers remained a real challenge and the amount of agency staff employed in Middlesbrough was a further area of concern. It was emphasised that although staff received a generous pay package and had flexible working arrangements in place recruitment and retention remained a key issue in the town.
  - The Board was advised that the high number of school exclusions was another major issue in Middlesbrough both in terms of fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions. However, work was currently being undertaken in partnership with schools in an effort to address this issue.
  - In terms of her main ambition the Deputy Mayor/Executive Member stated it was crucial that Middlesbrough received a better OFSTED judgement and that the next full inspection was expected to take place early next year.
  - Another main ambition was to ensure that every child in Middlesbrough had access to a musical education. Work had therefore been undertaken with the Music in Secondary Schools Trust and Kings Academy to enable an entire year group to learn a musical instrument. As a result 240 children at Kings Academy were learning to play the violin and the scheme would be rolled out at Outward Riverside Academy in September 2022.
  - Finally, it was advised that Eton Star Academies had teamed up with Middlesbrough Council and a bid had been submitted for an area of land, which Eton would have an option on. It was emphasised that places at the school would be heavily weighted towards children from deprived backgrounds including children in receipt of free school meals.

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

A Member of the Board queried whether it was the case that Social Workers were leaving local authorities to undertake agency work, as it was more profitable. In response it was confirmed that recruitment remained a challenge and although Middlesbrough salaries were competitive and retention payments were comparable very few Social Workers were looking for permanent jobs. In response to a recent advert for Social Workers in the assessment team no applications had been received and the agency pool of staff was very limited. Managed agency teams were being brought into numerous local authorities and the department's reliance on agency staff had been picked up in the recent OFSTED monitoring visit.

In terms of Social Worker caseloads it was acknowledged that the average caseload was 18 cases per Social Worker. However, there had been an outflow of Social Workers on the assessment team and although the ideal number of cases per Social Worker was around 17 caseloads were increasing as a result of the workforce challenges. It was a difficult time and there were significant pressures on the service. Middlesbrough Council currently employed 173 Social Worker FTE's. Demand in the assessment service was high and Middlesbrough received more safeguarding referrals than North Yorkshire, which was four times the size. Currently Middlesbrough had the highest level of demand in the country.

A Member of the Board queried whether the admissions policy for the new Eton College had yet been determined. It was advised that there would be some of selective admissions process, however, the aim was to improve social mobility for children living in the most deprived areas and therefore if that was not part of their cohort Eton College would have failed in its mission.

Reference was made to the astronomical cost of external residential care placements for children and it was queried whether this was an issue that was being looked at nationally. It was confirmed that the government was currently looking at this issue and there was widespread acknowledgement that the children's residential care market was broken.

In response to feedback provided by a Member of the Board in relation to the Council's current child safeguarding referral forms the Deputy Mayor/Executive Member advised that this would be taken onboard. It was also advised that if any Members had serious concerns about the safeguarding of a child then they could contact the Deputy Mayor/Executive Member of the Executive Director for Children's Services at any time.

In terms of local authority children's homes it was advised that Middlesbrough currently had five home, as well as the hub, which looked after our most complex children. Again recruiting

staff to work in children's residential homes was becoming problematic and a significant amount of work was being undertaken in this area. The Deputy Mayor / Executive Member advised that it was a key aim to have as many Middlesbrough children returned to the area as possible. From a high of 74 children being looked after in external residential placement in June 2022 this figure had now been reduced to 37. Work continued in an effort to reduce this number further.

In response to a query regarding school exclusions it was confirmed that the rates had now decreased, as was expected towards the end of term.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services and the relevant Directors for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted.

20/111

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE**

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

- Chief Executive / LMT 'hot topics'
- Town Centre Strategy

In terms of LMT 'hot topics' it was advised that the key issues for consideration were Strategic Plan delivery; locality working; health and safety; the town centre; school exclusions; closure of accounts (external auditor judgement); budget planning 2023+ and the Mayoral Development Corporation.

In terms of the Town Centre Strategy it was advised that the Strategy concentrated on encouraging more people to live in the town centre, with additional units being built around the Old Town Hall. It was anticipated that there would be 400-600 houses built on the Middlehaven site. Discussions were ongoing about bringing additional education facilities into the town centre and it was anticipated that the first two new leisure attractions in Captain Cook Square would open in September 2022. Reference was made to the number of incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the town centre and the fact that although the statistics showed ASB was decreasing the message from town centre retailers was that it was worse than ever. There was a real need to address this issue and action had been taken by the Council.

The Board was advised that on 15 June the Council had launched a 6-week blitz - 'Operation Banton' - of the town centre to reduce the number of incidents of ASB, begging, street drinking and criminality. The Operation had also included increased use of CCTV voice boxes, preparation of PSOP extension (or equivalent) in TS1, the development of a town centre communications plan to ensure businesses were better informed, exploration of limiting the sale of cheap alcohol and developing a joined up approach of existing arrangements including security, Middlesbrough Retail Crime Partnership and Shopwatch. Significant enforcement activity had been undertaken and there was real momentum. Feedback from retailers indicated that they had seen improvement, however, there was still a considerable amount of work to undertake.

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

20/112

#### **THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL - FINAL REPORT - SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)**

The recommendations to be submitted to the Executive were:

- a) That awareness raising activities were undertaken to ensure that all of Middlesbrough's schools and settings were aware of the Local Authority's explicit offer of targeted inclusion support. There was a need for schools and settings to receive clear and concise information on what targeted support can be accessed, what is part of the "core" offer open to all schools and settings (without requiring a statutory assessment and plan), and the additional offer that settings and schools can tap into by using their own resources.

- b) That work is undertaken with Legal Services and the Data Protection Officer to develop an effective transition planning process for all stages of education, which addresses the restrictions associated with GDPR. For example, Durham County Council has developed an electronic process for primary school Headteachers to share the names of students who may require additional transition support into secondary education. Wording, informing parents that information will be shared to support transition, has been included in the admissions brochure, on Durham County Council's website and in secondary application forms and offer letters.
- c) That the Local Authority links up with Middlesbrough College to provide placements for the college's supported internships programme. Supported internships have been introduced at Middlesbrough College to give a greater focus on preparing young people with special educational needs and disabilities with the skills needed for adulthood and employment.
- d) That, to support continuous improvement, a regular cycle of SEND reviews takes place across all educational settings and outcomes are reported to the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel.
- e) That SEND annual reports were published to demonstrate how data, intelligence and feedback has been used to support strategic planning arrangements and ensure that there is sufficient local provision and support.
- f) That work was undertaken with the Integrated Transport Service to explore and identify solutions to ensure children and young people with SEND were provided with travel assistance to enable them to access respite care.
- g) That, to further promote effective partnership working, a local area partnership agreement was developed, which outlines how partners would work together and sets out responsibilities and agreed working arrangements. Investing time in fostering relationships and partnerships, given their importance to the local SEND system, is highly important - as there was a risk that those relationships could change very quickly.
- h) That the collaborative work undertaken by Education, Social Care and Health is commended and continues to drive further improvement in the SEND system. Given the increasing demand for provision to support those children and young people with SEND, it is vital that work continues to expand specialist provision and enable mainstream settings to provide support.
- i) That data/intelligence was collected, analysed and reported on to demonstrate the specific strategic approaches and practices that had been effective in supporting children and young people with SEND, enabling them to achieve the best possible educational outcomes and preparing them effectively for adulthood.
- j) That regular updates were reported to the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel, on a six monthly basis, in respect of the progress made with implementing the above recommendations and the work undertaken to develop and sustain an effective local SEND system.

**AGREED** that the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

20/113

### **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT 2022-2023**

The Democratic Services Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider each scrutiny panel's work programme for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

The topics put forward for each scrutiny panel were as follows:

#### Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

Full Review

- 'The Role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on Covid-19 Recovery)' - current review topic (work to continue from the next meeting - 7 September 2022); and
  - 'Hospital Discharge' (final title TBC in due course, but the review will focus on the impact of the cost of care and the impact of care worker recruitment on hospital discharge and the Council's Adult Social Care services.
- The impact on lone adults will also be assessed as a supplementary 'feed in' area of focus).

#### Updates

- Integration of Health and Social Care (standard agenda item);
- A performance report in respect of increases in service demand on a quarterly basis. Reporting systems and processes are currently being reviewed and this will commence from Autumn/Winter 2022;
- Charging Reforms and Fair Cost of Care – updates to be provided as work progresses; and
- Previous scrutiny review – 'The Recruitment and Retention of Staff within Adult Social Care'

#### Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel

##### Full Review

- Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools; and
- Early Learning for Young Children Short Review
- School Meals and Physical Education

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

##### Full Review

- Transition from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care Short Review
- Procedures for Child Protection Plans/Early intervention support

#### Updates

- OFSTED inspections
- South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership
- Performance information • Sufficiency and Permanency (Perceptions of Children in Care)
- Locality Working from a Children's Services Perspective

#### Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel

##### Full Review

- Scrambling bikes and illegal quad bikes- what enforcement is in place/ has operation kickstart been rolled out to other areas of Cleveland? and
- The impact of private rented properties on areas of owner occupied properties and areas of social housing and what can be done to mitigate negative effects.

#### Updates

- Future High street fund
- Surveillance Policy
- Preventing Terrorism
- Community Safety Partnership
- Cohesion/ Asylum Seekers and support for Ukraine families.
- Previous scrutiny review

#### Cultural events site visits

- The panel expressed an interest in visiting the new Art School as part of the wider Cultural programme.

#### Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel

#### Full Review

- Improving and Enhancing the Physical Environment Town-Wide.

The 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:

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

#### Health Scrutiny Panel

##### Full Review

- Dental health and the impact of COVID-19; and
- GP access and quality of service

##### Short Reviews / Updates

- The Neurodevelopmental Pathway; and
- NEAS / ambulance service provision in Middlesbrough

**AGREED** that the topics put forward by the scrutiny panels for inclusion in the 2022/2023 scrutiny work programme be approved.

20/114

#### **SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE**

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



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Wednesday 21 September 2022.

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Saunders (Chair), B Hubbard, D Jones, D McCabe, C McIntyre, J McTigue, J Platt, M Storey and P Storey (Substitute for J Thompson)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** A Preston (The Mayor)

**OFFICERS:** C Breheny, G Cooper, C Benjamin and R Horniman

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors T Mawston, C Cooke, D Davison, C Hobson, J Thompson and T Parkinson

20/115 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

20/116 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD - 22 JUNE 2022**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting, held on 22 June 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/117 **MAYOR'S ATTENDANCE AT OSB**

The Mayor, Andy Preston, was in attendance at the meeting to update the Board on his aims and aspirations, progress made to date and to highlight any emerging issues relating to his portfolio.

As part of his update to the Board, the Mayor focused on the key challenges and opportunities facing the town and the following points were made:

- There was currently a hiring frenzy in some sectors, with businesses experiencing shortages in skilled and unskilled staff. Middlesbrough had some amazing digital businesses and their growth rates were nothing short of outstanding. The Mayor was extremely optimistic about the opportunities for young people that were now available here in the town and it was the beginning of a really exciting era.
- The proposal to establish a Middlesbrough Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) presented a huge opportunity to help the town progress better and faster. Often the Council's hands were tied but the MDC would not be held back by the same restrictions. The challenge with the MDC was to ascertain how the Council could place assets into this third party without being negatively impacted financially. The Director of Regeneration and his team were currently working on this issue and it was anticipated that the MDC would be created as a separate legal entity. The Chair of the MDC would be Ben Houchen and the Deputy Chair would be Andy Preston.
- Reference was made to the challenges the town faced in terms of housing and the need to ensure that new good quality and affordable housing was made available in central Middlesbrough. Thirteen had developed brave proposals to develop new housing in Gresham but in the current cost of living crisis the cost of building materials had increased significantly. Despite these challenges the Mayor was optimistic that Thirteen Housing would continue with their plans and development would be going ahead.
- In terms of cultural activities taking place within the town reference was made to the African parade, which had attracted a huge number of people into the town centre at the weekend. The importance that culture can play in regeneration was emphasised and the point was made that there was a real need to revive the market in North Ormesby. As often people in North Ormesby often felt unappreciated and forgotten. There was a real need to ensure the people of North Ormesby felt cared for and this had to be a focus for Council.
- Crime in Middlesbrough remained a major issue and there were two areas that stood out in terms of the statistics, namely Hemlington and the town centre. The Mayor

stated that the biggest single issue was out of control kids, some under the age of 10 but generally they were aged between 10 and 16. The Mayor stated that there needed to be a way to better control and reduce bad behaviour in young people and suggested that tagging some young people would serve as an example to others. It would also enable the Police and the local authority to prove a young person was in the area when for example the allotments were burnt out. The Council had to date undertaken as many measures as possible to deter crimes being committed and invested heavily in additional cameras throughout the town.

- Children Services continued to improve, however, the financial costs associated with the service were unsustainable. This issue was being looked at nationally. The Mayor thanked the Executive Director of Children's Services and her team for all of the work undertaken in prioritising the care of Middlesbrough children.
- Reference was made to the proposals for an Eton College Sixth Form to be developed in Middlesbrough and the fact that the Northern School of Art had recently received an outstanding judgement from OFSTED. Teesside University continued to grow and the booming gaming companies set up locally had been created by Teesside graduates. Middlesbrough was becoming more of an educational powerhouse and Eton's investment would be targeted at helping bright young people from poorer homes achieve their full potential.
- It was acknowledged that progress with the leisure development at Captain Cook Square had been slower than had been hoped. However, investors were onsite and new leisure venues would be opening later this year.
- The current financial situation for all local authorities was extremely challenging and it was inevitable that there would be cuts next year. This was a national issue and nothing would be left unscathed.
- Finally, the tensions between politicians and officers in Middlesbrough had been well documented in the recent audit report and an Improvement Board was to be set up an effort to address the issues raised. The Board would be overseen by an Independent Chair and everyone had a role to play especially when entering into a financial crisis. The Mayor stated that everyone working together was more important than ever.

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

A Member made reference to the Middlesbrough Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) and expressed the view that it was certainly very welcomed news that there would be less red tape. However, there still needed to be a degree of caution and it was questioned as to whether any elected Members, other than the Mayor, would form part of the MDC Board. In response the Mayor advised that he was unsure, however, meetings of the Board would be broadcast publically and visibility increased accountability. The Mayor made reference to the establishment of MHome's several years ago, similarly the MDC would be a cross between a private and public sector body, which would enable it to more nimble.

Reference was made to the consultation exercise undertaken by the TVCA in respect of the establishment of the MDC and the fact that only 52 responses had been received out of a population of 150,000. The question was posed to the Mayor as to whether the public had any understanding of what the purpose of the MDC was and what it wanted to achieve. In response the Mayor stated that the majority of the public had very little understanding about how the local authority was governed and the MDC would be a public body that had to meet its financial responsibilities. Appropriate expertise would be sought and there would be nothing undemocratic about the leadership of the MDC. The Mayor expressed the view that in his opinion planning would fall within the MDC's responsibilities. However that position was yet to be fully clarified.

In terms of the budgetary challenges a Member of the Board queried as to why earlier in the year, around July time, this year's budget had seemed manageable and now that situation looked very different. In response the Mayor advised that the pay award would be significantly higher than had been anticipated. Everyone had set aside around 2 to 3 per cent in the budgets whereas this figure would be significantly higher. Energy inflation, the costs of children's residential placements and the fact that there was huge uncertainty around the level of local authority funding provided by Government this year added to the financial pressures being placed on the budget. A Member of the Board acknowledged these pressures but requested that careful consideration be given to ensure that permanent cuts were not made based on temporary increases in costs. Inflation would come down and it was important not to

overact.

The Mayor expressed his concerns with regard to the process that had been undertaken recently in placing a freeze on discretionary spend, although he acknowledged that given the pressure being faced by the local authority it was right decision.

A Member queried how the events team, for example, would be able to increase the amount of cultural activities taking place in the town when £60,000 had been removed from their budget. The Mayor concurred that this would only be possible if resources could be accessed from other parts of the organisation. In addition some funding from the TVCA could be prioritised for this purpose.

In response to a query regarding what the Mayor had done personally to pressure the Government for more money for Middlesbrough the Mayor stated that he had written to Simon Clarke MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and requested a meeting.

A Member made reference to whether there was any possibility of establishing a 6000 seater arena in the centre of town, as whenever events were hosted in central Middlesbrough they brought huge economic benefits to the town. The Mayor advised that unfortunately the most recent estimate the Council had received for establishing such a venue was in the region of £100million and in the current economic climate such a proposal was financially unviable.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for his attendance and contribution to the meeting.

#### **NOTED**

#### 20/118 **EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

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

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

#### **NOTED**

#### 20/119 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UPDATE**

Unfortunately the Chief Executive was unable to attend the meeting and the item was deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.

**AGREED** that the item be deferred.

#### 20/120 **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE UPDATE: QUARTER ONE 2022/23**

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

- This Q1 update was in respect of the Strategic Plan, which covered the period April – June 2022, and which was presented to Executive on 6 September 2021;
- On 23 February 2022, full Council was advised that an annual refresh for the Strategic Plan for 2021-24 would not be brought forward and that as such the Strategic Plan would remain in place for 2022/23, to ensure that at the Council had sufficient time to consider implications of national and potential forthcoming local changes on its strategic direction.
- At its meeting on 5 April 2022, the Executive agreed the refreshed Strategic Plan workplan for the 2022-2024 period and Directorate Priorities for 2022/2023, which combined provide a cohesive approach to the delivery of key priority activities across Council Services.
- At the end of Q1, 100% of Strategic Plan outcomes were on target against the corporate standard of 90%.
- Key points of note in relation to compliance were as follows – complaints dealt with

within timescales continued to improve to 83%; Freedom of Information Requests (FOI) and Environmental Information Requests (EIR) responded to within statutory timescales improved, increasing to 80% from 76.8% at the end of 2021/2022 and overdue Subject Access Requests had been reduced further.

- Strategic risks – the Council's strategic risks were as follows:- Failure to achieve a balanced budget; Failure to comply with the law; Failure to achieve good governance; Failure to deliver the Strategic Plan and Directorate Plans and Failure of partnership risks,

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

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

20/121

#### **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET - PROJECTED OUTTURN POSITION AS AT QUARTER ONE 2022/23**

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

- The information detailed in the report was separated into two elements: COVID-19 related and non-COVID-19 related;
- The 2022/23 Revenue budget for the Council was £118,328,934. The Council's projected year-end outturn position for 2022/23 as at Quarter 1 was an overspend of £9.12m (7.6%).
- The current projected outturn would have a negative impact on the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan and the ongoing financial challenges would continue into 2023/34 and future years. The position was currently being assessed and would be reported to Members in due course as part of future Medium Term Financial Plan updates and as part of the budget strategy for 2023/24 to Executive and Council.
- It was noted that there was currently a great deal of uncertainty in forecasting created by the pay award, inflationary pressures and the impact on demand for services.
- Paragraphs 92-113 of the report detailed expenditure against the Investment Strategy, which had a revised budget of £104.675m. The current latest estimated outturn for 2022/2023 was £90.614m;
- Paragraph 114 of the report indicated that borrowing had decreased from £208.8m at 31 March 2022 to £202.1m at 30 June 2022. This decrease reflected maturing debt on short-term borrowing of £6.5m, and repayment of principal amounts on existing annuity loans held by the Council at £0.2m.
- Total reserves were detailed in paragraph 121, which showed projections for 2022/23 to be £43.083m. A large proportion of the reserves were earmarked for special purposes and could not be used generally or to balance the budget.
- Appendix 1 of the report detailed virements; Appendix 2 showed the revised Investment Strategy which would be used from this point onwards.

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

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

20/122

#### **SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE**

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

<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Board – 25 October 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Executive Forward Work Programme

**Summary**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No other options were considered.

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

### ***Legal***

Not Applicable

### ***Financial***

Not Applicable

### ***Policy Framework***

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

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

Not Applicable

### ***Risk***

Not Applicable

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

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

## **Appendices**

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

## **Background papers**

Executive Forward Work Plan

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



## Appendix 1

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
The Mayor						
014313 All Wards	Corporate Performance Report - 2022/23 -Q2 To review the corporate performance of Q2	Executive 8 Nov 2022				The Mayor <i>Director of Legal and Governance Services</i>
I014473 All Wards	Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget Savings Proposals 2023/24 To brief Executive on the updated Medium Term Financial Plan position for 2022-26, and that the Executive endorses the proposed budget and budget savings proposals for 2023/24 and the proposed Council Tax increase for 2023/24. The report will be presented to Council on 30	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will incur expenditure or savings above £150,000 and will affect 2 or more wards	Public		The Mayor <i>Director of Finance</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	November 2022, allowing consultation on the budget and budget savings proposals, and the proposed Council Tax increase to commence.					
I014314 All Wards	Corporate Performance Report -2022/23 Q3 To review the corporate performance of Q3	Executive 14 Feb 2023	KEY			The Mayor <i>Director of Legal and Governance Services</i>
<b>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services</b>						
I014164 All Wards	Children's Services Improvement Update To provide the quarterly update to Executive on the Ofsted Improvement Journey	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY	Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Executive Director of Children's Services</i>
I014364 All Wards	EXEMPT - Fostering Allowances Fostering allowances decision.	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will incur expenditure or savings that are above the threshold decided by the Council i.e. Over £150,000	Fully exempt		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Director of Children's Care</i>
I014450 All Wards	Key stage 4 Educational Attainment, Middlesbrough 2022	Executive 8 Nov 2022		Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Director of Education and</i>



Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	This report summarises GCSE examination data. It also outlines support provided by the Local Authority aimed at helping schools improve attainment.					<i>Partnerships</i>
I014310 All Wards	SEND Sufficiency To provide an overview of required developments to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND through the use of our capital allocation	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will have a significant impact in two or more wards	Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Director of Education and Partnerships</i>
<b>Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion</b>						
I014383 All Wards	Approval of the Taxi Licensing Policy 2022 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Taxi Licensing Policy 2022. Each local authority is required to set the standards it requires of its hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators by imposing local policies and conditions. A review of the current policy has been undertaken in line with the new Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards recommended by	Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will have a significant impact in two or more wards	Public		Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion <i>Director of Adult Social Care &amp; Health Integration</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	the Department of Transport. These standards are designed to improve consistency in the taxi licensing system across local authorities and to reduce the risk of harm to all passengers, particularly focussing on those presented to children and vulnerable passengers.					
1014027 All Wards Page 18	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.	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will have a significant impact in two or more wards	Public		Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion <i>Director of Adult Social Care &amp; Health Integration</i>
1013777 All Wards	Healthy Weight Declaration Adoption This report outlines the	Executive 6 Dec 2022	KEY Will have a significant	Public		Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	purpose and process of signing up to the Healthy Weight Declaration in Middlesbrough.		impact in two or more wards			Inclusion <i>Director of Public Health South Tees</i>
<b>Executive Member for Culture and Communities</b>						
I013788 Central	MISST Program Single Member Decision required to allocate funding to this project.	Executive Member for Culture and Communities 10 Nov 2022		Public		Executive Member for Culture and Communities <i>Director of Regeneration and Culture</i>
<b>Executive Member for Environment</b>						
I012273 All Wards	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.	Executive 14 Feb 2023	KEY Will incur expenditure or savings above £150,000 and will affect 2 or more wards	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Director of Environment and Community Services</i>
<b>Executive Member for Finance and Governance</b>						
I013928 All Wards	Business Support Strategy The Business Support Strategy sets out the Council's approach to	Executive 8 Nov 2022		Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Director of Finance</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Page 20	providing support to businesses; identifying initiatives both internal and external that can support a business through its business journey with the aim of providing a simplified effective route to accessing financial assistance, early identification of need (including any welfare issues) and signposting to relevant partners and services to provide appropriate support and guidance					
I013985 All Wards	Revision to Community Benefit Policy Arising from Asset Disposal Policy This report outlines amendments to the asset disposal policy to ensure that where assets are disposed above market value, the 3% community benefit expenditure is limited to local authority direct or procured provision only.	Executive Member for Finance and Governance 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will have a significant impact in two or more wards	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Director of Finance</i>
I014475 All Wards	Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position as at Quarter Two 2022/23 The report advises the	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will incur expenditure or savings above	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Director of Finance</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Executive of the Council's financial position as at Quarter Two 2022/23.		£150,000 and will affect 2 or more wards			
I012905	Impact Assessment policy 2024-27 (Date TBA - March 23) The policy sets out how the council ensures that it impact assesses decisions.	Executive Member for Environment 1 Mar 2023		Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Director of Legal and Governance Services</i>
<b>Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety</b>						
I013842 Central; Newport 21	TS1 PSPO Extension Executive approves a reapplication as the current TS1 PSPO expires in October.	Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety 16 Nov 2022	KEY Will have a significant impact in two or more wards	Public		Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety <i>Director of Environment and Community Services</i>
<b>Executive Member for Regeneration</b>						
I013742 Central	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.	Executive 6 Dec 2022	KEY Will incur expenditure or savings that are above the threshold decided by the Council i.e. Over £150,000	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I014500 Coulby	Exempt - Disposal Route for Newham Hall Housing Site	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will incur	Fully exempt		Executive Member for Regeneration

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Newham; Marton West	Agreeing the disposal route for Newham Hall Housing Site.		expenditure or savings above £150,000 and will affect 2 or more wards			<i>Director of Regeneration and Culture</i>
1014016 All Wards	Planning and Building Control Fees The consideration of fees and financial implications is not an officer decision. As a consequence it requires a member decision.	Executive 8 Nov 2022	KEY Will have a significant impact in two or more wards	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Director of Regeneration and Culture</i>
012243 Central	Middlehaven - Electricity Reinforcement Works The report is seeking approval from Executive for funding to facilitate the upgrade of electricity provision in Middlehaven.	Executive 3 Jan 2023	KEY Will incur expenditure or savings that are above the threshold decided by the Council i.e. Over £150,000	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Director of Regeneration and Culture</i>

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**25 OCTOBER 2022**

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

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is **RECOMMENDED** as follows:
  1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are appraised of the work of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion.
  2. That Board Members question the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion in respect of his portfolio and any issues which arise at the meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

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

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**Contact Officer:**

Caroline Breheny

Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729752(direct line)

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



<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	<b>Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor David Coupe
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration
<b>SCOPE OF PORTFOLIO</b>	
<p>The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Public Protection and Digital Inclusion in respect of part of the portfolio relating to Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection has responsibility for ensuring vulnerable adults are protected, reducing health inequalities and pushing forward on the dementia-friendly agenda.</p> <p>In respect of the part of the portfolio for Digital Inclusion, the Executive Member has the responsibility of ensuring that the Council operates efficiently, and promotes the use and the benefits of the internet and digital technologies.</p> <p>Responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adults with Social Care needs</li> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Public Protection</li> <li>• Welfare Reform</li> <li>• Digital Inclusion</li> </ul> <p><b>Correspondence address:</b>  c/o Democratic Services  Town Hall  Middlesbrough  TS1 9FX</p> <p>David_Coupe@middlesbrough.gov.uk</p>	

This page is intentionally left blank

# Overview & Scrutiny Board

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Cllr David Coupe

# The Broader Context:

- An increasingly challenging local environment for staff within these service areas – increasingly complex “chaotic” users of services; the impact of the increasing cost of living; the on-going impact of COVID-19.
- The increasing challenge of managing the above in the context of current financial restrictions for our Council and for partner organisations.
- Uncertainty around the impact and resourcing of central government’s reforms of Adult Social Care (charging reforms and changes to the ways in which care providers are funded – will they go ahead and how will they be funded?)
- Plans for the commencement of CQC Inspection of Adult Social Care from 2023.
- Connection into the emerging Integrated Care Board work programme to support delivery of shared aspirations to reduce health inequalities and improve population health
- Delivery of the national drugs strategy “From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives”

# On-going work/Key current issues:

## Undertaking the following roles:

- Co-Chairing South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board – this has recently initiated work on co-ordinating partner agencies in prepping for cost of living impacts as we go into Winter.
- Participating as a statutory member of the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board.
- Participating in the NE Lead Members network which is part of the NE Association of Directors of Adult Social Services framework.
- Appointed Hospital Governor on behalf of Middlesbrough Council
- Member of the Integrated Care Partnership

## Supporting Adult Social Care, Public Protection & Public Health with key work:

- Preparations for the commencement of CQC inspections of Adult Social Care (beginning in April 23)

# On-going work/Key current issues:

## Supporting Adult Social Care, Public Protection & Public Health with key work (Cont):

- Preparations for the implementation of government's social care reforms – work on charging (Care Cap) and provider funding going on across finance and ASC directorates.  
Development of workforce plans to address national recruitment challenge across Social Workers/Environmental Health Officers etc (use of recruitment incentives; regional recruitment programmes; relationship building with Universities etc).
- Development and Implementation of a new Social Work practice audit tool (going live in Nov 22).
- Further development of independent living support services within the Staying Put agency and Staying Included – which provide a broad range of independent living supports; aids and adaptations; groups to support social inclusion and digital inclusion (the Rekindle Project)

# On-going work/Key current issues:

## Supporting Adult Social Care, Public Protection & Public Health with key work (Cont):

- Participation by officers in Council-wide work to address the cost of living increases - identification of those particularly at risk and planning around co-ordination of multi-agency resources, development of warm spaces and the development of the Cold Weather Plan.

On-going work to develop the integration of homelessness; domestic abuse and substance misuse services and to develop the services in support of service users (e.g. through the development of the DA Safe Accommodation Strategy)

- Securing additional resources through the Changing Futures programme (South Tees) and Project ADDER to support the development of enhanced substance misuse service and connections to the criminal justice system
- Development of the Lived Experience Board to ground the development of the Changing Futures work programme in the experiences of people experiencing multiple disadvantage

# On-going work/Key current issues:

## Supporting Adult Social Care, Public Protection & Public Health with key work (Cont):

- Tees Valley Public Health leadership to the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence and the Combatting Drugs Partnership with Cleveland Police and other partners
- Expansion of Social Work Access Team to respond to increasingly complexity and increasing numbers of referrals.
- Securing NIHR funding to develop our Health Determinants Research Collaborative to build working relationships with Teesside University and develop our evidence-based policy making
- Establishment of a “mission-led” approach to the development of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the underpinning intelligence through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Planning work on the review of key policies such as the Statement of Licensing.



# On-going work/Key current issues:

## Supporting Adult Social Care, Public Protection & Public Health with key work (Cont):

- Continuation of Food Hygiene Inspections (with addn comms to highlight positive outcomes)
- Development of the new sexual health Prevention Services, including c-card, training and outreach which will support in reducing late diagnosis of HIV
- Implementation of the local vaccine programme for Monkey Pox
- On-going proactive programmes of work by Public Protection staff around housing inspections (with an increased focus on identifying cost of living increase pressures) and Trading Standards inspections (recent seizure of a large volume of illicit vaping products).
- Developing the expansion of our covid champions role to a broader health champions role, in partnership with Gateshead expanding out with an initial focus on improving awareness and understanding of cancer symptoms

# On-going work/Key current issues:

## Supporting Adult Social Care, Public Protection & Public Health with key work (Cont):

- Focus on increasing 0-5 and adolescent vaccinations uptake, including targeted work with deep end GP practices targeting those who have not attended, behavioural insight work to increase HPV vaccine uptake and working with the vaccination team and schools to increase school ages immunisation uptake;
- Working with Middlesbrough Primary Care Networks to “poverty proof” mental health pathways and “health proof” welfare rights in partnership with the Council’s Resident Support Team
- Launched the new Specialist Physical Activity (SPA) team which provides programmes to support long term condition management, including Re:Start, our Long Covid service
- Mobilisation of Serious Mental Illness smoking pilot in partnership with Middlesbrough PCNs
- Launched the South Tees Wellbeing Network