

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 27 June 2023

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 5TH JULY, 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 5th July, 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 - 24 May 2023 5 – 14
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. The Mayor's Statement
7. Update to Executive Scheme of Delegation
The Mayor has made the following amendment to the Executive Scheme of Delegation:

The Mayor (or whoever he decides to nominate) to exercise the Council's rights as a shareholder in BCCP Limited on behalf of the Teesside Pension Fund.

The amendment is to be noted.
8. The Mayor and Executive Member reports 15 – 58
9. Urgent Items

To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any).

10. Members' Question Time
11. Notice of Motions
12. Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)
13. Corporate governance Improvement next steps 59 – 74
14. Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 75 - 78



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

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 24 May 2023.

PRESENT: Councillors J Banks, I Blades, D Branson, E Clynych, Elected Mayor C Cooke, Councillors J Cooke, C Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, S Dean, J Ewan, T Furness, P Gavigan, TA Grainge, S Hill, B Hubbard, L Hurst, N Hussain, D Jackson, D Jones, J Kabuye, L Lewis, T Livingstone, L Mason, D McCabe, M McClintock, J McConnell, J McTigue, I Morrish, J Nicholson, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Rostron, J Ryles, M Saunders, M Storey, P Storey, J Thompson, S Tranter, Z Uddin, J Walker, N Walker and G Wilson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Hobson – Retiring Chair of Middlesbrough Council

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, S Blood, S Bonner, B Carr, C Heaphy, S Lightwing, A Pain, T Whitehead and K Whitmore

23/1 **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR - 2023 - 2024**

The Chair of the Council pro tem invited nominations for the new Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024.

Nominations were received and seconded in respect of Councillor J Rostron and Councillor Saunders. On a vote being taken, Councillor J Rostron received 25 votes and Councillor Saunders received 18 votes.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that Councillor J Rostron be elected as the Chair of the Council for the Borough of Middlesbrough to hold office for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024 pro tem.

** At this point of the meeting, the former Chair invited the new Chair of the Council to take over the chairing of the meeting.

The Director of Legal and Governance Services thanked the retiring Chair for his contribution to the running of the Council meeting over the past four years.

23/2 **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-2024**

The Chair of the Council invited nominations for the new Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024.

Nominations were received and seconded in respect of Councillor Saunders and Councillor J Walker. On a vote being taken, Councillor Saunders received 18 votes and Councillor J Walker received 25 votes.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that Councillor J Walker be elected as the Vice-Chair of the Council for the Borough of Middlesbrough to hold office for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024 pro tem.

23/3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor High and Councillor Smiles.

23/4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

23/5 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - EXTRAORDINARY MEETING - 22 MARCH 2023 AND ORDINARY MEETING 29 MARCH 2023**

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 22 March 2023 and the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 March 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

23/6

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair of the Council announced with sadness, the death of Ron Arundale former Councillor for the Kader Ward.

Ron was the Council's Armed Forces Champion and represented the Kader Ward from 2011 until 2023.

The Chair requested members to join her in a minutes' silence as a mark of respect.

23/7

MAYORAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS RESULTS - 4 MAY 2023

A report of the Monitoring Office was submitted, the purpose of which was to report the results of the 2023 Mayoral and Local elections as follows:

ELECTION OF MAYOR

Chris Cooke	Labour
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ELECTION OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ward	Name	Political Party (If any)
Acklam (2)	Sheila Dean	Labour
	Tom Livingstone	Liberal Democrats
Ayresome (2)	Antony High	Labour
	Janet Thompson	Labour
Berwick Hills and Pallister (3)	Ian Blades	Labour
	Julia Cooke	Labour
	Donna Jones	Independent
Brambles and Thorntree (3)	Jack Banks	Labour
	Stella Tranter	Labour
	Graham Wilson	Independent
Central (3)	Linda Lewis	Labour
	Matthew Storey	Labour
	Zafar Uddin	Labour

Coulby Newham (3)	David Branson	Labour
	Luke Mason	Conservative
	Jo Nicholson	Labour
Hemlington (2)	Jeanette A Walker	Labour
	Nicky Walker	Labour
Kader (2)	Jim Platt	Independent
	Sharon Platt	Independent
Ladgate (2)	Tony Grainge	Independent
	Luke Hurst	Conservative
Linthorpe (2)	Naweed Hussain	Labour
	Phillipa Storey	Labour
Longlands and Beechwood (3)	Peter Gavigan	Labour
	Joan McTigue	Independent
	Mary Nugent	Labour
Marton East (2)	Jason McConnell	Independent
	Dorothy Davison	Independent
Marton West (2)	David Jackson	Independent
	Ian Morrish	Independent
Newport (3)	Jill Ewan	Labour
	John Kabuye	Labour
	Anne Romaine	Labour
North Ormesby (1)	Jan Ryles	Labour
Nunthorpe (2)	Morgan McClintock	Liberal Democrats
	Mieka Smiles	Conservative
Park (3)	Edward Clynych	Labour
	Theo Furness	Labour
	Julia Rostron	Labour

Park End and Beckfield (3)	Stephen Hill	Independent
	Brian A Hubbard	Independent
	Michael Saunders (Mick)	Independent
Stainton and Thornton (1)	David Philip Coupe	Conservative
Trimdon (2)	Christine Cooper	Independent
	Dennis McCabe	Independent

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL POLITICAL BALANCE

Political Groups and Others	Total
Labour	25 + Elected Mayor
Conservative	4
Independents	15
Liberal Democrats	2

ELECTION OF NUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Name of Parish Councillor	Political Party (if any)
James Hayton	Independent
Russ Lynch	Independent
Carol Ann McCardle	-
Morgan McClintock	Liberal Democrats
Jon Rathmell	Independent
John Edward Shaefer	Independent
Adrian Walker	Liberal Democrats

ORDERED that the report of the outcome of the Mayoral and Local elections, held on 4 May 2023, be noted.

Sub-Committees for 2023 in accordance with the political balance of the Council.

It was **ORDERED** as follows:

1. That the allocation of seats on committees that were subject to the rules relating to political balance be approved as follows:

Name of Group/Unallocated	No. of Seats
Conservative	13
Labour	84
Liberal Democrats	7
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	47
Unallocated/Vacancy	4
Total	155

2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 14 of the report, and to make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace members where directed by the relevant group or member.
3. That any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Table 3 attached to the report.

23/9

EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

As required by the Council's Constitution, a report was submitted setting out membership of the Executive appointed by the Mayor, included at Appendix B of the report. Details of the Executive Scheme of Delegation, were also included at Appendix A of the report, delegating responsibility for certain functions to the Executive, Individual Executive Members, Executive Sub-Committees, joint arrangements and, where appropriate, officers of the Council.

ORDERED that the report in respect of the Executive Scheme of Delegation, be noted.

23/10

COUNCIL COMMITTEES - ESTABLISHMENT - TERMS OF REFERENCE - ALLOCATION OF PLACES - MEMBERSHIPS - 2023 - 2024

Council received a report of the Monitoring Officer, regarding the establishment of committees, sub-committees, boards, panels and working groups for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year, or until amended by Council, (whichever was the latter)

Schedule A of the report submitted set out the Executive and Executive Sub-Committees and Advisory Bodies as agreed by the Mayor.

Schedules B and C identified the nominations received from the various groups and individual Councillors for places on the committees to be established by the Council in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Political Groups and Committees) Regulations 1990.

The report included a list of current vacancies on various committees and nominations were put forward at the meeting by the individual Members concerned.

The Monitoring Officer conducted a vote in respect of the role of Chair/Vice Chair and nominations for spare places, where applicable, in relation to the following committees:

Schedule C

CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Rostron appointed

CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Rostron and Vice-Chair: Councillor J Walker appointed

CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Ewan appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Kabuye appointed

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING GROUP

Chair: Councillor Branson appointed

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING GROUP

1 Vacancy: – Councillor McTigue appointed

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Chair: Councillor C Cooke appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor J Walker appointed

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

1 Vacancy: – Councillor McTigue appointed

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Lewis appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Dean appointed

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Chair: Councillor M Storey appointed

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Vice Chair: Councillor Kabuye appointed

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor J Walker appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor High appointed

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES' SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor Clynch appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor J Walker appointed

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor Ryles appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Lewis appointed

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor Banks appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor M Storey appointed

REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor Blades appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Hussain appointed

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Rostron appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Blades appointed

STAFF APPEALS COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Dean appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Thompson appointed

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Kabuye appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Ewan appointed

TEESSIDE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Rostron appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Ewan appointed

WORKS COUNCIL

Chair is Deputy Mayor

Works Council

2 Vacancies:

1 Vacancy: – Councillor McTigue appointed

1 Vacancy – Councillor Blades appointed

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the terms of reference of committees, sub committees, boards panels and working groups, as detailed in the schedule to the report, be approved.
2. That subject to the receipt of nominations to vacancies or amendments to places indicated in the schedule to the report, that the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors, be approved.
3. That the membership, size and terms of reference of the Executive and its sub-committees, approved by the Mayor for 2023 onwards, as set out in Schedule A, in the Appendix to the report, be noted.
4. That the vacancies, listed at Paragraph 6 of the report, be filled in accordance with political group and other councillors' preferences.

23/11

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE TO JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES - 2023 - 2024

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report regarding the appointment of representatives to joint committees and outside bodies.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That appointments to the organisations shown in Appendix A (Council nominations), Appendix B (Council/Executive nominations) and Appendix C (Executive appointments of the report submitted, for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year be approved, until amended by Council/Executive, (whichever was the latter).
2. That the following appointments for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, nominated at the meeting, be approved and noted, until amended by Council/Executive (whichever was the latter).

Appendix A - Council Appointments

Middlesbrough Oberhausen Town Twinning

3 representatives

Councillor Kabuye appointed

Councillor J Walker appointed

1 vacancy

Teesside International Airport Consultative Committee

1 representative

Councillor Furness appointed

Appendix B – Council/Executive Appointments

Captain Cook Birthplace Trust

2 Council representatives

Councillor Davison appointed

Councillor McConnell appointed

Appendix C – Executive Appointments

Resources and Finish Task Group (ANEC)

1 representative

Councillor N Walker appointed

Nunthorpe and Marton Playing Fields Association

2 representatives – usually Ward Members

Councillor Davison appointed

Councillor McClintock appointed

23/12 **COUNCIL DIARY**

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to agree the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/2024.

The Director of Legal and Governance Services advised that the dates contained within the timetable were tentative and could be subject to change.

Following a vote, it was:

ORDERED as follows:

- (i) That the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/2024, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved.
- (ii) That, with the exception of the following, the dates for ordinary meetings of the Council be designated as meetings at which questions will be taken from members of the public:
 - Budget/Council Tax Setting Meetings – 28 February and 8 March 2024
 - Wednesday 22 May 2024 (Annual Meeting).

23/13 **REDESIGNATION OF S151 OFFICER**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, the purpose of which was to designate the section 151 officer role to the Director of Finance.

On 23rd February 2023, the Chief Officer Appointments Committee were asked to recommend to council the redesignation of the section 151 officer role to the Head of Financial Planning and Support on a temporary basis following pending recruitment to the post.

The Chair of the Chief Officer Appointments Committee presented a report to council on the 22nd March 2023 recommending the re-designation of the section 161 officer role on a temporary basis, and this was approved.

The Chief Executive had appointed an Interim Director of Finance. The terms of reference for the Chief Officer Appointments Committee delegated authority to the Head of Paid Service to make interim appointments of Directors up to six months and the interim appointment was

made by the Chief Executive pursuant to that delegation.

The Director of Finance post would ordinarily carry the section 151 officer role. The intention of the previous arrangement was to ensure the council was not left in a position of not having a section 151 officer role as required by law.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows: -

That the Council:

Designate the section 151 officer role to the Director of Finance.

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

Council Meeting: 5 July 2023

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **5 July 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 Elected Mayor and 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

THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 5 JULY 2023

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health <i>Chris Cooke</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Councillor Philippa Storey</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Member for Children’s Services <i>Councillor Zafar Uddin</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Member for Community Safety <i>Councillor Janet Thompson</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Member for Environment <i>Councillor David Branson</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Councillor Nicky Walker</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Councillor Theo Furness</i>

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 29 March 2023.

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.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH – THE MAYOR

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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 work to address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable.*

Levick Court CQC Result

2. Members will be pleased to know that Levick Court (the Council's only in-house care home for adults) has been rated as good by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) during an inspection in April this year. The inspection considered a number of factors including "is the service safe?" and "Is the Service well-led?" On all assessment criteria the service was rated as "good". This is a great achievement and a testament to the hard work of all involved in the service.
3. About the service: 22 Levick Court is a residential care home providing personal care to up to 16 people. At the time of the inspection 8 people were living at the home. People's experience of using this service and what we found.
4. Right Support: People were supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible and in their best interests; the policies and systems in the service supported this practice. People benefitted from the interactive and stimulating environment. There was a sensory room available for people to access freely.
5. Staff focused on people's strengths and promoted what they could do, so people had a fulfilling and meaningful everyday life. People had a choice about their living environment and were able to personalise their rooms.
6. The service was registered with CQC prior to the publication of the Right support, right care, right culture guidance. The service was larger than recommended by current best practice guidance. However, the building had been separated into smaller living areas.

7. Right Care: People were supported to make daily living choices. There were positive relationships between people and staff, which meant people were treated with dignity and respect. People's care, treatment and support plans reflected their range of needs, and this promoted their wellbeing and enjoyment of life. Staff understood their safeguarding responsibilities.
8. Right Culture: People were supported by staff who understood best practice in relation to the wide range of strengths, impairments or sensitivities people with a learning disability and autistic people.

HIGHLIGHTS

ADULT SOCIAL CARE



Care Home Visits

9. As part of my portfolio I have started to visit care homes in Middlesbrough to gain a deeper insight into the care that they provide their residents. It is also an excellent chance to meet the residents and pay thanks to the staff who provide their care. The first two I have visited are The Willows and Windemere Grange, who had really interesting but slightly different approaches in regards to residents with dementia. However, the common thread throughout was the importance of understanding everyone as an individual and their history.

Staff Recruitment and retention

10. Middlesbrough, as well as other local authorities, is facing struggles with recruitment and retention especially for social workers. The Council is exploring several initiatives to address this. For example, we're upgrading our recruitment site online and looking to simplify the application process as well as trialling a small number of Social Worker apprenticeships and we're seeking to increase those numbers. We're also working with colleagues from the NHS to look at how we work together on recruitment processes for roles where we overlap with the NHS.

PUBLIC PROTECTION

11. Going forward there will be a particular focus on reducing criminal spending power by disrupting premises such as the two examples below. It is important to stress that the sale of such products is often to fund organised crime rather than help residents get cheaper goods.

Example 1 - The Mixture Shop on Norfolk Place

12. This shop has been banned from trading for three months following an investigation by Middlesbrough Council Trading Standards.
13. Officers began an investigation into suspected sales of illicit tobacco and non-compliant nicotine-containing vapes following complaints of sales to under-age people.
14. Concerns about anti-social behaviour linked to the shop had also been reported to the Council and to Police.
15. Under antisocial behaviour legislation, Middlesbrough Council was granted a closure order at Teesside Magistrates Court, meaning the premises cannot be used for the purposes of any business for the three-month period.
16. Shop owner Talib Taha, who was present at the hearing, was also ordered to pay £951 towards the Council's costs.
17. As part of their investigation officers visited the shop on May 25 during a joint exercise with police and other agencies and seized more than 500 non-compliant nicotine-containing vapes, worth more than £5,000. I was in attendance during the operation and the officers did an amazing job finding a very well concealed hiding place.

Example 2 - Johns News on Linthorpe Road

18. This shop has been banned by Teesside Magistrates Court from trading for three months following a swoop by Middlesbrough Council Trading Standards.
19. The move – under antisocial behaviour legislation – followed the seizure of 1,285 non-compliant vapes worth more than £15,000.
20. Officers visited the shop on April 21 following complaints of vape sales to under-age people and found the substantial haul hidden in crisp boxes, inside a bin, under cardboard and inside a bed frame.
21. All the products contained illegal quantities of nicotine, with some labelled as containing 0% nicotine while others were labelled as containing between four and ten thousand puffs. All failed to comply with product labelling laws including a lack of necessary health warnings.
22. On Tuesday 6 June, District Judge Marie Mallon ordered a three-month closure of the store and ordered the operator Harpreet Singh to pay £1,500 towards the Council's costs.

Cumulative Impact Statement

23. This is now being drafted as we have been previously hindered by only being able to reference it. However, there is a clear need for the policy to be in place. Having a Cumulative Impact Statement in place will be a tool to prevent excess alcohol distribution in areas that are heavily impacted by alcohol related ASB and health impacts.

Homelessness

24. I will be undertaking a Deep-Dive into homelessness in order to reduce the levels of rough sleepers in the town but to also improve the move on process to help people find stability.

Health inequalities report

25. It has been clear for some time that health inequalities in Middlesbrough are below national trends. It is important to examine this issue from a Middlesbrough-centric perspective as significant inequalities exist between electoral wards. Doing so will help us understand what actions can be taken to address such inequalities. Addressing Health Inequalities will inform the anti-poverty work being carried out by the Deputy Mayor.

NAME: The Mayor Chris Cooke
DATE: 05 July 2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EDUCATION AND CULTURE – CLLR PHILIPPA STOREY

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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: *Improve Outcomes for Children and Young People*

2. I have had inspirational meetings with Holiday Action Fund (HAF) and the Public Health Teams. and I would like to thank HAF and the Public Health Team for their dedication to helping families and children across Middlesbrough and Redcar Cleveland.

Strategic Priority: *Invest in our existing culture assets, create new spaces and events, and improve access to culture*

3. Improving access to our cultural assets is crucial both in terms of people and physical assets and strengthening Middlesbrough's grassroots music scene was one of the Mayor's election pledges. One example of this is my attendance at Music Inc Amplify and Band Jam seeing first-hand how our young people are creating grass roots music. I'd like to thank both organisations for the amazing work they do.
4. We are investing in our physical cultural assets; a stage has been purchased for our events team and there are already requests coming in from other local authorities to hire it. This initiative will not only see the enhancement of our own events but will generate future income.
5. We are currently experiencing a shortage of events technicians and I plan to approach 50 Futures along with Community Learning to see if any apprenticeships can be established to fill this gap.
6. The Town Hall team are making further links with grass roots music organisers. The BBC *Introducing Komparisson* was held at the Town Hall Crypt and was a brilliant celebration of local music talent.
7. The Museums team have out done themselves with the fantastic Titanic exhibition. Big thank you to JR and his team at the Doorman Museum. The Exhibition has proven to be the highest grossing commercial exhibition to date across the Tees Valley Museums attracting 5630 visitors, generating £29,004 of ticket sales.

8. The Town Hall hosted a Taste of Africa Day organised by Sticks and Stones and supported by the Council's Events Team. It was a privilege to take part in the music and meet members of our black African community, including our first black African councillor, John Kabuye.

HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION

9. I have visited several schools and Colleges both in and around Middlesbrough, including Trinity Catholic College, Discovery and Middlesbrough College. I also plan on visiting all secondary schools and primary schools by the end of October to discuss a range of issues and how schools can be supported.
10. Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) has created barriers for Outwood Riverside to extend into another building temporarily this September by denying access. We have been working with the Department for Education and the Mayor and the Council will put pressure on the MDC and to resolve this in the interests of our young people.
11. In June the DfE's Priority Area programme will benefit local primary schools with Local Area Needs Funding for literacy. This includes better teaching of reading, and better use of targeted interventions. The 10 schools which expressed an interest in benefitting from the programme were:
 - Ayresome Primary School
 - Berwick Hills Primary School
 - Breckon Hill Primary School
 - Caldicotes Primary Academy
 - Easterside Academy
 - Newport Primary School
 - North Ormesby Primary Academy
 - Pennyman Primary Academy
 - St Gerard's RC Primary School
 - Thorntree Academy

CULTURE

12. Music events continue to form a crucial part of Middlesbrough's cultural offer, with several high-profile acts visiting us. The Apollo Male Voice performed a concert to raise money to restore the Albert Park Clock. Established 136 years ago the Choir performed an excellent set consisting of a mix of music from well-known musicals to operatic arias.
13. The Riverside Stadium played host to Arctic Monkeys on 5th June who played to over 32,000 fans. The show not only reinforced Middlesbrough as a destination for big acts, it also generated additional economic benefits to the town equating to £978,560 based on STEAM data.
14. Albert Park was also played host to big music names including Madness the Lets Rock event. Both were very well attended and attracted 13,000 people collectively injected

nearly £400,000 into the local economy. Both events received excellent feedback with some saying the Let's Rock event was the best venue the event had played at. Both events were well planned and co-ordinated, and I'd like to express my thanks to our events team, Holly and Adam.

THE TIME AHEAD

15. The Department of Education need to find appropriate space for the temporary extension of Outwood Riverside for next September. Their proposal to use the car park near Cineworld for children is not acceptable.
16. A significant portion of my future work will be to develop a Middlesbrough Poverty Strategy. Naturally this is a very broad, cross cutting piece of work and will involve discussion with both internal and external stakeholders. It is my intention to establish a cross party, cross departmental approach that places struggling families and individuals at the heart of council policy.
17. The levels of child poverty in Middlesbrough are some of the highest in the country. Child poverty has increased to 48.7%. This equates to 13,945 children over the past 13 years. Following the election in May, I have immediately begun to meet experts from across the country to share ideas and begin to review our child poverty strategy.

NAME: Cllr Philippa Storey
DATE: 05.07.2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CHILDREN'S SERVICES - CLLR ZAFAR UDDIN

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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 show Middlesbrough's children that they matter and work to make our town safe and welcoming and to improve outcomes for all children and young people.*

2. First, I would like to bring briefly to everyone's attention that, formal grading of 'Requires Improvement' noting improvements since last Ofsted Inspection in 2019. Areas of good practice were highlighted including.
 - Early Help & MACH (Multi Agency Children's Hub) – thresholds and responses.
 - Work of the virtual schools.
 - The response to children who are missing.
 - Monitoring those children who are electively home educated.
 - The Aspire (Exploitation) Team.
 - Our work with Children with Disabilities.
 - Children Looked After – early permanence and permanence planning – one of the best performing in the region.
3. There remain some partnerships that require strengthening, including health to enable further improvements to take place.
4. Ofsted Identified 6 key areas to improve upon:
 - The consistency of planning for children, including the quality of written children's plans, contingency planning, and evidence of challenge when plans do not progress.
 - Management oversight and the quality of supervision to demonstrate that this is consistently driving plans for children.
 - Stability of the workforce to minimise the number of allocated workers for children.
 - Arrangements for identifying and safeguarding children who are in private fostering arrangements – our numbers are very low.

- The corporate parenting response for ongoing support to care leavers, particularly those aged over 21, when they need it.
- The opportunities for children and young people in care to be involved in the development of services for them.
- This work will be addressed through the post-ILACS action plan. Ofsted are due to visit again in September 2023.

5. As this is a broad issue, I have broken the below into different categories.

Staff Recruitment and Retention

6. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) role & two Heads of Service (HOS) roles are being advertised out this week – There are five HOS roles in total however we are staggering recruitment to manage impact in terms of organisational knowledge and retaining some stability for the staff, who feel well supported by the current leadership team.
7. Social Worker, Team Managers and Service Managers are starting to be advertised too – with adverts being updated and in response to the more positive Ofsted report.
8. We had a target to convert eight agency staff to permanent, seven in progress – three more identified including Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Team Managers and Social Workers.
9. Some of the roles are being advertised internally and to existing agency staff before external recruitment to encourage more conversion.
10. Positive to note that recent external adverts have attracted more interest than previously for example one Team Manager post attracted seven applicants and a social work post attracted six applicants.
11. We also have the newly developed academy, a 'grow your own' model, where 1st cohort of 13 NQSW have recently gone into the various service areas.
12. We have a Recruitment and Retention offer in place including a Market Forces Supplement of 15% for social workers, together with the potential of a Re-location Package.

Risks to delivery

13. Lack of Qualified Social Workers nationally.
14. Middlesbrough is a challenging place to work – demand and complexity high, poverty, not easily accessible etc – this could have an impact on permanent Recruitment.

Reduce external residential placements.

15. Continue to recruit more in-house foster carers & reduce need for the use of Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA)'s.
16. This is having positive results. Last year we recruited only 2 in-house foster carers. However, we increased the offer to our foster carers in January 2023, to include remuneration (in-line with IFA carers) along with increased support and training. To date we have assessed and approved 5 new foster carers. There are 10 more who will be approved at panels between now and September 2023 – in total we will have homes for 21 children. We also have 3 additional applications to progress.
17. Reducing use of High-cost external placements and externally commissioned services.
18. Making the best use of our existing of our existing homes in terms of levels of occupancy (matching and staffing).
19. Increasing our internal residential provision by purchasing properties in the local area, which means we can look at bring children closer to home and their families.
20. Reviewing high-cost placements, care packages, exit from care strategies and timescales on a regular and frequent basis.
21. Increased scrutiny around bringing children into care/ request for placements.

Risks to delivery.

22. The purchase/ renovation of properties has not progressed as quickly as had been anticipated in the budget setting/ savings plan.
23. There is a national shortage of placements – residential care, IFA and in-house residential. Placement costs have increased as a result.

HIGHLIGHTS & TIME AHEAD

24. I have recently visited our five lovely children's home, many thanks to Rob Hamer, our Interim Head of Service Residential Supported Accommodation, Resource Care Leavers, who has shown me around some of our children's homes. Had chatted to members of the staff who spoke with pride about their work and enjoy working in Middlesbrough. and many of the children and young people happily living there.
25. I was invited to attend Children's care SMT away day by Claire Sowerby, our Interim Director of Children's Care, where I met several senior managers, team managers and officers of children's services. I was seemingly honoured and privileged to have a lovely welcome by all at the meeting. It was so nice to see every team highlighted relevant issues and shared each team's prepared care plans for our children and young people's needs. I also have had the opportunity of attending my first meeting with Multi Agency Strategy Improvement Board Meeting. I am now in the process of meeting all our other teams i.e., Fostering, Adoption,

Virtual School, Poverty Prevention Strategy, Youth Provisions Providers and Youth Justice team etc.

26. "While the latest inspection found our department is improving in every area, it also sets out that we must continue to improve". As I said previously the new report is a step forward but there is so much still to do, we will support our hardworking, enthusiastic, and dedicated staff and offer appropriate challenge to help secure the changes and improvement we need to make.

NAME: Cllr Zafar Uddin

DATE: 05.07.2023.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY SAFETY – CLLR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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 tackle crime and anti-social behaviour head on, working with our partners to ensure local people feel safer.*

2. Middlesbrough Council Neighbourhood Safety Team have been working closely with Cleveland Police, Thirteen Group, Cleveland Fire Brigade and other partners within the Middlesbrough Community Safety Partnership to tackle the issue of off-road bikes within Middlesbrough. The Council linked in with Cleveland Polices off road bike force to lead and developed a process where the use of Community Protection Notices are being used to support action to prevent this behaviour when perpetrators are identified.
3. The Community Safety team are working with the Road Policing Team to plan regular action days with the use of the off-road bike team attending hot spot areas in Middlesbrough.

Operation Artemis

4. In the last 6 weeks Middlesbrough Council have joined forces with Cleveland Police under Operation Artemis.
5. Operation Artemis kicked off in Middlesbrough on April 22nd, starting with a briefing by District Commander Superintendent Marc Anderson. He said, “Our officers, along with partner agencies, will be out across Middlesbrough today to target those who cause misery to our communities. A man in his thirties has been arrested on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle after a stolen motorcycle was recovered at a property in Kelfield Avenue”.
6. DCS Anderson went on to say “In the last seven days both Cleveland Police, Thirteen Group in partnership with Middlesbrough Council have seized 8 off road bikes from properties across East Middlesbrough”.
7. As part of Operation Artemis 11 vehicles were seized from Binks Street, Haywood Street, Parliament Road and Chester Street areas of Middlesbrough. Abandoned

vehicles identified by the Environmental Team at Middlesbrough Council received a warning, with stickers applied to windscreens. Those not removed within a seven-day period were seized. Other untaxed vehicles were also removed from roads, using five vehicle recovery trucks.

Additional Partnership Work

8. A joint exercise was carried out on the 9th June involving a Neighbourhood Safety Officer from Middlesbrough Council, Thirteen Housing Group and the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Having been provided with CCTV footage of an adult male and a youth riding an off-road motorbike on Bamboo Way the Neighbourhood Safety Officer worked with partners and was able to identify the male and youth. As a result they carried out home visits to two addresses in East Middlesbrough where a stolen motorbike was found and seized (image below.) The Council will also be taking formal action against 2 people and Thirteen Housing will also be taking tenancy action.
9. This is a great example of partnership working which highlights to residents what results can be achieved when we are able to identify those responsible for causing motorbike nuisance.

Central Library - Redevelopment

10. Middlesbrough Council received £2.6m from the first round of the Cultural Development Fund to transform Central Library to become a captivating space that children and young people will love to visit. Public Access in Central Library will be extended by transforming large parts of the unoccupied/underused 1970's annex building to create a dedicated events and activities space, IT Suite and Family History Area.
11. Central Library is scheduled to close at the end of October 2023 for approximately 7/9 months and staff are currently working from a temporary base to retain a library presence in the Town Centre during the refurbishment period. Numerous options have been considered with an empty unit in the Cleveland Centre currently the preferred option subject to relevant checks.
12. Central Library will reopen in the Summer 2024 providing a modern and welcoming environment which is accessible to everyone. A new fully accessible fireproof passenger lift will also be installed to facilitate access to all public levels within the building along with much needed public toilets and baby changing facilities and a new shared events space will also be created in partnership with MIMA.

AIM (active intelligence mapping)

13. I am now a regular attendee at our monthly AIM meetings. These meetings are attended by our partner agencies, and we look at analytical data in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour, fires, crime & environmental crime.
14. The information is then plotted onto a map of Middlesbrough which highlights clusters of problematic areas & emerging trends. Services then utilise this data to deploy and/or co-ordinate resources accordingly. If an area becomes extremely

problematic and requires longer term in-depth work, task and finish groups will be developed. We currently have 2, focusing on Hemlington and Norfolk Shops area.

Safer Streets update

15. Members may recall that Community Safety Officers successfully applied for Safer Streets funding last year. Just under £700k was awarded to address antisocial behaviour within Hemlington and Berwick Hills/Pallister Wards. A press release is currently being drafted to demonstrate what the funding has been spent on. Some of the projects include;

- 10 additional CCTV cameras installed in Hemlington & Pallister Park
- 64 lighting columns upgraded around Hemlington Lake & Viewley Centre
- Community Development Worker employed to work with wider community
- Professional Witness Service developed to assist with evidence gathering
- Planters around Viewley Centre removed
- Barriers installed opposite St Timothy's Church in conjunction with demolition
- Closure of Cass House Road underpass – work to commence July 2023
- All shrubbery around underpass & lake has been cut down
- Bins removed opposite underpass
- Floating bedrooms – work underway with Thirteen & Highways to remove problematic alleyways in Hemlington
- 10 dual use bins installed in Hemlington & Pallister
- Kick rails installed at Darras Walk & Ellerby Green to deter motorbikes
- Community newsletter developed for Pallister & Hemlington
- 1000 target hardening packs purchased (includes window/door alarms, sash jammers, plug in timers, dusk till dawn lights etc). Police Crime Prevention fitting in vulnerable properties
- Hemlington Boxing Gym developed
- Youth Focus North-East awarded £9k to deliver outreach within Pallister Park
- Resurfacing work of Hemlington Multi Use Games Area
- Metal shutters for void properties purchased
- Funded Fire Brigade Courses for young people involved in fire setting

Night-time economy funding bid

16. An evaluation has been carried out following the allocation of £61,500, which was provided by the office for the police and crime commissioner (OPCC) to tackle violence within Middlesbrough town centre. Middlesbrough Council have delivered a range of initiatives that included a Night-Time Economy Safety Campaign which involved;

- Licensed Premise staff /door supervisor's awareness messages
- Social media messages / posters displayed in licensed premises
- Bottle stoppers/ Anti spiking cup toppers
- Drink spiking test strips
- Challenge 25 campaign

17. In addition to the safety campaign the funding was spent on;

- £3000 issued to Boro Angels for emergency ponchos, blankets, flip flops, bottles of water, lollipops, first-aid kits, staff clothing, safety and radio equipment. 600 clients engaged with during funding period
- Development and Provision of an E-Learning Training Platform to provide the training for staff, licensees and door staff of all 49 licensed premises (44 received)
- Development of part time Training Coordinator post.
- Additional CCTV operator deployed to work 12 hour shifts Friday and Saturday evenings and Bank Holidays totalling 468 additional hours (Dec-March)
- Multi-agency street audit completed.
- Custody literature - Drug / alcohol and violence specific literature to be used in Police custody suite. 132 interventions carried out
- Teesside University student safety equipment (12,500 testing strips, drink covers, drink spikeys, personal attack alarms, bike locks, window/door locks & small torches)
- 110 knife wands issued to 55 licensed premises (x2 each)
- Evaluation of the project utilising data analysis & street audit results completed (report sent to OPCC)

HIGHLIGHTS

MVDA – Middlesbrough Volunteering Academy

18. I attended an event organised by Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA) to celebrate their organisation being awarded nearly £314,000 by the National Lottery Community Fund to create a Volunteering Academy in the town, the first of its kind in the North-east. The news was announced at a launch event on Thursday 8th June in which representatives from nearly 50 voluntary organisations learnt of the ambitious plans to make Middlesbrough an 'inclusive volunteering town'.



The Academy aims to fill the gap in the local volunteering support by providing training, ongoing support, good practice advice and guidance for volunteers, community groups and volunteer-involving organisations. Having all things volunteering in one single place and contact point is expected to help remove barriers to volunteering, confusion about where to go and how to get support. The Academy will operate virtually with no physical school of study or central building, however the services available will be both online as well as face-to-face using a range of local community venues giving easy access to local people.

19. The launch is timely, as the number of people volunteering is in decline according to the latest research. This is leaving charities and community groups struggling to provide services which so often rely on volunteers giving up their time.

20. During the pandemic many older volunteers gave up their roles to shielding and haven't returned, whilst charities report a lack of confidence being a major barrier to taking the first steps into volunteering. The cost of living has also had an impact with people taking on extra paid work in their previously spare time or not being able to afford the extra costs associated such as travel. Finally, the rise in long-term health conditions and the mental health crisis means the more typical volunteering role just doesn't suit the modern day needs of people who may require extra support to get involved.
21. MVDA has seen these challenges and developed the concept of the Volunteering Academy, having run the Middlesbrough Volunteer Centre on a shoe-string budget for many years, wanting to do more and change the offer to meet modern demands, but lacking the funding.
22. Thankfully, the award from the National Lottery Community Fund will enable a three-year programme to begin developing the Academy.

Community Safety Partnership

23. I attended my first community safety partnership (CSP) meeting in May and it was great to see how closely our strategic partners are working together to tackle crime and disorder. The CSP are looking to introduce a performance management dashboard to measure month-on-month changes in the identified drivers within the strategic needs assessment and serious violence problem profile.
24. The problem profile identifies and recommends focus on early intervention to prevent serious violence. Based on this recommendation AIM hotspots now track violent themes to identify repeat locations for violence so we do not see these develop into serious violence incidents. Officers have also developed a close working relationship with OPCC's CURV (Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence) who now attend all CSP and AIM meetings.
25. Work is also underway to review the community safety plan priorities for the year ahead and officers will be refreshing the health and crime map with public health to further understand issues within the town around health-related issues.

THE TIME AHEAD

Locality working, Neighbourhood Action Partnership and keeping people updated

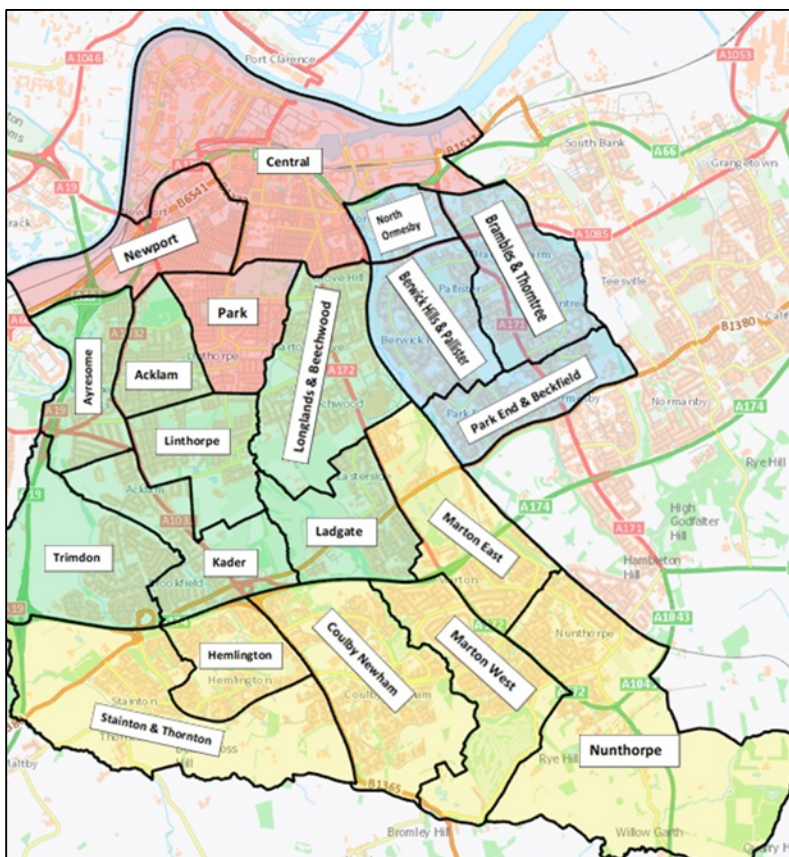
26. As the newly appointed Executive Member I am keen to introduce a system that keeps residents and partners informed and updated about the issues that matter to them. This means letting people know what is happening in their neighbourhood and giving people the opportunity to get involved in activities in their area.
27. I would like to build on the great work that has been achieved through Locality Working, a multi-agency approach at a neighbourhood level. Whilst we are not

complacent and we understand that there is still lots of work to be done, I recognise that there has been some real successes in Newport and Hemlington where this approach is in place. The benefits of having key partners work from one location should not be underestimated, current Locality Hubs have partners such as the Council, Police, Thirteen Housing, Habinteg Housing, Probation, Youth Offending, Early Help, Social Care working together linking in with schools, collages, businesses, charities and community groups as well as the local community.

28. With this in mind, I will be introducing four Neighbourhood Action Partnerships across Middlesbrough i.e.

- North at Newport Hub,
- East (to be confirmed),
- South (Hemlington)
- West.

29. These neighbourhood action partnerships will see multi agency hubs in each area and we will produce an electronic newsletter on a regular basis so that people know what is happening locally. The map below indicates the four areas:



NAME: Cllr Janet Thompson
DATE: 05.07.2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – CLLR DAVID BRANSON

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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 Priorities: *We will work closely with local communities to protect our green spaces and make sure that our roads, streets and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.*

Roads and Highways

A66

2. Works are about to commence on replacing the column head and bearing on Column 20B on the A66. In addition, tenders are being prepared for repairs to the A174 Marton Exchange overbridge, the Borough Road flyover and the A66 Newport interchange bridges.

Carriageways

3. The first stages of the 2023/4 carriageway resurfacing programme are underway and by the end of June over 37,000 sqm of road will have been resurfaced. This accounts for about half of the planned work, with the later stages to commence in July 2023.

Bridges

4. A structural analysis of the Transporter Bridge has been carried out and has indicated several areas of overstress which will need further investigation.

Highways

5. The programme of verge replacement and footway improvements for 2023/4 is now well underway with work completed at Alverton Green, Breckon Hill Road and Grantley Avenue. In addition, Zebra Crossings have been installed at St Marys Walk and Glendale Road.

Flood Management

6. A second survey of highway gullies has been carried out which has identified the silt level and condition of each gully. This will be used to develop a risk-based approach to gully cleaning. Highways continue to work with the Environment Agency and Northumbria Water to develop a proactive flood risk management system.

Potholes

7. During 2022/3 the council repaired 5300 potholes at various locations throughout Middlesbrough. Since April of this year, a further 550 potholes have been repaired but it is expected that repairs at 5000 locations will be carried out by the end of the financial year.

Refuse and Recycling

8. The main problem here is the contamination of blue recycling bins which causes problems with the recycling process. The council will continue to remind residents of what can and cannot be recycled. Any bins found to be contaminated will be marked with a sticker and will not be emptied.
9. The Waste Education Officer continues to work with residents, community groups and schools to spread the message about recycling. Recently there were visits to Thorntree Academy, Newport Primary School and Discovery Academy.

Green Spaces

10. The council continues to promote the Urban Meadow project with seed sowing now approximately 60% complete. The summer bedding programme will commence w/c 19th June, and town centre hanging baskets will be installed in that month.
11. Walk the Ward meetings have now commenced and will run on through the year. They give councillors a chance to meet the Area Care management team so as to deal with pressing issues in their ward.

The Green Strategy

12. We have completed Year 2 of the Green Strategy and Year 3 is underway. Action plans for Year 3 have been drawn up to be delivered by nine action groups.
13. The key achievements from Year 2 included
 - Developing four new community growing gardens
 - Installing new vehicle charging points in various locations across the town
 - Holding an ECO festival with over 5,000 attendees
14. The aims for year 3 include
 - Developing decarbonisation plans for Middlesbrough Leisure Centres
 - Piloting the use of clean air monitors in four schools

- Working with the TVCA to promote the Net Zero Tees Valley Strategy
- Developing a long-term food strategy for Middlesbrough

Asset Management

15. Property & Commercial Services are completing a new Asset Management Framework that will help to protect property in the borough in line with the council strategic priorities. To effect this, the department is completing a 3-year rolling maintenance programme in respect of service area facilities. All council buildings are being assessed to ensure that they are fit for occupation. In addition, energy audits have been carried out in order to see how carbon emissions and overall energy consumption can be better controlled. This will also fit into the Green Agenda.

Cleaning and Commercial Services

16. The council continues to provide cleaning services to 28 Schools, but it is becoming a fiercely competitive market. Apart from this, the council continues to provide a cleaning service for its own buildings council buildings and manages the Middlesbrough Bus Station.

17. The North Ormesby market is being expanded to include extra stalls so as to improve the shopping experience. A local fete is being organised for the 30th July with the local councillor and local organisations involved.

Bereavement Services

18. The council operates five cemeteries in the town and provides a burials and cremation service. The number of cremations in 2022/3 is slightly down on the previous year from 2144 to 1925 but burials were up slightly from 412 to 434. The service also caters for the needs of a direct creation service which is increasingly in demand in the UK.

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Gardens

19. The council continues to develop the number of Community Gardens in the borough. Recently a team from Tees Valley Wildlife helped to clear the overgrown orchard at the side of Lingfield Farm in Coulby Newham, providing a location for a new Community Garden. In addition, the overgrown pond was drained making it better able to sustain a wider range of aquatic life.



THE TIME AHEAD

Use of Pesticides

20. I am also keen to see a reduction in the use of pesticides to control grassed areas in the town. The overuse of pesticides does not encourage biodiversity and instead creates an environmental hazard. This would also link into the Green Agenda presently being pursued by the council. The aim would be to provide a more sustainable grassland system such as presently is to be found in areas such as on the verges at Stainton Way.

NAME: Cllr David J Branson
DATE: 05.07.2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – CLLR NICKY WALKER

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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 that we place communities at the heart of what we do, continue to deliver value for money and enhance the reputation of Middlesbrough*

2. Much of my time during my first few weeks on the Executive has been spent understanding the financial position that has been inherited by this new administration, and I felt it important that I share the stark reality of that position with all members, especially for the benefit of new members.

Financial position at 31 March 2023

3. The information set out below has been taken mainly from Year End Outturn Reports, the budget reports for the 2023/24 Revenue Budget of 27.02.23 (particularly the report of the s151 officer), the Annual Audit Report for 2020/21 of June 2023 and the findings of CIPFA in their independent review.

Level of Reserves

a) General Fund Reserves

4. The General Fund Reserve is the fund of last resort and should only be used in exceptional circumstances to address matters that arise due to external factors and are largely beyond the council's control.
5. The then Section 151 Officer's report to Council which accompanied the reports on the 2023/24 Budget of 27.02.23 stated that the level of the General Fund Reserve of £12million set for 2023/24 was considered to represent, following the appropriate risk assessments, the minimum level of general balances.

b) Usable Earmarked Reserves

6. Earmarked reserves are held to cover known specific risks internal to the Council and should be used for one-off purposes. However, they have been drawn on to fund overspends in recent years. Usable earmarked reserves have reduced from a level of £16.2million at 31 March 2019 to £4.2million at 31 March 2023.
7. The previous s151 Officer said:
8. *'Reserves are adequate insofar as the minimum level of general balance is set at £12m, based on risk assessment; there are currently no plans for its use being the fund of last resort. However, there is little resilience in earmarked reserves, and these are at a critical level. The lack of substantial earmarked reserves means the overall reserves position, whilst adequate, is fragile and may require a reliance on cost control or the delivery of additional savings in the event of any unplanned costs'*
9. It is therefore most important to ensure that expenditure is brought back within budget during 2023/24 and to start to rebuild these reserves to provide greater financial resilience for the Council for 2024/25 and the medium term.
10. Explanatory note: The Section 151 Officer, usually the Chief Financial Officer, is appointed under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1988, and is responsible for the proper administration of the local authority's financial affairs. There is a requirement as part of setting the budget each year for the Section 151 Officer to provide a statutory report to the Council under s25 of the Act, providing assurance as to the robustness of the budget to be approved and adequacy of reserves

Delivery of Savings for 2023/24

11. The Council's 2023/24 Revenue Budget included £9.4 million of savings, necessary in order to deliver a balanced budget. An independent review of these savings by CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) concluded that there is a high risk of the Council not delivering all of these planned savings and further savings are likely to be necessary.

Children's Social Care

12. There was a reported £8.3million overspend in Children's Care for the financial year 2021/2022, prior to the application of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts.
13. The Children's Care budget was increased by £5.7million to £45.4million during 2022/23. The budget for 2023/24 was increased to £54.6m as a result of a fundamental review of the adequacy of the budget provision during the year and following successive overspends in previous years. The year-end outturn report for 2022/23, presented to the Executive on 20.07.23 reports an outturn of £54.8m, a £9.4million overspend on that £45.4million budget, after the total revenue expenditure was reduced by £0.777million through the ability to capitalise

transformation expenditure under the 'Flexible Use of Capital Receipts' policy. This overspend represents over 20% of the total Children's care budget.

14. The levels and rate of increase of overspends in Children's Services present a critical risk to the Council and expenditure must be brought under control whilst continuing to meet the statutory responsibilities with respect to Children's Social Care.
15. Explanatory note: Members may be aware that capital receipts are the money councils receive from asset sales, such as land, the use of which is normally restricted to funding other capital expenditure or paying off debt. However currently the Government allows local authorities to use the proceeds from asset sales to fund the revenue costs of projects that will reduce costs, increase revenue or support a more efficient provision of services. It is important to note that there are strict criteria from the Government around this, reflected in the Council's own Flexible Use of Capital Receipts policy and any capital receipts can only be used once.

2022/23 Year-end Outturns

16. At final pre-audited outturn for 2022/23 of £121.084million against a budget of £118.329million which represents an overspend of £2.755million.

Key external pressures

17. In common with other local authorities the Council is also faced with:
 - Persistently high inflation
 - Economic climate continues to be challenging
 - Uncertainty of medium-term position due to the one year only finance settlement from Government

Need for Strict Financial Control

18. It is essential that stricter financial control is exercised during 2023/24 to contain overall expenditure within the approved budget and to start to rebuild reserves. There is a need for both members and officers to work together to this end.

Budgetary control and management arrangements 2023/24

19. Members of LMT and the Executive have agreed a robust approach to monthly budget monitoring, control and proactive management that will include forecast of spend against budget and challenge, with early intervention and actions agreed for financial recovery.
20. The aims are to recover the Council's financial position in 2023/24 and re-build its resilience in the medium term. This will also serve to demonstrate value for money in decision making, the proactive management of risk, compliance with governance policies and procedures.

21. The Council faces a significant challenge to deliver within the approved budget in 2023/24 to avoid exhausting reserves and also to establish plans to rebuild the financial reserves of the Council to a more sustainable level from 2024 onwards.

Officer responsibility

22. Officers of LMT have agreed to implement the following key actions:

- Director Accountability Agreements
 - Leadership – to demonstrate positive commitment to managing within budget and compliance with financial and contract procedure rules.
- Monthly budget monitoring and reporting
 - Finance will issue standard monthly monitoring report to all Directors, Heads of Service and Budget holders for information and action
 - Directorates with finance support will undertake review, analysis and produce financial forecast and produce plans as required to maintain control
 - Budget review meetings – chaired by Interim Director of Finance, attended by Directors, Heads of Service, Head of Financial Planning, Finance Business Partner, Procurement and Performance colleagues as required.
- Chief Executive will hold Directors to account through monthly budget monitoring report to LMT considering:
 - Executive summary per directorate
 - Risks, opportunities, cost pressures, income optimisation
 - Underlying operational data – volume, unit costs, unit income, cost and income drivers
 - Benchmarking, service review and challenge
 - Directorate financial recovery plan

Executive responsibility:

23. All Executive Members have agreed to:

- Quarterly budget reporting to Executive to continue (no change)
- Prior to Budget report being considered by Executive
 - Member led Budget challenge sessions for each directorate
 - Chaired by Executive Member for Finance & Governance
 - Supported by Interim Director of Finance & Head of Financial Strategy & Support

Attended by:

- Director and Heads of Service as required
- Executive Member(s) for relevant Directorate/service area
- Finance Business Partner
- Procurement/ Performance colleagues as required
- Scope:

- Overview of financial position
- Scrutiny of significant variances on an exception basis
- Briefing on management actions, recovery plans,
- Frequency of member led challenge
 - Quarterly as standard
 - High risk areas arising from monthly LMT monitoring to be briefed to Mayor/ Executive Member for Finance and Governance and informal Executive as required
- Accountability and ownership
 - Executive Members to own and be accountable to the Mayor for financial performance

24. As highlighted above it is essential that officers and members worked together to address the financial challenges that currently face the Council. These arrangements for budget control and challenge are similar to those which operated up to 2019 and which I chaired at that time. Whilst I was keen for such arrangements to be reintroduced, officers had also independently drawn up proposals along similar lines for Executive Member involvement and ownership of these processes which have been welcomed by all concerned.

HIGHLIGHTS

25. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers who designed and have been delivering the members induction and training programme, and also those members who have attended

26. I attended sessions myself when free to do so, particularly those most closely relating to my portfolio.

27. The interactive elements of the sessions not only promoted understanding of the subject in hand but also facilitated members working collaboratively, and the setting, when utilising the Collaboration Zone in Fountain Court, enabled members across the various political groupings to meet and engage with each other.

THE TIME AHEAD

Mayor's Priorities and development of the new Council Plan 2024/25+

28. Work is underway to develop and engage with the wider public on the Mayor's priorities, to initiate the development of the new Council Plan for 2024/25-27 which will outline the ambitions and aspiration for the organisation and town.

29. The plan will include service specific plans, aligned to Council priorities, supported by detailed delivery plans which will be governed, monitored, and reported using

the established corporate programme / project methodologies, documentation and structures, in line with the Council's Programme and Project Management Policy.

Financial and Strategic Planning

30. Previous planning cycles of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and the Strategic Plan and associated delivery workplan of initiatives has seen some coordination in approach though no direct correlation and with budget planning preceding development of strategic priorities. The planning cycle for the development of the new Council Plan and budget setting for the medium term over 2024/25 to 2026/27, will be developed in a much more coordinated to approach to ensure that priorities for both the organisation and town can be delivered in line with our financial envelope.

NAME Cllr Nicky Walker
DATE 05 July 2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: REGENERATION – CLLR THEO FURNESS

DATE OF MEETING: 05 July 2023

1. 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 transform our town centre, improving accessibility, revitalising unused assets, developing iconic new spaces and building more town centre homes.*

Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC)

2. The corporation was created in February and took on planning powers on June 1st. The Council is however working with the MDC to provide planning services for three months until they are in a position to take it on fully.
3. Officers are working to secure assurance that the appropriate guiding principles for the MDC are robust, including arrangements around governance, master planning and discharging powers relating to Business Rates. Negotiations are also continuing about the transfer of assets, and the mechanisms that need to be in place to retain the value within Middlesbrough. Once assurance has been secured on all these issues, we will be able to confirm full support for the MDC.

Bus Services

4. Following the implementation of nationwide principles around the funding of concessionary fares, the majority of bus operators have confirmed that service provision will largely be unaffected. Arriva have however taken steps to significantly reduce services across Tees Valley. Negotiations are therefore continuing with Arriva to temporarily retain some of these services and explore whether they can be made more commercially attractive. The five Councils, and Tees Valley Combined Authority are seeking to utilise recently awarded transport funding to retain some of these services where possible and look at other routes that could potentially be introduced on a longer-term commercial basis.

House Building

5. One of the sites contained within the Local Plan has been put out to market for the development of affordable housing. Tenders have been returned and the site at Hemlington North will be coming to Executive in August to agree the winning bidder. The site will increase the town's options around affordable houses for families.



Larger sites will also be coming forward later in the year as the Council looks to balance the need to grow the market housing offer with affordable options for families and individuals. The Council also has aspirations around Eco homes and widening the types of homes available in the town, and these will be set out to developers and housebuilders at a housing conference to be held in the coming months.

Train Station

6. Work is progressing at pace on the development of the Station undercroft (former nightclub) and has seen a significant amount of internal demolition, ready for the steelwork supports to be brought to site. These will be installed ahead of the more detailed construction elements of creating new commercial units and reinstating the historic underpass from Zetland Road to Bridge Street West. This will open up the area through the station building, creating pedestrian throughput and reanimating an underused area.
7. This work complements the recent platform extension for the LNER trains, with creating the improved physical environment and streetscape for the impending Zetland Road public realm work. This will result in creating wider pedestrian footways and improved accessibility and connectivity between the Station and the town centre, along with new outdoor trading spaces for adjacent businesses; enabling people to enjoy the public areas in between journeys – building on the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) funded Zetland Square scheme, creating an improved experience for both station users and people that live and work in the near area.

8. There will be future ticket office upgrades and a new platform in coming years, bringing the station into the 21st century, without forgetting its historic past and importance to the town. This will total a circa £40m investment in building facilities, resulting in a gateway to Middlesbrough for future generations.

Historic Quarter

9. Critical works to the A66 columns and power supplies are progressing to enable the installation of a temporary STACK attraction on the former SLAM nightclub site. Installation of the STACK facility should commence in the autumn with an aim to open for a full festive programme.
10. The £2.3m High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme is transforming Middlesbrough's Historic Quarter by reinvigorating the area and helping to attract additional investment. With the help of a HSHAZ grant, three historic properties - 2-3 Exchange Place (former Kalinka), 2-6 Albert Road (Chequer's Nightclub) and 1 Albert Road (Bloom) have been repaired, resulting in Middlesbrough's heritage being preserved for years to come. Works are also underway at the final grant aided property, Zetland Hotel.
11. Exchange Square has been brought back to life and improvements are planned for Zetland Road to complement the £32m investment in the railway station. The HSHAZ is helping to attract additional private sector investment by Christie's Brasserie, Bloom, Muddler restaurant, Commerce House and STACK. Physical developments are complemented by community and cultural activities where the public can learn more about Middlesbrough's heritage and get involved in guided walks, visit exhibitions and learn new skills.

Captain Cook Square

12. Future High Street Fund investment in Captain Cook Square is making major progress. Landlord works have progressed in preparation for contracted tenants to take over and commence their fit outs. An excellent response has been received in response to the artwork (BobZilla) along the walkway from the car park to the main Plaza. This work has been developed in consultation with the Council's Disability Access Officer and in consultation with the Accessibility Forum.
13. Level X (brand of Lane7) opened in February 2023, is 50,000sqft of leisure and family entertainment, with the first indoor racing track (of its size and scale) in the UK, with cutting edge technology to support this.
14. Other agreed tenants include a local successful company, Dovecot, to bring a new food/drink and leisure offer, an Esports facility with interactive gaming offer and radio station. Both are proposed to open by the end of the year.



Projects are also progressing with a boutique cinema, another local tenant offering a high end food and beverage market – with host of delicacies made on site – both are heavily invested and have project teams in place to commence fit out works. Works on site (subject to planning) are scheduled to start this summer, with openings staggered between Dec 23 – February 24.

HIGHLIGHTS

BOHO site visits

15. Along with the Mayor, Cllr Matt Storey and Council officers I visited the Boho X building to have a good look around. It's going to be an amazing space for Double Eleven and will free up space for new start-ups in our other digital sector buildings so the sector can continue to grow.



Visit to the Stack at Seaburn with the Mayor

16. Along with the Mayor, I visited the Stack at Seaburn to have a look and get an idea of how it operates. We met Stack's owner, Neil Winch, to talk about how it works for the different vendors who occupy the units, the wider economic impact it's had on the surrounding area, how they manage the facilities (waste, security, Health and safety etc...) and the entertainment they put on for customers which varies greatly (paid singers, pantos, family and child friendly entertainers, seasonal events for Halloween, Christmas and easter).



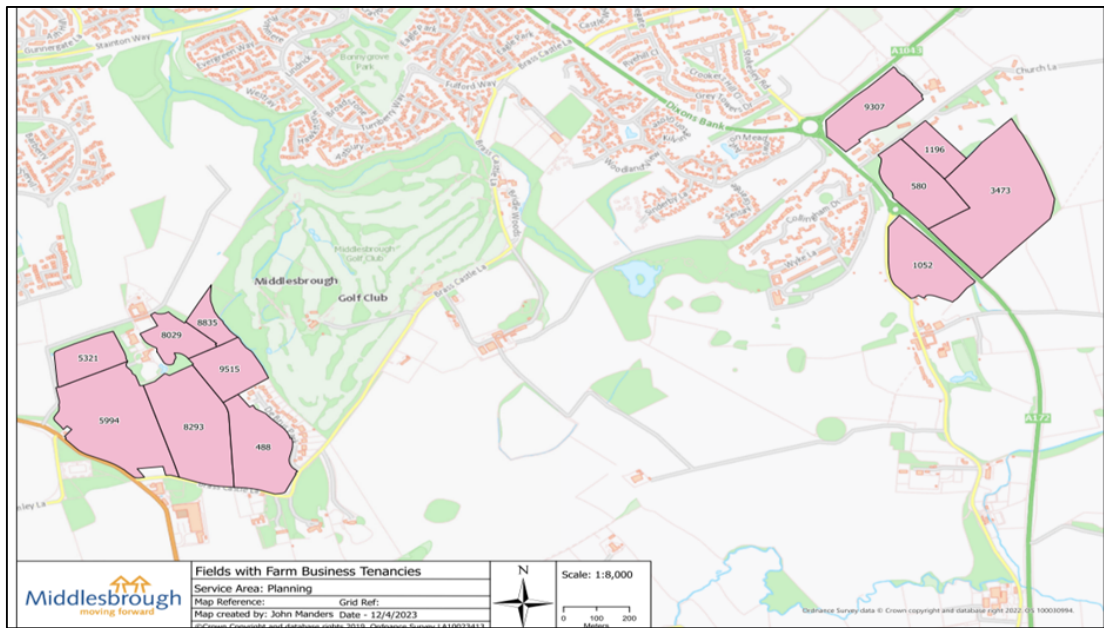
We witnessed open mic night, with people singing and playing instruments to the few hundred that were in the venue.

Repair works are currently being undertaken to the columns under the A66 following the demolition of the Slam nightclub and should hopefully be complete in September. The works to put in the infrastructure (power

etc.) for Stack will commence in late June, with their containers starting to arrive on site in the autumn.

Nutrient Neutrality Executive decision

17. Nutrient Neutrality became an issue for Middlesbrough Council in March 2022, when Natural England advised that planning proposals should not be granted permission unless 'Nutrient Neutrality' is achieved. It is an issue because the level of nitrogen in the River Tees is too high.
18. Put simply, Nutrient Neutrality means that that the amount of nitrogen discharged from a development site must be equal or lower than the amount prior to development.
19. To grant planning permission for developments affected by Nutrient Neutrality, the Council must be satisfied there is appropriate mitigation in place. Natural England have a mitigation system in place, that allows developers to buy credits from them. However, the number of credits is limited and insufficient to unlock affected development in the Tees Catchment.
20. The Council has a substantial agricultural land holding (12 fields / 60.3 hectares) that has been identified as possible Nutrient Neutrality mitigation. The report approved by Executive seeks approval to take these out of agricultural use to offset new housing development on Council-owned land.
21. A future report will be brought to Executive to consider alternative uses for the sites taken out of agricultural use. There are opportunities to extend the green infrastructure network or find compatible economic uses (such as solar farm), subject to gaining planning approvals.
22. Map of the different parcels of farmland in question is below:



THE TIME AHEAD

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)

23. I'm looking to explore the possibility of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) throughout in the Town and I would like to work with elected members and the public to do this.
24. LTNs are areas where you can effectively cul-de-sac parts of high residential areas to stop so called "rat running" and short cuts through high residential areas by cars and larger vehicles. This will allow for a safer environment and hopefully increase more active travel for the residents of these areas.

Parks Investments

25. One of the things I want to achieve is an increase in people using the parks and improve the quality of facilities that are on offer. Some of that will be through our investment, and some through external funding but I want to set out investment plans for our award-winning parks and green areas in Middlesbrough so that the public can see how we want them to develop.

Cycling/Pedestrian networks

26. The Linthorpe road cycle lanes have been controversial, and we are considering its future use. The Council is determined to improve the options for people seeking to use sustainable travel methods and make them as safe as possible. I will be bringing forward an overall plan to set out how we will engage with people and communities to grow the number of people cycling and how we can develop the infrastructure to support them.

Article 4 Permitted development

27. Officers are working on the preparation of an Article 4 Direction to seek to control Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) within the town. This will be brought before Executive for consideration at the earliest opportunity.

Local Plan

32. We intend to propose a new Local Plan that will be transparent for elected members and the public. I will have updates on this to full council every month.

Below is a proposed timetable for the Local Plan.

Stage	Timescale	Description
Scoping Report - COMPLETED	Consultation - December 2022 – January 2023	Formal commencement of the new Local Plan (Regulation 18) - Complete
Draft Local Plan (Preferred Options)	October 2023 Consultation October - Dec 2023	A non-statutory stage that provides the opportunity for the Council to set out its preferred approach and to engage with the community on the emerging policies
Publication Local Plan	May 2024 Consultation June/July 2024	Regulation 19 - Statutory stage, seeking formal representations on the Local Plan that the Council wishes to adopt (Regulation 19)
Submission	September 2024	Formal submission to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22).
Public Examination	September-January 2025	Independent Examination of the Plan to determine legal compliance and soundness. Can only be adopted if found to be sound (Regulation 24)
Adoption	April 2025	Formal adoption of the new Local Plan by the Council (Regulation 26)

NAME: Cllr Theo Furness
DATE: 05.07.2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
6 Mar 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
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Adult Social Care: Respite Charging	Review of the charging policy for respite care services	Yes
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Selective Landlord Licensing - Consultation Responses and Approval to designate the Newport 2 area	This report provides a summary of the responses to the consultation for Executive to consider and to seek their approval for the Selective Landlord Licensing Scheme to go ahead in the Newport 2 area	Yes
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Government Peer Review	Request to have a Local Government Association SEND Peer Review	No
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Highways Capital	Approve the revised prioritisation process undertaken to address the approach to Red / Amber carriageway defects and the capital spend of £7.5m	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
7 Mar 2023	Executive	Nunthorpe Community Centre	Approval required to spend over 150k developing a new asset at Nunthorpe.	Yes
8 Mar 2023	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Extension of Transitional Relief and Supporting Small Business – Non-Domestic Rates	That the Executive Member for Finance and Governance approves the adoption of a scheme based on the central government guidance dated 20 December 2021 for the year commencing 01 April 2022 and of any subsequent successor scheme(s) similarly whilst section 31 funding continues and there is no financial impact to the Council.	No
4 Apr 2023	Executive	Schools Capital Programme Report 2023	The report sets out new school capital schemes and investments to be added to the Schools Capital Programme for delivery in 2023 and beyond.	Yes
20 Apr 2023	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Household Support Fund 2023/24	This report outlines the basis on which the Council should adopt a new scheme for the Household Support Fund. Funding of £3.3 million has been provided by Central Government, the funds are to be distributed to Residents of the town between April 23 and March 24.	Yes
20 Jun 2023	The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health	Corporate Performance Update: Quarter Four 2022/23	To review the Corporate Performance ar Q4 2022/23	Yes
20 Jun 2023	Executive	Proposal to bring Substance Misuse Clinical Prescribing Service In-house	The current clinical service provider has served notice on their contract, which has reduced the timescales for having a new service by six months. The tender process did not result in any bids being submitted when it closed on Fri 12th May 23. As there is no option to have any break in service, we need certainty around provision for 1st October 23 onwards. In the current circumstances, the only feasible option to meet these timescales is to bring the service in-house, alongside the current Recovery Solutions Team.	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
20 Jun 2023	Executive	Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel Service Response: Youth Offending and Partnership Working with Schools	Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel Service Response	No
20 Jun 2023	Executive	Children and Young People's Social Care & Services Scrutiny Panel Service Response: Supporting Young People to Prepare for Adulthood and Independence	Scrutiny Response	No
20 Jun 2023	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Year end Outturn position 2022/23	The report advises the Executive of the Council's financial position as at Year-End 2022/23.	Yes
20 Jun 2023	Executive	Approach to Nutrient Neutrality and delivery of Middlesbrough Council housing schemes	To discuss the approach to Nutrient Neutrality and delivery of Middlesbrough Council housing schemes. The proposals will meet financial thresholds.	No



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

There are no decisions to be taken during this time period

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Breastfeeding Borough Declaration	to outline summary of a proposed local authority declaration on breastfeeding also known as 'Breastfeeding Boroughs'.	Yes
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Healthy Weight Declaration Adoption	This report outlines the purpose and process of signing up to the Healthy Weight Declaration in Middlesbrough.	Yes
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Refugee Resettlement	To seek agreement to resettle 5 families per year, being a mixture of ARAP/ACRS and UKRS.	Yes
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime Action Plan - Review Report	The report outlines suggested adaptations to the approved Anti Social Behaviour and Crime Action Plan, to amend the scope of intervention and approve funding allocations.	Yes
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Off Road Bikes	The aim of the panel's investigation was to consider Middlesbrough Council's and Cleveland Police's approach to Off road bikes, following concerns within the community and recent media attention.	No

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	Update to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy - covering mandatory and charitable rate relief, part occupation and hardship relief	Yes
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Hemlington North - Disposal Part A	This report advises on the proposal to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land situated at Hemlington North.	Yes
18 Jul 2023	Executive	Exempt - Hemlington North - Disposal Part B	This report advises on the proposal to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land situated at Hemlington North.	Yes
15 Aug 2023	Executive	Digiwise Project - Foster Care and Supported Lodgings Wifi and Internet Use Policy	Adoption of council wide policy and approval of recommendations to be agreed for all residential and foster care settings.	No
15 Aug 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Captain Cook Square - Business Case	Requirement for update on current position, along with options for maximising the commercial options for the strategic viability of a key Council asset.	Yes
15 Aug 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
15 Aug 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
5 Sep 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
13 Feb 2024	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	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			Middlesbrough municipal waste.	

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Mayor and Chief Executive
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	5 July 2023
Title:	Corporate Governance Improvement Next Steps
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable

<p>Executive summary</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to reflect on progress to date and set out the planned next steps for the Council on its corporate governance improvement journey.</p> <p>The report outlines the background to the Council's corporate governance journey to date, key events that have occurred in relation to corporate governance to ensure new members of this Council are fully aware of the background to this journey, the significance of the governance concerns that have been identified and the importance of effectively addressing them.</p> <p>The report sets out progress made to date, the latest views of the Council's External Auditors on progress made and the planned next steps address the wider set of concerns identified.</p> <p>The report proposes the creation of a third phase of corporate governance improvement, based around the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Recovery and Resilience • Cultural Transformation • Social Care • Regeneration / Sustainability.
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Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to reflect on progress to date and set out the planned next steps for the Council on its corporate governance improvement journey.

Background and relevant information

2. During 2022/23 a series of reports were presented to full Council. They set out the Phase 1 and 2 approaches to the Council's corporate governance improvement plan. Further reports also provided updates on progress made in delivery of those plans to the previous administration of Councillors. Those plans were put in place, in order to address the corporate governance concerns identified by Ernst and Young (EY), the Council's External Auditor Annual Audit Results Report considered by Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee on 22 July 2022.

Background to the Corporate Governance improvement journey

3. The EY report set out a series of concerns, At the same meeting, the Council's three statutory officers (Chief Executive, Director of Legal and Governance Services and Director of Finance) submitted a report entitled 'Commencing a Corporate Governance Improvement Journey' that set out how the Council intended to respond to those concerns.
4. The report explained that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) would be commissioned to provide a wider, independent review of the Council's culture and governance. This work was completed and reported to Council on 11 October 2022, whereby the findings were fully accepted, completing Phase 1 of the improvement journey.
5. CIPFA's report was accompanied by a joint report from Mayor Andy Preston and the then Chief Executive, setting out an ambitious improvement delivery plan to address concerns over four key themes, shaped into task and finish working groups with a view to demonstrating progress over 90 days (Phase 2):
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Training and development
 - The Constitution
 - Culture and communications.
6. Each task and finish working group was comprised of a range of officers and members and overseen by an independently chaired board of officers and members with full political representation, referred to as the Corporate Governance Improvement Board, which sat monthly for the duration of the 90-day plan.

Progress to date

7. The approach taken by the Corporate Governance Improvement Board and supporting working groups was to develop delivery plans to support the key actions identified by CIPFA. During this phase, work focused on improvements and revisions to processes,

policies and documentation providing a strong foundation to facilitate ongoing, positive progress and cultural change.

8. Additionally, within Phase 2, substantial focus was given to addressing concerns in relation to officer and member and member and member relations. Appendix 1 sets out in detail the achievements made during this period, which include:
 - An initial refresh of the Member and Officer protocol which has since been further developed to include more examples of positive behaviours and expectations. The refreshed document will be included in the revised Constitution, which will be brought forward for consideration by full Council in September 2023.
 - Baseline staff and member surveys were undertaken and will be further built upon, as part of a new People Strategy currently in development.
 - Agreed an approach to the development of communications protocol for officers and members which will be considered as part of Phase 3.
 - Creation of an informal meeting space for members in the Town Hall and creation of member parking spaces in Fountain Court, to improve access to staff and encourage opportunities for engaging outside of formal meetings.
 - Alignment of Executive Member portfolios with officer and scrutiny panel structures.
 - A refreshed approach to Member inductions, is currently in delivery.

9. The elements of the Phase 2 work to be carried forward into the next stage of corporate governance improvement, have been agreed, as follows:
 - Council approval of the revised approach to the Council's constitution, to ensure the document is cohesive, user-accessible, and reflective of the outputs of the task and finish working groups i.e., codes of conduct, communication plans and protocols.
 - Development and implementation of a People Strategy for both officers and Members, setting out the Council vision and how that will be realised, encompassing a number of training and development activities commenced during 2022/23.
 - Improvements to the approach for Member enquiries and service requests.
 - A refreshed approach to the development of the Council's Strategic Plan.

External Audit

10. The External Auditor (EY) has recently published its Annual Report that was considered by the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee on 29 June and is appended to this report for information at Appendix 3. This includes:
 - Confirmation of an unqualified opinion on the Council's Financial Statements and those of the Teesside Pension Fund for the financial year 2020/21.
 - A summary of views on the progress the Council has made in addressing the recommendations it made in relation to the audit of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts
 - Within 'Other Reporting Issues', the Auditor summarised:
 - i. Confirmation that he is satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 is consistent with EY's understanding of the Council
 - ii. that within the December 2022 report to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee, the External Auditor had noted that whilst the Council had taken

positive action to respond to the July 2022 recommendations, there was concern over the ability to deliver on these actions.

- iii. That EY will continue to monitor progress against the Improvement Plan as part of the VFM work for 2021/22 and future periods. In the event that the Council does not make satisfactory progress against the Improvement Plan, or the actions taken are not having the necessary effect on the Council's culture, EY will reconsider whether statutory recommendations or other auditor reporting powers are appropriate.
- iv. EY recommends that the Council reviews and improves its arrangements for recording and accounting for infrastructure assets; compliance with procurement policies and procedures; arrangements for public inspection of the accounts; management and recording of leasing information (IFRS16).

11. This Annual Report presented to Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee on 29 June 2023 is appended to this report for information, at Appendix 3.

12. As well as focussing on the 2020/21 financial year, EY's Annual Report also includes a forward look at the Council's challenges beyond the 2020/21 financial year which will form part of their future Value for Money arrangements work covering the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23. It covers:

- The Council's ongoing challenge to overcome poor senior officer and member relations and the resultant issuing of a **Best Value Notice** by the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in January 2023.
- The challenge of delivering the **Children's Services Improvement Plan** and exercising effective budgetary control in light of the Directorate's significant overspends in 2021/22 and 2022/23; the need to ensure delivery of approved savings and the potential need to take further cost saving measures to ensure the **financial sustainability** of the Council given its low level of reserves during 2023/24.
- **Middlesbrough Development Company** – to ensure that the Council manages the demise of the subsidiary including the of assets and settlement transfer of Council loans to the subsidiary.
- Identification of examples of lack of **adherence to Council policies and procedures**, in particular relating to compliance with procurement procedures.
- Concerns about the **stability of senior management** due to the turnover of s151 Officers, the change in Chief Executive and that these posts, plus the Executive Director of Children's Services and Director of Children's Care are all interim appointments whose current terms expire within 12 months. This lack of stability increases the risk of the Council not being able to deliver its improvement plans.
- The need to carefully manage the Increased risk exposure to further **commercial income streams** associated with the acquisition of the Cleveland Shopping Centre, Former House of Fraser, Captain Cook Square to expand the commercial portfolio.
- Risks to the Council's **financial stability** arising from continued Inflationary pressures due to the UK economic environment and associated impact upon demand led services, income streams and the need for additional support to individuals.

13. EY has confirmed that it will shortly publish an updated Value for Money Governance report to reflect on progress made in delivering against the Improvement Plan between its last report in December 2022 and 31 March 2023
14. While the Council has made progress in addressing issues identified in July 2022 and the subsequent CIPFA report, the pace of progress has been impacted by senior management turnover and local elections. It is expected that this reduced pace of progress, along with identification of further governance concerns will be reflected in that judgement.

Best Value Notice

15. On 24 January 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued a Best Value Notice which was formal notification that DLUHC has concerns about the Council in relation to:
 - Serious concerns highlighted by the external auditor, published in July 2022, around governance arrangements.
 - Cultural and governance issues further investigated in the CIPFA review published in September 2022.
16. The notice states that DLUHC expects:
 - 'You to continue in your efforts to deliver against your agreed action plan, accepted at full Council on 30 November 2022, at pace and meet the set milestones, also setting out clearly how success will be measured.
 - That you will continue in your efforts to implement cultural change, particularly in relation to the relationships between officers and members, and that this will be an important focus of the Improvement Board
 - To complement existing engagement between the Authority and the Department, we expect that contact at working level should occur on a quarterly basis initially, recognising that this may change according to need over time. We expect any requests for information to be fully and promptly met. The Department will also look to the Governance Improvement Board for assurance on your Authority's plan and its delivery as part of our engagement on this matter.'
17. Since that time, the Council has held fortnightly officer level engagement with DLUHC officials to provide DLUHC with assurance around the Council's progress against both the original scope of improvement activity as well as plans to address wider improvement considerations that have been developed during 2022/23.
18. At this stage, the Government's intervention is in the form of support, however if the Council fails to effectively respond to Government's concerns and provide assurance around its progress, further interventions could be taken. In other Council's this has taken the form of advisory or statutory Improvement and Assurance Boards through to intervention by Government appointed Commissioners. The latter involves the removal of powers relating to financial management and other governance areas of concern from Councillors and enforced changes to senior management structures. It is in the best interests of the town for the Council's elected members to retain decision making powers, rather than them being transferred to unelected officials. Therefore, ensuring

that the Council can respond at pace to address its governance and financial challenges must be a key priority for both officers and Members.

Wider improvement considerations

19. This section sets out the background to those issues for members understanding. A revised Corporate Governance Improvement plan will also reflect these issues and will form the basis for provision of further assurance to the Council's External Auditors and DLUHC.

Further changes in political and officer leadership

20. Since the conclusion of the Phase 2 90-day plan, the Council has seen significant changes its composition including in the Mayor, Chief Executive and Section 151 officer roles, as well as the political make-up of the wider Council chamber.

Independent assessment of financial resilience

21. In early 2023, further support was commissioned by the Council from CIPFA to independently assess the Council's financial resilience, in particular the affordability of its financial plans, adequacy of its levels of reserves and compliance with good practice in financial management.
22. The report findings identified that the financial resilience of the organisation was fragile, with reduced reserves and a 2023/24 budget that was set on the premise that significant savings would be delivered during 2023/24. CIPFA also highlighted that the Council was adopting an annual budget process – balancing only 2023/24, rather than establishing a balanced Medium Term Financial Strategy over three-to-five-years which is the normal standard of good practice in local government.
23. The Council holds critically low levels of usable revenue reserves and faces significant financial risks due to ongoing high inflation and the associated impacts upon citizens, businesses and the demand for and cost of services. It is essential that the Council strengthens its grip upon financial management arrangements during 2023/24 and delivers within the approved revenue budget. This will need more regular and proactive management of budgets, a focus upon ensuring the delivery of approved savings and prompt management action to address and control emerging financial pressures. This is a critical focus area for the interim Chief Executive, Interim Director of Finance (s151 Officer), the Mayor and Executive Member for Finance and Governance.
24. The 2023/24 approved budget of £126.354m is predicated on the delivery of £9.4m of savings including £3.6m within Children's Care. The Children's Care Directorate experienced significant overspends in 2021/22 and 2022/23, resulting in depleting revenue reserves. The Directorate budget was re-based from £39.744m to £54.649m for 2023/24 requiring equivalent savings in other service areas. It is essential that all directorates deliver within their approved budget for 2023/24 to ensure that the Council can start to rebuild its financial resilience by maintaining and then rebuilding reserves in 2024 and over the medium term. Failure to maintain a balanced revenue budget position, could result in the s151 Officer being required to issue a statutory s114 notice. This would involve Council approving plans to cease all but essential expenditure to

meet statutory duties and implement a Council wide financial recovery plan. This would also be likely to result in an escalation of intervention by DLUHC.

- 25. It should be noted that approximately 80% of the Council's budget is now dedicated to Adult and Children's social care support. As such, a considerable focus is required in relation to all spending decisions to ensure the Council spends wisely, to achieve good outcomes for all within severely limited financial resources.
- 26. The Council's commercial risk exposure has increased following the acquisition of several commercial properties. In addition, the continued challenging economic climate may reduce income generated from fees and charges if demand for services is adversely impacted. It will be essential to monitor income budgets closely and undertake a review of the Council's income policy and its fees and charges levels during the year to help to support the budget position.

A fundamental review of the Council's asset base will be necessary in order to identify opportunities to rationalise all asset categories. This will serve to reduce operational revenue costs and provide opportunities for realising capital receipts from the sale of assets. Those receipts can be used for one of three purposes: investment in capital expenditure to realise ongoing revenue efficiency savings; repayment of borrowing to reduce the revenue costs of borrowing; apply to fund service transformation expenditure in accordance with the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy. These measures will serve to strengthen the financial resilience of the Council over the medium term.

Ongoing Government conversations

- 27. Alongside this, ongoing conversations between the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), outgoing and current Mayors and statutory officers, have focussed on the delivery of the improvement plan as well as wider conversations about the health of the organisation, and the steps required to provide DLUHC with assurance that the corporate governance of the Council is robust across all disciplines that comprise the corporate governance framework.

Requirement to further improve Children's Services

- 28. While the Council has made gradual improvements to practice within Children's Services since it was assessed as being inadequate across all measures in 2019, it is still judged as requiring improvement to be good across the five judgement areas used by Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) in its May 2023 report:

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children in care	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of care leavers	Requires improvement to be good

Overall effectiveness	Requires improvement to be good
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29. The Council is committed to continuing this improvement journey to achieve 'good' and will continue to maintain a governance focus on Children's Social Care services practice.

Next steps

30. To ensure a coherent, cohesive approach to the next stage of corporate governance improvement (phase 3), the focus will be reshaped around the following four key themes:

- Financial Recovery and Resilience
- Cultural Transformation
- Social Care
- Regeneration / Sustainability.

31. The attached corporate governance framework sets out the activities, to be delivered by each theme at Appendix 2.

32. One of the successes in Phase 2 of this improvement journey was the input the Council was able to receive from external advisors and experts who were able to provide guidance and capacity to deliver. This will be maintained by the creation of an Improvement Advisory Panel, comprised of individuals with significant experience of working in the key themes identified in this report that will be addressed in a refreshed Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

33. This Improvement Advisory Panel (the Panel) will be comprised of:

- An individual with local authority Chief Executive role experience, to act as Chair
- An experienced former Chief Financial Officer who can support the organisation's financial recovery work
- A social care specialist who can continue to offer the external validation role that was so important to the Council during its Children's Safeguarding improvement journey which is ongoing
- A regeneration specialist who can support the Council as it looks to put itself on a more sustainable footing, as well as navigating through the governance challenges that will arise from the establishment of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation to ensure that the best outcomes for Middlesbrough are achieved.

34. The Panel, established by the Mayor and Chief Executive, will support efforts to put in place the necessary measures that will address the concerns of its External Auditors and DLUHC and therefore satisfy those bodies that more formal intervention is not required in the Council. The work of the Panel will be shared with Members, Officers, the External Auditors and DLUHC through existing communication channels to ensure they are provided with evidence of its effectiveness.

35. The purpose of the Panel will be to:

- Act as a critical friend, providing the Council with experience, oversight, support and challenge on its plans
- Focus on how the Council assures itself that 'best value' is being achieved across all activities
- Support the Council to address the fundamental challenges it has around culture and governance
- Support the Council to ensure it is in a financially sustainable position. to receive updates on progress and provide robust and healthy challenge, over a 12-month period.

36. Delivery of this Panel will come at a cost to the authority, estimated costs are set out within the financial implications section of this report and resourcing of this will be considered at a meeting of Executive in July 2022.

37. An existing commitment within the Council's 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement specifies that sector peers are brought in at an appropriate point in time to provide further assurance around progress. This will be programmed in to align with the end of the 12-month period and therefore scheduled from the summer of 2024.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

38. That Council notes the progress made to date and endorses the proposed focus of the next phase of the Council's governance improvement journey.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

39. 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 as well as the wider issues set out in this report.

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

40. Not applicable.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

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

Strategic priorities and risks

42. 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

43. Not applicable.

Financial

44. The Council has identified that there is a contingency fund of £1.3m available. Following this report, a further report will be developed for Executive's consideration that will set out in detail proposals for a draw down from this budget in order to resource the improvement work included within this report. This will include:

- Additional resource in corporate support services to address weaknesses in governance
- Additional resources in corporate support services to support delivery of the corporate governance improvement plan
- Costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of the Panel for 12 months.

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

The report is for information only. To note however, the following actions are planned:

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Agree the resourcing needed to support delivery of this plan	Executive	31 July 2023
Officer delegated decision to appoint Board members	Chief Executive	31 July 2023
Development of detailed Phase 3 work programme (deliverables, risks, success measures, etc.)	Chief Executive	31 July 2023
Report on progress of Phase 3 work programme and Board views to Council meetings for 12 month period	Chief Executive	31 July 2024
LGA peer challenge arranged	Chief Executive	31 July 2024

Appendices

1	Middlesbrough Council Corporate Governance Improvement Board action plan (Phase 2)
2	Corporate governance improvement framework (Phase 3)
3	EY Auditor's Annual Report Year Ended 31 March 2021

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
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update	18 Jan 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Statement of Accounts 2020/2021	28 April 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Auditor's Annual Report – Year Ended 31 March 2021	29 June 2023

Contact: Mayor, Chris Cooke and Chief Executive, Clive Heaphy

Appendix 1: Middlesbrough Council Corporate Governance Improvement Board Phase 2 Action Plan

	Action	Progress RAG	Continued route
Roles and Responsibilities	Consider how a line can be drawn under past issues from a Member perspective e.g., revised Member Code of Conduct		
	Review and update Member / Officer protocol		Constitution
	Review existing process for Member enquiries, considering alternatives		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Develop plan to improve engagement between Members and officers		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Amend political group terms of reference, to reflect revised code of conduct and expected behaviours, protocols, and principles		
	Develop a communications protocol for Members and Officers		Gov Imp Phase 3
Training and Development	Review current Member training provision and consider any changes / updates required:		
	Consider what training should be delivered to Officers in respect of working with Members and understanding of Member/Officer protocol		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Develop learning materials in relation to the Constitution		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Develop training around Member and Officer codes of conduct		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Develop training for candidates before elections to set expectations for the role and ensure candidates are well prepared		
	Consider further opportunities to develop Executive Member and LMT use of Insights		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Consider extending use of Insights to committee chairs		
	Deliver LGA-facilitated development sessions for Executive Members and LMT		
	Develop framework for reviewing and updating Constitution, including looking at best practice examples and planning how and when a new Constitution will be developed		Constitution

The Constitution	Develop Constitution user guide		Constitution
	Deliver training/knowledge sessions to explain new Constitution to Members and Officers		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Review Scrutiny Panel arrangements and map to structure or priorities to ensure alignment across LMT, Scrutiny, Executive portfolios and strategic priorities		Constitution
	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		
Culture and Communications	Continue to review working from home arrangements for LMT and other key Officers		
	Re-establish an informal meeting space for Councillors that meets their needs		
	Deliver communications programme / workshop for Members to outline the impact of austerity on Council finances		
	Conduct a staff survey to baseline current mood in relation to governance concerns and repeat this survey regularly as needed and establish feedback loops		
	Conduct a complementary survey of Members to baseline their views and repeat to assess progress and report to the Board		
	Develop vision for new culture		
	Review and update social media policy		Gov Imp Phase 3
	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		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Set expectations of behaviour / etiquette in meetings		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Create opportunities for Members to visit and experience Council services e.g. open days for Members, neighbouring LA's, etc.		Gov Imp Phase 3
	Create internal search directory to support Officers and Members to find the right person to speak with		Member Development
Embed accessibility and communications of information (e.g. FWP, modern.gov, reports) for Members			

General actions	Establish and diarise regular meetings of Mayor and Group Leaders		
	Establish regular meetings of Mayor / Chief Executive		
	Schedule for ward walkarounds to be reinstated, enabling two-way feedback / updates to be developed		
	Schedule quarterly Executive and Leadership Team strategic away days		
	Develop process to ensure Member questions to Executive Members are published in full and in advance, of full Council meetings		Constitution
	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		
	Ensure move to new Council headquarters, enables shared working space for Executive Members and Leadership Team		

Key:	
	Complete
	On-track
	Some slippage
	Off-track

Appendix 2: Corporate governance improvement framework, Phase 3

Corporate Governance Improvement Journey

Financial Recovery and Resilience	Cultural Transformation	Social Care	Regeneration / Sustainability
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an MTFP / 4yr strategy • Implementation of savings delivery and assurance processes • Improve governance, spending controls and monitoring • Ensure effective financial management across organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create stable and sustainable leadership • Re-engage all with corporate values and Nolan Principles • Implementation of People Strategy to drive cultural transformation across the organisation • Staff and Member Development Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of reablement and residential care • Development of a Homelessness Strategy • Post-Inspection continued Children's Improvement Journey • Children's Financial Improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial risk appetite / exposure • Strengthening compliance with governance processes • Skills agenda • Town Centre and surrounding area regeneration Masterplan (aligning with MDC plan) • Refresh the Local Plan
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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	5 July 2023
Title:	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary

To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels because of vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations from Committees.

Purpose

1. To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees/scrutiny panels/outside bodies, following resignations and vacancies that remained, following the Annual Council meeting.

Background and relevant information

2. Following resignations from Committees and places on Committees and Outside Bodies that were not taken up at the Annual Council meeting, several vacancies exist. Council is required to consider and approve nominations for appointment to the vacancies.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

3. That the Council:

Subject to receipt of nominations to the following vacancies, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors and fills the following vacancies:

Committee Vacancies

Licensing Committee

1 vacancy (Labour)

Live Well Board

3 vacancies

Works Council

2 vacancies

Outside Bodies Vacancies

Cleveland Fire Authority

Councillor Hussain has replaced Councillor Thompson (To be noted)

Durham, Darlington, Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Committee

3 vacancies

2 Labour 1 MICA

Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee

2 vacancies

Linthorpe Community Centre

1 vacancy

Middlesbrough Oberhausen Town Twinning

1 vacancy

Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency

1 vacancy

NEREO

1 vacancy

River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy

Tees Valley Health Joint Scrutiny Committee

1 vacancy Labour

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

4. Council is required to appoint to any vacant places on Committees or Outside Bodies to ensure that all meetings will be quorate.

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

5. Do Nothing: This option could result in meetings becoming inquorate and could result in the decision-making process being delayed.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

6. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council periodically reviews the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.
7. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
8. The Council is under a duty to:
 - (a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.
 - (b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.

Strategic priorities and risks

9. Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement. By ensuring that meetings are quorate then the Council is ensuring that good governance is in place and in line with the requirements of the Council's constitution so this would have a positive impact on this risk.

If the Council doesn't respond effectively and efficiently to legislative changes it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities. The Council has a duty to ensure that the membership of the committees and sub committees are covered and is required to appoint to any vacant places to ensure that all meetings remain quorate. This will have a positive impact on this risk as the Council is fulfilling its duties.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

10. No protected groups are affected by the decision.

Financial

11. There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Add Members to Committees/Outside Bodies	Democratic Services Officers	31 July 2023

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin
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