

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Date: Wednesday 20th September, 2023
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Mandela Room

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Evacuation Procedure
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 26 July 2023 3 - 10
5. Executive Member Update: The Mayor 11 - 22
6. Middlesbrough Boundary Review 2023 23 - 44

The Head of Legal Services (People) will be in attendance to present the first draft of the Council's Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission.
7. Setting the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme - 2023/24 45 - 50

The Overview and Scrutiny Board will be asked to consider suitable topics for inclusion in its Work Programme for 2023/24, using the prioritisation aid at Appendix 1 of the report.
8. Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/2024 51 - 56
9. Executive Forward Work Programme 57 - 72
10. Scrutiny Chairs Update
 - Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel - Councillor J. Walker (Chair)
 - Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Councillor E. Clynch (Chair)

- Environment Scrutiny Panel - Councillor J. Ryles (Chair)
- Health Scrutiny Panel - Councillor J. Banks (Chair)
- Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - Councillor I. Blades (Chair)

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

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Tuesday 12 September 2023

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors M Storey (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), J Banks, I Blades, E Clynch, D Davison, S Dean, J Ewan, M McClintock, J Platt, J Ryles, M Smiles and J Walker

Assistance in accessing information

Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Scott Bonner, 01642 729708, scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Wednesday 26 July 2023.

PRESENT: Councillors M Storey (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), I Blades, D Davison, S Dean, M McClintock, J Platt, M Smiles and J Walker

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors P Storey (Executive Member for Education and Culture)

OFFICERS: S Bonner, A Wilson, R Horniman and R Brown

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors J Banks, E Clynch and J Ewan

23/1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/ Nature of Interest
Cllr M McClintock	Non-Pecuniary	Item 8 - Executive Forward Work Programme (Disposal of Nunthorpe Grange Farm). Ward Councillor.
Cllr M McClintock	Non-Pecuniary	Item 8 - Executive Forward Work Programme (Disposal of Nunthorpe Grange Farm). Ward Councillor.

23/2 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 28 MARCH 2023**

The minutes of the OSB meeting held on 28 March 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

23/3 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 18 APRIL 2023**

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18 April 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

23/4 **MINUTES - AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL - 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

The minutes of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23 February 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Members were advised that, following OSB’s decision on 18 April 2023 to change the structure of the Council’s Scrutiny Panels, OSB would carry out reviews that previously fell within the remit of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel.

ORDERED that the Homelessness review started under the Ad hoc Scrutiny Panel be continued by OSB. A work plan for the review be submitted to the next meeting of OSB.

23/5 **MINUTES- CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 23 MARCH 2023**

Members were advised that following OSB’s decision of 18 April 2023 the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel had been retired. As such OSB were required to consider the minutes from the final meeting of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel.

The minutes of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23 March 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

At this point in the meeting the Chair thanked the previous Chair of OSB, Councillor Mick Saunders, for his stewardship of the Board over the previous four years.

NOTED

**** SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 5 - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

ORDERED: that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 5, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business to consider agenda item 11, Any Other Business, as the next item of business.

23/6 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

A proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Board for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year was submitted for Members' consideration.

The Chair advised that to ensure all Members of OSB could attend future meetings the time of OSB meetings be 4.30pm.

ORDERED: that the proposed meeting dates for 2023/2024 be approved.

23/7 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE - DEPUTY MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Education and Culture and invited her to make her presentations.

The Executive Member identified that, within the Education and Partnerships element of her portfolio, there were several opportunities that could be capitalised on. These included working with schools whereby a constructive dialogue could be created to understand local need. This principle also applied to working with special schools to address SEND needs.

There was also a need to support and challenge schools on their exclusion policies to promote inclusion as well as improving outcomes for young people in the town.

There was also an opportunity to maximise Family Hubs which could engage with families and work with them to break down access barriers. The Hubs could also be useful in acting as a link between Health and Education priorities.

Youth Justice was another important opportunity within the Education and Partnerships element of the Executive Member's portfolio. This included driving the delivery of the Youth Justice Plan and strengthening partnerships that could support delivery of shared agendas.

The Executive Member proceeded to outline the priorities within her portfolio area. These included supporting schools to improve the attendance of all children particularly the most vulnerable. There was also a priority to increase the number of SEND children and young people in mainstream settings as well as improving parenting support and the home learning experience to support children's learning and development.

A key priority was the establishment of the permeant Outwood Riverside School.

The Executive Member invited questions from the Board.

A Member queried how the Council would ensure a permeant school for Outwood Riverside. It was clarified this would be achieved, primarily, by working with the Department for Education (DfE). When questioned about the timescale required the Executive Member confirmed it was important that the Secretary of State expedited the process as the confirmed start date for the permeant school was to be 2026.

A Member commented the Council was not directly responsible for all Primary and Secondary schools in Middlesbrough. The Member queried how the Council could contribute to improved Ofsted ratings. The Executive Member responded that reducing the number of exclusions was a high priority as this would help young people but the schools themselves.

Members queried how many students were currently occupying the temporary Outwood Riverside site, currently located on Russell Street. It was confirmed 445 students were on the current site. The Chair commented that despite the difficult circumstances the school received positive Ofsted ratings and the teaching staff at Outwood Riverside should be congratulated for this.

Regarding how the increase in SEND provision would work in practice the Executive Member advised there was a need for mainstream schools to offer SEND provision. The rationale behind this lay in the number of children excluded with who had additional needs. Therefore, by encouraging mainstream schools to increase their SEND provision it was hoped the number of exclusions could be reduced. It was also confirmed there was some funding available for young people with additional needs, but as more young people were being diagnosed with additional needs than there was provision for those needs a bottleneck was being experienced. Analysis in Middlesbrough had shown the best solution was to meet additional needs in the classroom, complemented by a SEND base which would remain within the mainstream setting and then ultimately a special school.

A Member raised the matter of Music Education but was advised that would be covered in a later presentation.

A Member queried how the Council was dealing with high exclusion rates. It was commented that the number of exclusion rates remained high and that a conference for all Chief Executive's of local School Trusts was due to be held in October 2023. It was commented that the Inclusion Strategy was making an impact in certain places but exclusions remained too high. It was also confirmed the Council had bid for approximately £1 million for workforce development funding to help support schools on this matter.

It was noted that existing special schools were working collaboratively with mainstream schools to provide expertise where possible.

The Chair commented he was pleased to see working with the Family Hubs as one of the worst elements of the austerity agenda was the closure of SureStart centres that provided a wraparound service. It was queried what the Family Hubs would offer and if any distinction could be made between them and SureStart. The Executive Member clarified the Family Hubs would adopt a similar approach to what was offered by SureStart but they would also act as a first step for families requiring early intervention.

The Chair thanked the Executive Member for the information to that point and invited her to continue with her presentation.

The Executive Member proceeded to discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with the cultural element of her portfolio. OSB was advised Cultural Services comprised several elements. It provided sector leadership in the sense it led on cultural partnerships, cultural funding bids and liaison with the Arts Council. The Council had several venues within the remit of the cultural service including the Town Hall, Middlesbrough Theatre, Newham Grange and the Dorman Museum. This was in addition to Stewart and Albert parks.

Cultural Services were also responsible for several high profile events and important functions including the Orange Pip Market, Mela, Teesside Archives as well as various arts and music projects.

The priorities for the Executive Member included extended uses of the Town Hall, to create and independent quarter and to make Middlesbrough the heart of artistic and community creativity.

It was queried if there were specific plans to improve the safety of all parks as some, including Pallister Park seemed to have been neglected when compared to other parks in the town. It was recognised that extra funding was needed to ensure all open spaces in the town were fit for purpose and safe for all ages.

It was queried how the use of the Town Hall could be extended and if the Town Hall was well used and what the cost implications could be. The Executive Member confirmed that ideally the Town Hall should be used all the time and was currently being used by music groups. It was discussed that while there was an events schedule for the Town Hall it may be beneficial for a day-time schedule that could be shared with Councillors.

A Member commented there were approximately 600 students were learning classical instruments during the school day for no charge. The arrangements were put in place following financial contributions from the Council, Schools and charities. When asked if this arrangement would continue the Executive Member confirmed she was in discussions with relevant stakeholders, including Teesside Music Service, to try and secure a long-term future for this provision.

The Chair queried if there was any scope to expand the use of the Fire Station and Court Room venue, which had been the recipient of lottery heritage funding. It was confirmed those areas were used but improvements could be made to improve their popularity. The Executive Member agreed to provide attendance figures for the Court Room and Fire Station venues.

The Chair also suggested that the Carriageway Café could be operated as bar as it was currently not being used. It was confirmed this was being considered which could potentially include a mobile bar that could be taken to events such as the Orange Pip market.

From an inclusion perspective, it was queried if there was a plan to increase participation by people from BAME backgrounds in cultural events. While there were prospective plans in place these were subject to funding. The Director of Regeneration commented the Town Hall had set up a steering group as part of the national portfolio organisation and relationship with the Arts Council. It was agreed that inclusion was a strand of activity that needed a plan as the Arts Council challenged the Council on this issue.

The Director was also keen to seek suggestions from OSB about how the Town Hall could be used to attract as wide a range of customer as possible.

After the query was raised, it was confirmed that tours of the Town Hall still took place. A discussion took place regarding the good quality of the Town Hall as venue as how it should be utilised a lot more.

The Chair then invited the Executive Member to present the final part of her presentation.

The Executive Member advised OSB that part of her portfolio also included developing an anti-poverty strategy. Developing the strategy involved a multi-departmental approach including Public Health, Education and Environment. Each department was able to contribute to the anti-poverty strategy via the Live Well Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as Family Hubs and Locality Working.

The Executive Member's Priorities for this strategy included continued work with the Middlesbrough Truth Poverty Commission, to give Middlesbrough a voice on the Northeast Child Poverty Commission and to work the Institute on Public Policy Research on their Poverty analysis.

A Member queried how Middlesbrough compared concerned poverty. It was clarified that the Town and certain wards such as North Ormesby and Central, were deeply affected by poverty particularly child poverty. It was also clarified that the Anti-Poverty strategy was at an early stage with lots of information gathering taking place.

The commented there was a link between austerity and poverty and the Chair queried what joined up work was taking place to combat poverty in Middlesbrough. It was clarified that key stakeholders were being contacted, including the MVDA, to understand what work needed to be carried out. It was also commented that other Councils were in a similar position to Middlesbrough and their approach was to anti-poverty strategy creation was of a similar nature.

The Executive Member also clarified the Middlesbrough Poverty Truth Commission was part of LocalMotion, a new organisation that would act as the voice for the poorest in the town. When fully structured the organisation would include a range of stakeholders including representatives from the Council and the charity sector.

Given that poverty is a cross cutting issue, the Chair suggested that all Council report templates be updated to demonstrate how decisions have an impact on poverty in the town.

ORDERED that:

1. Visitor statistics for the Fire Station and Court Room in the Town Hall be provided to OSB;
2. All Council reports include how decisions impact poverty in Middlesbrough;
3. The presentations delivered be circulated to OSB; and
4. The information presented be noted.

23/8

EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive, as outlined in Appendix A to the report. The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with the opportunity to consider whether any item contained within the Executive Forward Work Programme should be considered by the Board or referred to a Scrutiny Panel.

OSB agreed the Forward Plan be submitted to them electronically on a weekly basis. The Chair advised members that any questions about the Forward Plan could be raised with him in the first instance.

ORDERED that:

1. The Executive Forward Plan be circulated to OSB on a weekly basis; and
2. The information presented in the report be noted.

23/9

MIDDLESBROUGH BOUNDARY REVIEW 2023

The Chair welcomed the Head of Legal Services (People) and invited her to deliver her presentation.

OSB was advised the Local Government Boundary Commission looked at electoral arrangements for a local authority. This included the number of Councillors, polling places and so on.

One of the reasons Middlesbrough was undergoing the review was due to electoral inequality. This was the result of population changes since the previous review with the review examining if the number of electors per Councillor was still relevant. There were some wards that had experienced significant population changes including Stainton and Thornton.

A Member queried how population variation affected the review. The Head of Legal Services explained population variance was not an exact science and considered different factors in the area. It was agreed that the presentation slides would be sent to OSB.

It was explained the Boundary Review was split into two phases. The first phase was a data gathering exercise and included statistical data collection including number of Councillors and a geocoded electoral register. This process was at a preliminary stage and needed to be submitted to the Boundary Commission by the end of October 2023.

OSB's role in the Boundary Review was also explained to Members. One of the first tasks for OSB would be to consider the report containing the result of the data gathering exercise. The report would consider several factors including the role of a Councillor in Middlesbrough, the Council's Committee Structure and Electorate Projections.

Members were also advised there was a guidance document about the review that had initially been circulated following an all-Member briefing. The Head of Legal Services agreed to circulate this to OSB following the meeting.

It was suggested that Phase two of the Boundary Review could cause the most issues, and it would be this phase where OSB needed to actively engage with the process. Members were advised that any recommendations would come into force in 2027.

The first draft of the Phase one submission would be brought to OSB on the 20th September with the final draft being submitted at the 18th October meeting of OSB.

A Member queried what work was being done to include residents on the electoral register. It was confirmed a lot of work had been undertaken in the lead up to the election as well as the

usual annual canvass. It was also discussed that non-registration was a significant problem in some parts of the town. It was also discussed that this was a problem nationally.

The Head of Legal Services was asked if the Council's budgetary constraints played a factor in this process. It was explained that the Council's budgetary position was not a consideration for the Boundary Commission. However, until the data had been gathered and analysed it was impossible to know how the results of the review would impact on the Council's financial position.

It was discussed if the final proposal would contain different proposals or several proposals.

The Chair commented the recommendations of the previous Boundary Review were based on the Council's input but there was also political group input.

It was also queried if the recommendations would be in place for 10 years. It was clarified that while this was the norm, the time period between reviews was not set in stone as other factors could trigger further reviews. It was also commented that using only electoral register data may leave gaps in the resulting proposal. It was clarified that some data was census driven.

The Chair commented that one of the driving factors behind the review was the population variance in the Stainton and Thornton Ward since the last review. It was also commented that, at first glance, the data suggested an additional Councillor may be required. However, it would be for the outcome of the review to determine this as there were other factors that contributed to the final recommendations.

The Chair also commented that for Parliamentary Boundary reviews there was an ideal number of electors per constituency. He queried if a similar number was required for local government boundary reviews. The Head of Legal Services was not aware of such a figure but would find this information and advise the Board accordingly. The Chair also emphasised an earlier point that the electorate was not the same as the population and this needed to be in the background of any discussions that took place.

A member queried if levels of deprivation or need would be a contributory factor when determining levels of representation. It was confirmed information about deprivation levels would be added to the report that was brought back to OSB.

The Chair thanked the Head of Legal Services for her presentation.

ORDERED that:

1. The slides presented be circulated to OSB;
2. The Boundary Review guidance for Members be circulated to OSB;
3. That a distinction be made between population and electorate statistics in the report brought back to OSB; and
4. The information presented be noted.

23/10

SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair advised OSB that Scrutiny Panel Chairs were expected to attend all meetings where possible in order to deliver their respective Scrutiny Chair's updates. In the event Scrutiny Chairs could not attend the relevant Vice Chair would be expected to attend on their behalf to deliver the update.

The Chair of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel advised OSB that the Panel had met in July and received an overview of the Service Area by officers. The Chair commented the Panel was surprised at the breadth of services offered by Adult Social Care and Health Integration. At its next meeting on September 12th the Panel would be setting its work programme with many suggested review topics coming from Councillors. One topic was social housing, of which there was a shortage, which was exacerbated for older people. The Panel was keen to explore how older people could be independent in their own homes for longer.

As Vice Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel, the Chair of OSB advised Members the Health Scrutiny Panel had met on 15th June and received the South Tees Trust's Quality Accounts.

26 July 2023

The Trust had been rated “Good” in a lot of areas by the CQC which was a significant improvement on its previous rating. The Panel had also met on 10th July where representatives of the Foundations Trust were in attendance to discuss the notice that had been served on the Foundations Practice and what impact this would have on residents, especially those with substance misuse issues. While it was concerning the service would be lost, it was confirmed there were provisions in place to fill the service gap. The Panel also received a wide-ranging overview of services from Public Health and the Integrated Care Board.

The Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel advised Members the Panel had met on 19th July where it had received a service update from the Director of Regeneration. The Panel learned the Regeneration department covered a wide range of services including Planning and Economic Growth as well as creative partnerships. The Panel had not agreed on topics as these would be discussed at the panel’s next meeting. The Panel had agreed to discuss the Local Plan and what would be contained in it.

This page is intentionally left blank

Overview and Scrutiny Board: The Mayor's update

20 September 2023

Agenda



Page 12

- 'Hot topics'
- Exec decisions
- S24 statutory EY recommendations
- Governance Improvement Journey
- Council Plan
- Questions

‘Hot topics’

- Poverty Strategy
- Social Value Charter
- Health and Equality
- Family Hubs

Page 13

Executive decisions

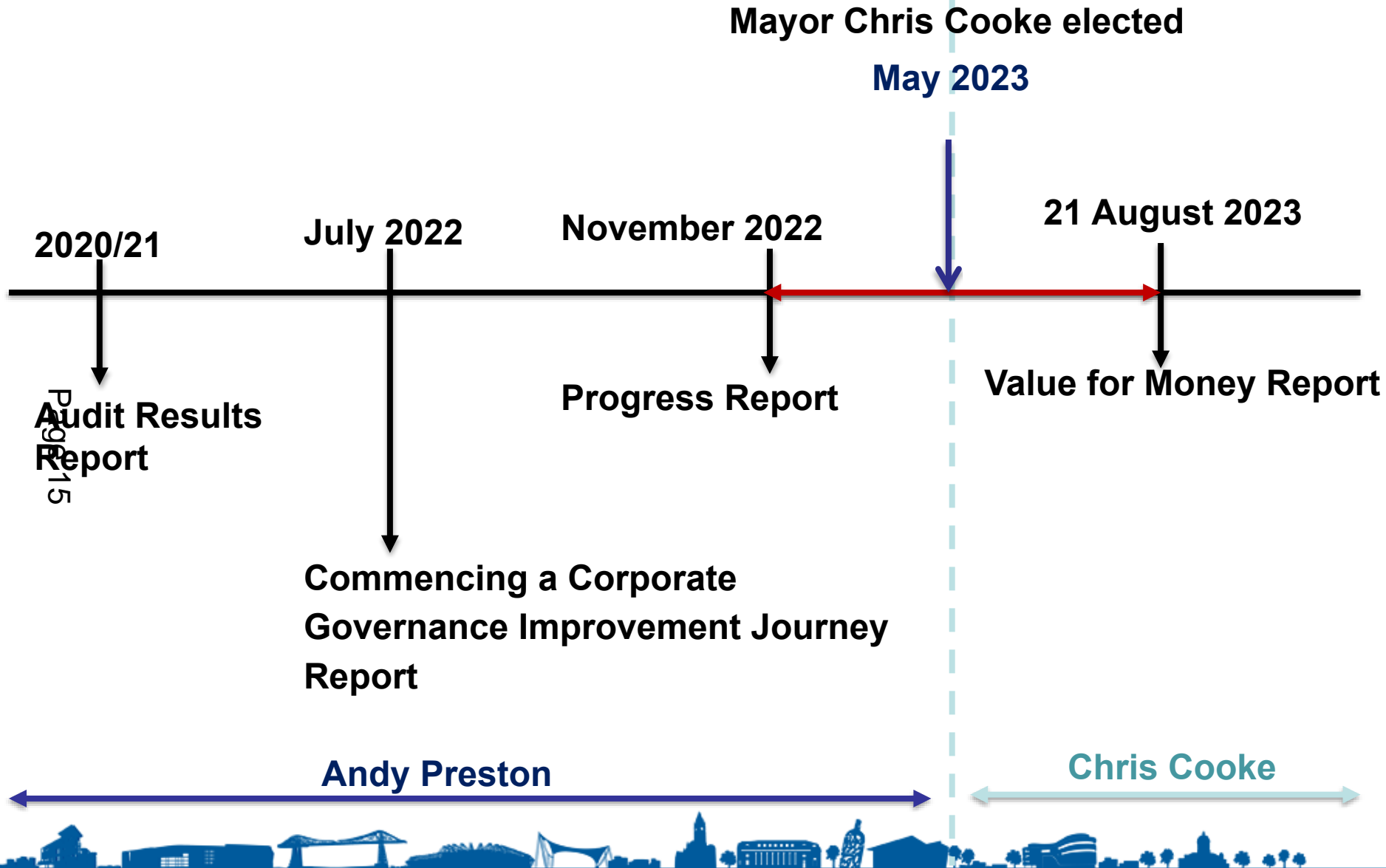
August 2023

- **Revenue and Capital Budget - Forecast Outturn Position as at Quarter One 2023/24** → £11.563m overspend & usable revenue is critically low- urgent management action required to reduce expenditure and the forecast outturn within budget
- **Medium Term Financial Plan** → Agreed proposed Reserves Policy and recommended to Council for approval
- **Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Off Road Bikes** → Approve the action plan developed in response to the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel's recommendation

September 2023

- **Middlesbrough Development Company Closure** → Action Plan for the formal closing of Middlesbrough Development Company & learning document to the TVLA and other local authorities
- **Hemlington North- Disposal** → North Star Housing Group develop the site to create affordable housing

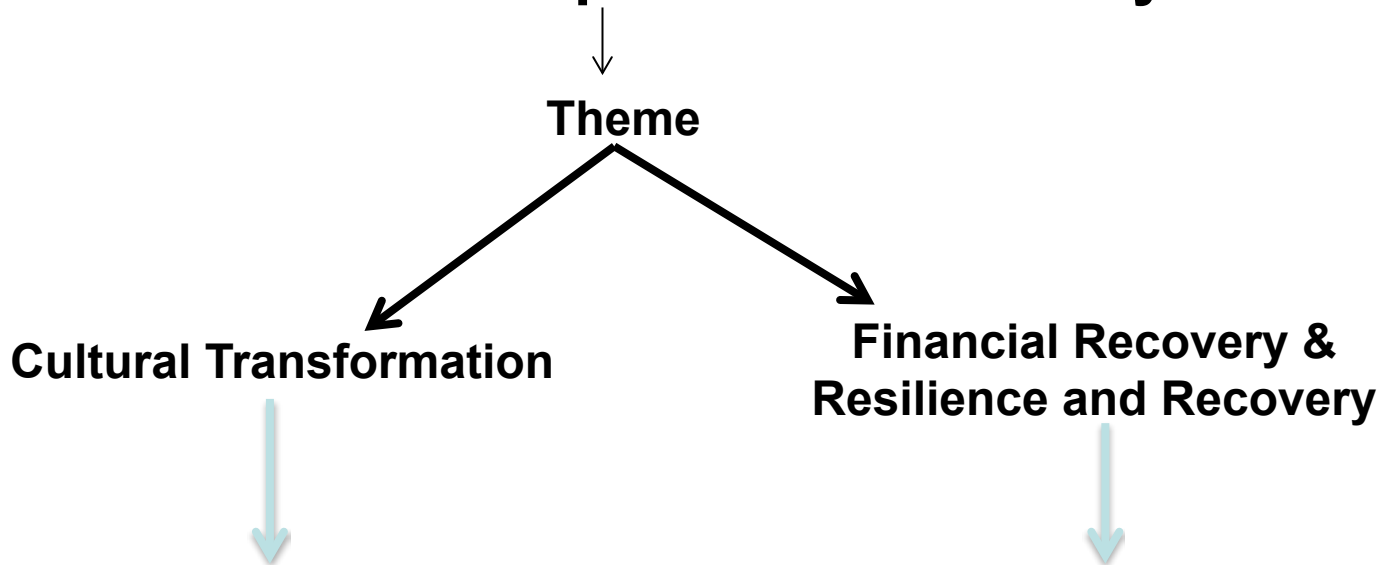
S24 statutory EY recommendations



Recommendation	Completed	On target to be completed
1. Address Culture and Governance Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan to address issues raised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Phase 3 CGIP Appoint Independent Improvement Advisory Board membership
2. Develop contingency and succession governance Protocols		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete recruitment process for interim appointments Senior Management Review
3. Review and update Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of updated Constitution considered, approved and implemented to full council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory e-learning to assist understanding the Constitution
4. Control expenditure and protect limited remaining reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly budget sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of spending controls Purchase Card activity reported Chief Officers monthly Weekly LMT Vacancy Control Panel in place to review, challenge and approve business cases for essential vacancies
5. Review service delivery models		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's strategic planning and budget development process for setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 and over the period of the MTFP to 2026/27 is in progress Review of the Council's asset to identify surplus assets
6. Review financial forecasting processes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement more robust cost modelling and forecasting with a particular focus on Adults and Children Social Care, school transport and waste disposal

Recommendation	Completed	On target to be completed
<p>7. Review Financial and Contract Procedure rules</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Financial and Contract Procedure presented to both Audit and Constitution Committee Approved at Full Council on 18/09/23 	
<p>8. Training for officers to understand the new Financial and Contract Procedural rules</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory in person training to all budget managers, Heads of Service, Budget Managers, Chief Officers etc All staff undertake e-learning procurement training
<p>9. Review all ongoing contracts awarded under exemption but subject to subsequent amendment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified all exemption approved, since 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-reference exemption with contract register Establish a bi-annual reporting schedule of approved exemptions and extensions to Audit Committee
<p>10. Review oversight arrangements for MDC for the period up to demise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of governance and oversight completed Outcome of review presented to Executive 	
<p>11. Action Plan to realise the value created through the resources provided to MDC by the council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan presented to Executive 	

Governance Improvement Journey



Page 10

- People and Cultural Transformation Strategy
- Re-introduction of appraisal process
- Support collective learning + increased understanding of perspective (via improved Corporate Governance Training programme)
- Protect critically low reserves
- Setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 and over the 3 year period of the MTFP to 2026/27
- Improving financial governance, spending controls and monitoring

Strategic Plan Base

Middlesbrough

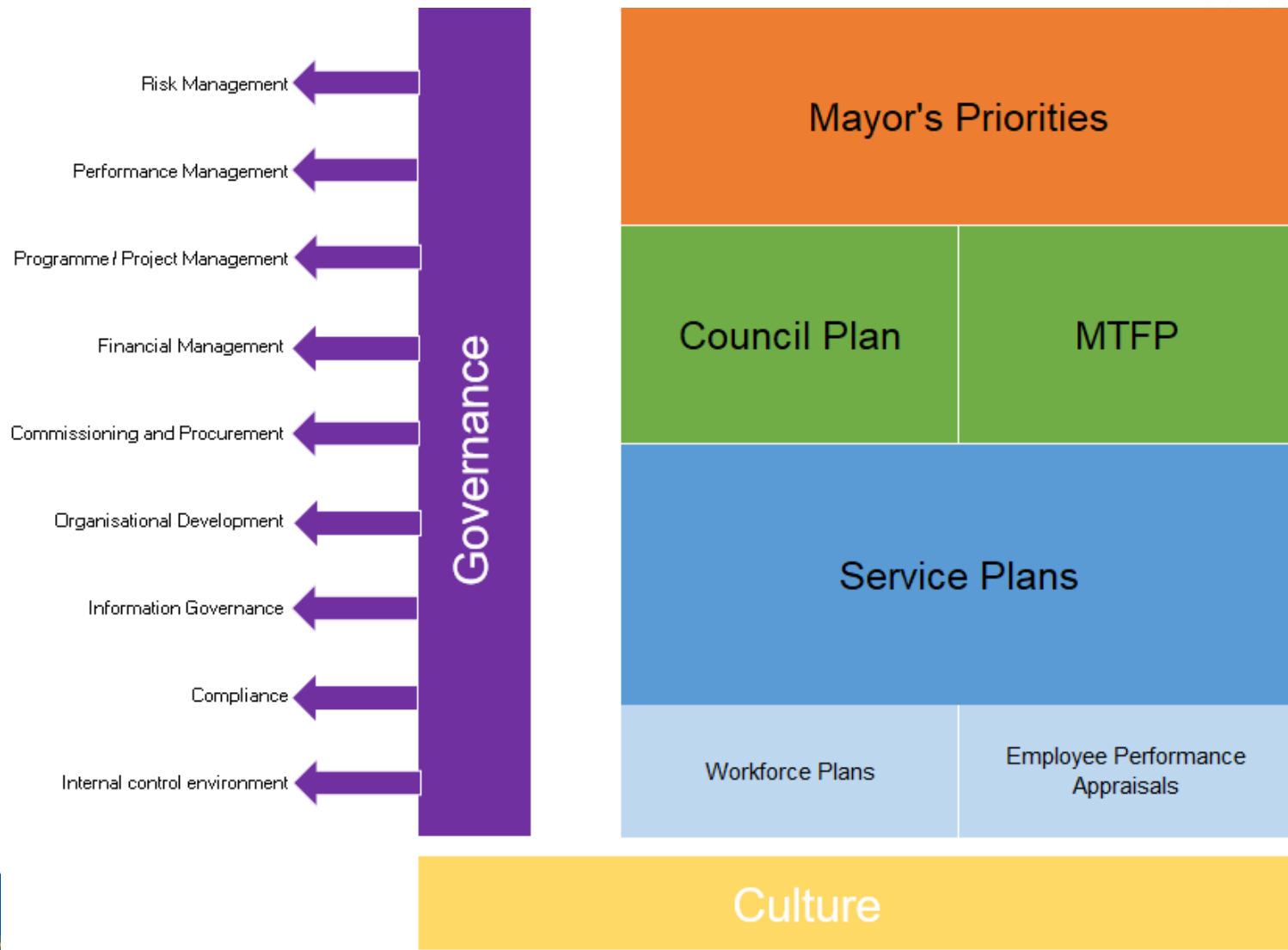
<p>A Successful and Ambitious Town</p> <p><i>Maximise economic growth, employment and prosperity, in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way</i></p>	<p>A Healthier Place</p> <p><i>Help our residents to live longer, healthier lives whilst improving their life chances and opportunities to thrive</i></p>	<p>Safer and Resilient Communities</p> <p><i>Create a safer environment in which we can support residents to live more independently, reducing risk of crisis</i></p>	<p>Delivering Best Value</p> <p><i>Changing how we serve to deliver the best outcomes for employees, elected members and residents</i></p>
<p>Attracting and growing local businesses, increasing opportunities for employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop / improve education and skills • The right housing, in the right place, and of the right quality • Improved connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving life chances of children and adults • Addressing health inequalities • Protecting and improving our environment • Inclusivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting adults to be independent for longer • Improved connectivity; digital and transport • Promoting new ideas and community initiatives • Protecting our most vulnerable residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a balanced Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan • Restore financial resilience and sustainability • Develop integrated performance and financial management systems • Robust decision-making and governance, backed by the right culture

Page 11



How plans link together

Page 20



Questions?



This page is intentionally left blank

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

Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin – Director of Legal and Governance Services
-------------------	--

Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
----------------------	-----------------------------

Date:	20 September 2023
--------------	-------------------

Title:	Ward Boundary Review – Council Size Submission (Phase One)
---------------	--

Report for:	Discussion
--------------------	------------

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

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

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

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

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

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

Executive summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body responsible for determining the electoral arrangements of local authorities across England.

In early 2023 the Commission identified the need for an intervention review due to poor electoral equality in some areas of Middlesbrough, which means that the ward ratios for councillors to Electorate was outside of the recommended variances.

The review commenced in May 2023, with the delivery of briefings for officers, political Group Leaders and an all member briefing in June. This was accompanied by a Members’ Briefing Pack containing all relevant information about the review, including timescales for submission of documentation.

The review is carried out over two phases. Phase One (May to October 2023), considers the Councillor numbers, and Phase Two (November 2023 to March 2024) looks at warding patterns.

This report and accompanying proposal is in regards to Phase One only – Councillor numbers, and sets out the data and analysis that has been gathered to date and the resulting draft proposals in regards to the number of councillors required.

Purpose

1. To provide Members with the draft proposal with regard to Council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission in respect of the forthcoming Electoral Review and to seek views on the content.

Background and relevant information

2. On 26 July Overview and Scrutiny Board received an overview of the proposed Ward Boundary review by the Head of Legal Services (People). The overview covered how the review would take place, the timescales involved and the role of OSB. It was explained the process consisted of two phases the first focussing on overall size of the Council, that is the number of elected Members that the Council requires to properly undertake its duties and responsibilities, and the second in regards to ward boundaries.
3. Councils play a major part in promoting local democracy and provide pathways by which people can influence decision making. The task of the Local Boundary Commission is to establish and maintain the conditions for a fair and representative democracy at a local level. During an electoral review the Boundary Commission will work closely alongside members and officers in order to determine the best electoral arrangements that will work to support the Council and its ambitions for the people of Middlesbrough.
4. As well as addressing the electoral imbalance that has arisen in the authority, Phase one of the review will give members the opportunity to comment on, and submit proposals about, how many councillors are needed to provide the Council's governance and representation requirements.
5. Attached at appendix one is a draft submission based on the analysis of the data gathered in regards to council size as per Phase One. This includes an analysis of the options in regards to whether there should be an increase, decrease, or no change to Councillor numbers.
6. Feedback and any suggested comments from OSB on the draft submission will be considered before a final version is brought to committee on the 18th October 2023 in advance of the deadline proposal date of 31st October 2023.
7. All individual Councillors, and political groups are able to submit their own proposals in respect of Council size in addition to the submission made by the Council.
8. Members could choose not to submit a proposal, however this would mean that their views are not taken into account when the decision is made by the Local Boundary Commission.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

9. None – report is for discussion only at this stage. The final proposal will be brought to OSB in October in advance of the deadline proposal date of 31st October 2023.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

10. None – report is for discussion only at this stage. The final proposal will be brought to OSB in October in advance of the deadline proposal date of 31st October 2023.

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

11. None – report is for discussion only at this stage. The final proposal will be brought to OSB in October in advance of the deadline proposal date of 31st October 2023.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

12. The proposal is for discussion only at this stage and therefore there are no legal implications in regards to submitting the proposal. The decision in regards to councillor numbers will be made by the Ward Boundary Commission and the Council will be bound by its recommendations.

Strategic priorities and risks

13. This submission contributes to the Council's Quality of Service strategic objective; *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.*

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

14. No protected groups are affected by the decision.

Financial

15. If there is an increase or decrease in the number of Councillors, this will affect the number of Basic Allowance entitlements which could introduce a budget pressure.

16. The current Basic Allowance entitlement at 2023/2024 is £7608, so each councillor will bring that additional cost or reduction.

17. As any change will not come into effect until 2027, the rate for Basic Allowance may have increased.

18. Once the final recommended number of councillors is known, the financial implications for the proposal will be set out for OSB at the next meeting in October,

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Submit Council Size Submission to Local Government Boundary Commission	Ann-Marie Wilson	31 October 2023

Appendices

1	Copy of Council Size Submission
---	---------------------------------

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin – Director of Legal and Governance Services
Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Middlesbrough Council

Council Size Submission: Template

Middlesbrough Council

Contents

How to Make a Submission	2
About You	2
Reason for Review (Request Reviews Only)	2
Local Authority Profile	3
Council Size	6
Other Issues	15

How to Make a Submission

It is recommended that submissions on future governance arrangements and council size follow the guidance provided and use the format below as a template. Submissions should be treated as an opportunity to focus on the future needs of the council and not simply describe the current arrangements. **Submissions should also demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been considered in drawing up the proposal and why you have discounted them.**

The template allows respondents to enter comments directly under each heading. It is not recommended that responses be unduly long; as a guide, it is anticipated that a 15 to 20-page document using this template should suffice. Individual section length may vary depending on the issues to be explained. Where internal documents are referred to URLs should be provided, rather than the document itself. It is also recommended that a table is included that highlights the key paragraphs for the Commission's attention.

'Good' submissions, i.e. those that are considered to be most robust and persuasive, combine the following *key success components* (as set out in the guidance that accompanies this template):

- Clarity on objectives
- A straightforward and evidence-led style
- An understanding of local place and communities
- An understanding of councillors' roles and responsibilities

About You

The respondent should use this space to provide the Commission with a little detail about who is making the submission, whether it is the full Council, Officers on behalf of the Council, a political party or group, a resident group, or an individual.

DELETE AS APPROPRIATE

OPTION A: This submission was by developed by Officers of the Council and was approved by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board.

OPTION B: This submission was by developed by Officers of the Council and was considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board. Upon consideration the Overview and Scrutiny Board decided to submit an alternative proposal.

Reason for Review (Request Reviews Only)

Please explain the authority's reasons for requesting this electoral review; it is useful for the Commission to have context. *NB/ If the Commission has identified the authority for review under one of its published criteria, then you are not required to answer this question.*

Not Applicable

The Context for your proposal

Your submission gives you the opportunity to examine how you wish to organise and run the council for the next 15 - 20 years. **The consideration of future governance arrangements and council size should be set in the wider local and national policy context.** The Commission expects you to challenge your current arrangements and determine the most appropriate arrangements going forward. In providing context for your submission below, please demonstrate that you have considered the following issues.

- When did your Council last change/reorganise its internal governance arrangements and what impact on effectiveness did that activity have?
- To what extent has transference of strategic and/or service functions impacted on the effectiveness of service delivery and the ability of the Council to focus on its remaining functions?
- Have any governance or capacity issues been raised by any Inspectorate or similar?
- What influence will local and national policy trends likely have on the Council as an institution?
- What impact on the Council's effectiveness will your council size proposal have?

Middlesbrough Council has operated the Elected Mayor/ Executive Governance model since 2002. In 2013 a Governance Referendum was held in which it was opted to retain the elected Mayoral system. Middlesbrough is separated into 20 Electoral Wards with 46 Councillors plus the Elected Mayor. Councillor and Ward structure is eight Wards have three Councillors; 10 Wards have two Councillors and two are single Member Wards.

In 2022 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) was invited to provide guidance and support in relation to the Council's governance processes. Further to CIPFA's arrival the Council is undergoing a Governance Improvement Journey which has seen both Members and Officers work collaboratively to improve the Council's Governance processes.

As the Council's proposal is to increase the number of Councillors by one, wider council effectiveness will not be impacted. However, due to the projected increase in electorate increasing the number of Councillors will provide more effective support to residents.

Local Authority Profile

Please provide a short description of the authority and its setting, in particular the local geography, demographics and community characteristics. This should set the scene for the Commission and give it a greater understanding of any current issues. The description should cover all of the following:

- Brief outline of area - are there any notable geographic constraints for example that may affect the review?
- Rural or urban - what are the characteristics of the authority?
- Demographic pressures - such as distinctive age profiles, migrant or transient populations, is there any large growth anticipated?
- Community characteristics – is there presence of “hidden” or otherwise complex deprivation?
- Are there any other constraints, challenges, issues or changes ahead?

Middlesbrough Council is an urban unitary authority with responsibility for the

provision of the full range of local authority services including housing, adults' and children's social care services, education services, highways and environmental services.

In 2004 the Council transferred its housing stock to Erimus Housing, now Thirteen Group.

By and large the Council has chosen to keep services in house wherever possible, although certain social care services are provided through the private and not for profit sector.

The current electorate is 99, 071 (2023). The estimate for 2027 is 103,605.

Of the 20 wards in Middlesbrough, six (30%) are in the top 1% most deprived wards in England, as defined by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as of 2019. These wards are North Ormesby, Brambles and Thorntree, Berwick Hills and Pallister, Newport, Park End and Beckfield, and Longlands and Beechwood.

A further two wards (Central and Hemlington) are in the top 3% most deprived. This means Middlesbrough has a total of eight wards (40%) which are in the top 3% of the most deprived Wards in England.

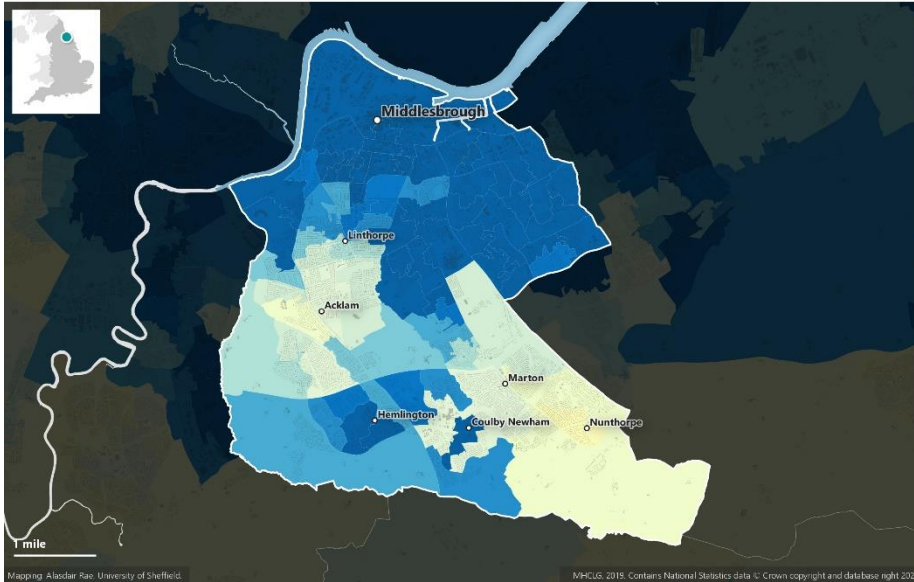
There are no other wards in Middlesbrough which fall into the top 10% most deprived in England.

From the same data-set Middlesbrough is the fifth most deprived local authority area in England. It has become more deprived since 2015.

Each of the 32,844 LSOAs (neighbourhoods) in England are given a score based on their deprivation level. They're also given a rank based on their score. Based on the LSOA scores, it's possible to estimate ranks for the wards in Middlesbrough.

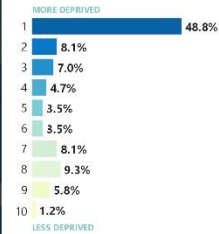
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

MIDDLESBROUGH



Local authority profile

% of LSOAs in each national deprivation decile



What this map shows

This is a map of Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 data for Middlesbrough. The colours on the map indicate the deprivation decile of each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) for England as a whole, and the coloured bars above indicate the proportion of LSOAs in each national deprivation decile. The most deprived areas (decile 1) are shown in blue. It is important to keep in mind that the data relate to small areas and do not tell us how deprived, or wealthy, individual people are. LSOAs have an average population of just under 1,700 (as of 2017).



Between 2015 and 2019, five wards have improved their ranking (becoming less deprived) and 15 have become more deprived.

Whilst it is appreciated that there are no absolute Member / constituent ratios, and that weighting in respect of deprivation or other factors is not easy, the Council would contend that in areas such as Middlesbrough, which experiences high levels of deprivation and multiple deprivation, there should be a higher rather than a lower ratio of elected Members per constituent.

This is especially relevant in Middlesbrough where large numbers of adults experience literacy problems, and have difficulties in dealing with (amongst other matters) statutory agencies.

As the Council is proposing an increase of one Member it is not envisaged the way Members work in their communities will change significantly. To provide an overview of what this work entails the Council Constitution includes a Role Profile (Job Description) that applies to all elected Members. This is attached at Appendix 1. The job role outlines the nature of work carried out in the local community. Contained in this Job Role the Key Tasks of all Members include:

- To provide local leadership in developing and maintaining active involvement of constituents in local democracy.
- To work for real and sustainable improvements in the economic, social and environmental well-being of the communities and local people they represent.
- To represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the Ward for which they were elected, and to deal effectively with constituents' enquiries and representations.

The Job role also outlines key tasks which include:

- To attend and actively contribute to meetings of Full Council.
- To fulfil the statutory and locally determined requirements of a Member of the Council, including compliance with all relevant codes of conduct.
- To develop and maintain a working knowledge of the Council’s policies, and of the community’s needs and aspirations in respect of the Council’s roles and functions.

Council Size

The Commission believes that councillors have three broad aspects to their role. These are categorised as: **Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulatory and Partnerships), and Community Leadership**. Submissions should address each of these in turn and provide supporting evidence. Prompts in the boxes below should help shape responses.

Strategic Leadership

Respondents should provide the Commission with details as to how elected members will provide strategic leadership for the authority. Responses should also indicate how many members will be required for this role and why this is justified. **Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic		
Governance Model	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p><i>Middlesbrough is made up of 20 wards (10 three member wards, 8 two member wards and 2 one-member ward), comprising a total of 46 councillors plus the Elected Mayor. Following the elections on May 4 2023, the political balance of the Council is currently 24 Labour, 4 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 2 Independents.</i></p> <p><i>The Council has adopted the Elected Mayor and Cabinet model as its political management structure. Every four years, the Council (and Mayor) are elected after which the Mayor appoints up to 9 Members to their Executive.</i></p>
	Analysis	TO FOLLOW – will include reference to the governance improvement plans .
Portfolios	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>The Executive consists of the Mayor and six other elected Members each of which have a specific portfolio.</p> <p>The Executive meets monthly and is responsible for implementing the Council's budget and policies as well as forming partnerships with other key organisations. Serving as an Executive Member can be a full-time role.</p> <p>Individual Executive Members play an active role in formulating and developing proposals that are presented to Executive for consideration. Individual portfolio holders have delegated powers to take decisions.</p> <p>Details of portfolios can be found at: Executive posts Middlesbrough Council</p>

		The Executive has established several sub committees and Advisory Groups, such as Joint Archives Committee and the Local Plan working group. Officers are also delegated responsibility for executive functions, as detailed in the Council's Constitution.
	Analysis	Executive meetings usually last about 1 hour and in 2022 (May - May) met 14 times and took 75 decisions.
Delegated Responsibilities	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>Full Council - all councillors sit on Full Council, which is the 'sovereign body' of the Council and is chaired by the Chair of Council (a Member elected by Council at the AGM). The Full Council is responsible for setting the budget, and making decisions such as changes to the Constitution, changes to the Policy Framework and approving the Budget.</p> <p>There are three schemes of delegation: Council, Executive and Officers. Each Scheme of Delegation relates to different functions e.g. Matters which are the responsibility of the Executive have delegations to individual Executive Members and Council delegations can be either Committees or Officers. The Officer Scheme of Delegation contains those delegations to individual officers from either Executive or Council. The Schemes of Delegation are part of the Council constitution: Middlesbrough Council constitution Middlesbrough Council.</p>
	Analysis	<p>The full Council meets every six weeks with each meeting lasting around 2.5 hours. Attendance levels are high with an average attendance of 40 Councillors (85%).</p> <p>Members of the public may ask questions of Members at meetings of the Council. In 2022 approximately 70 questions from the public were submitted.</p>

Accountability

Give the Commission details as to how the authority and its decision makers and partners will be held to account. The Commission is interested in both the internal and external dimensions of this role. **Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic	
Internal Scrutiny	The scrutiny function of authorities has changed considerably. Some use theme or task-and-finish groups, for example, and others have a committee system. Scrutiny arrangements may also be affected by the officer support available.

<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<p>The Mayor and Executive would be held to account by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and 5 thematic Scrutiny Panels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Scrutiny Board – 13 Members • Adult Social Care and Services – 9 Members • Children and Young People – 9 Members • Environment – 9 Members • Health – 9 Members • Regeneration – 9 Members <p>In addition to the Middlesbrough Health Scrutiny Panel there is also South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee and Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee which undertake jointly with other relevant local authorities, scrutiny of any issue or topic relating to health services delivered across South Tees and the Tees Valley. In recent years health scrutiny has taken up an increasing amount of Members' time given the integration of health and social care. This can often give rise to very emotive and complex issues.</p> <p>Task and finish groups would only be established if required and would consist of a small number of panel members (approx. 4). The task and finish groups would meet on an ad hoc basis so it is difficult to estimate a time commitment.</p> <p>Following a recent review, the number of Scrutiny Panels is felt to be adequate and would not change as the current panels align to each of the Council's directorates.</p>
<p>Analysis</p>	<p>The Council considers it important to have Scrutiny Panels of this size. Given scrutiny's role in amplifying the voices and concerns of the public, it is essential that the Committees, as far as possible, include Members from across the town.</p> <p>The Council has always maintained close links with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), and has been held as an example of good practice by the CfGS.</p> <p>In Middlesbrough all Executive Members are expected to attend Overview and Scrutiny Board at least once a year to provide updates on the challenges and opportunities relating to their portfolio.</p> <p>The Executive is also held to account by the Council's scrutiny panels who examine the activity associated with their portfolio.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Board has the power to call in decisions made by the Executive using the Council's Call-</p>

	<p>In procedure. They also have powers to scrutinise the activities and decisions of some partner organisations, including the NHS.</p> <p>The average length of a Scrutiny Panel meeting is around 2 hours and the average number of reports considered at each meeting is 1-2, panels receive evidence in the form of presentations relating to the topic that they are investigating.</p> <p>Before each meeting of a scrutiny panel a pre-agenda meeting takes place involving the Chair and Vice-Chair. These meetings are supported by Democratic Services officers and play a key role in supporting Members in the scrutiny process.</p> <p>When appropriate, Scrutiny Panel members, and meetings of the Scrutiny Panels, go out into the community to consult and to take evidence.</p> <p>In May 2019 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published new statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities having considered the findings and recommendations of the House of Commons CLG Committee report on the effectiveness of local authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees published in December 2017. The Scrutiny arrangements in place in Middlesbrough are largely consistent with the recommendations across the six areas covered in the guidance.</p>				
<p>Statutory Function</p>	<p>This includes planning, licensing and any other regulatory responsibilities. Consider under each of the headings the extent to which decisions will be delegated to officers. How many members will be required to fulfil the statutory requirements of the council?</p>				
<p>Planning</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1384 526 1848"> <p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="526 1384 1460 1848"> <p>There is a single council wide planning committee comprising 10 Members. There are no plans to introduce area planning committees. Executive Members are allowed to serve on the Planning Committee, currently there are no Executive Members sitting on the Committee.</p> <p>95% of applications are determined by officers under delegated powers with 5%, the larger and more controversial or complex applications, determined by the Planning Committee. On average the Committee considers 3 applications per meeting.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="343 1848 526 2072"> <p>Analysis</p> </td> <td data-bbox="526 1848 1460 2072"> <p>The Planning Committee meets monthly and on average the meeting lasts 2.5 hours.</p> <p>It has been recently agreed that site visits will no longer take place unless absolutely necessary due to cost implications to the Council.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<p>There is a single council wide planning committee comprising 10 Members. There are no plans to introduce area planning committees. Executive Members are allowed to serve on the Planning Committee, currently there are no Executive Members sitting on the Committee.</p> <p>95% of applications are determined by officers under delegated powers with 5%, the larger and more controversial or complex applications, determined by the Planning Committee. On average the Committee considers 3 applications per meeting.</p>	<p>Analysis</p>	<p>The Planning Committee meets monthly and on average the meeting lasts 2.5 hours.</p> <p>It has been recently agreed that site visits will no longer take place unless absolutely necessary due to cost implications to the Council.</p>
<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<p>There is a single council wide planning committee comprising 10 Members. There are no plans to introduce area planning committees. Executive Members are allowed to serve on the Planning Committee, currently there are no Executive Members sitting on the Committee.</p> <p>95% of applications are determined by officers under delegated powers with 5%, the larger and more controversial or complex applications, determined by the Planning Committee. On average the Committee considers 3 applications per meeting.</p>				
<p>Analysis</p>	<p>The Planning Committee meets monthly and on average the meeting lasts 2.5 hours.</p> <p>It has been recently agreed that site visits will no longer take place unless absolutely necessary due to cost implications to the Council.</p>				

		<p>All Members of the Committee (plus any Councillor who will serve as a substitute on the Committee) are required to undergo planning training. This training covers the role and responsibilities of the Committee and the planning service, the legislative and policy framework, how planning decisions are taken and the Member Planning Code of Good Practice. The Head of Planning also provides briefings on national planning policy, local plan updates, design training, enforcement, review of development sites and workshops on evolving masterplans. On average these last for 2 hours with around 10-15 Members attending.</p>
Licensing	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>The Licensing Committee comprises of 14 Members and is responsible for licensing and registration functions principally in relation to taxis, gaming, alcohol, entertainment, food and sex establishments.</p> <p>The Licensing Committees act in a quasi-judicial capacity to hear a range of licensing matters predominantly applications and reviews for taxi licenses for both operators and drivers.</p> <p>There are also 3 Sub Committees of the Licensing Committee which consider issues under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub Committee A • Sub Committee B • Sub Committee C
	Analysis	<p>There have been no changes to the Licensing Committee since the last Ward Boundary Review and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant changes in the future.</p>
Other Regulatory Bodies	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>There are a number of other committees/ working groups appointed by the Council which deal with the functions of the Council. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Officer Appointments Committee – 7 Members • Constitution and Members Development Committee – 9 Members • Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee – 7 Members • Corporate Health and Safety Group – 10 Members • Corporate Parenting Board – 9 Members • Staff Appeals Committee – 9 Members • Standards Committee – 9 Members • Teesside Pension Fund Committee – 9 Members • Works Council – 10 Members <p>There are 155 committee places in total across all committees which have been allocated as follows:</p>

		<u>Group</u>	<u>Number in group</u>	<u>Allocation of places</u>	<u>Number of places (rounded)</u>
		Labour	24	80.87	81
		Conservative	4	13.48	13
		Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association	14	47.17	47
		Liberal Democrats	2	6.74	7
		Unallocated* Independent and vacant	2	6.74	7
		Total	46		155
		* Do not count as a group Mayor is not included			
	Analysis	It has been recommended that the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee be split into 2 separate Committees, Corporate Affairs Committee and Audit Committee. It is assumed this will require 7 Members to sit on each committee and will result in an increase to 162 committee places.			
External Partnerships		<p>Service delivery has changed for councils over time, and many authorities now have a range of delivery partners to work with and hold to account.</p> <p>The Council's external partners include:</p> <p>Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA); River Tees Port Health Authority; South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board; North East Migration Partnership; Middlesbrough Community Safety Partnership; Middlesbrough Children's Trust; Middlesbrough Children's Improvement Board; South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership; Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board; Middlesbrough Environment City Trust Ltd; North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO); Cleveland Local Resilience Forum (LRF); Youth Offending Executive Management Board.</p>			
	Analysis	Upper tier Councils in England were each required to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board, as a Committee of the Council, under Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The purpose of Health and Wellbeing Boards is to provide collective leadership to improve health and wellbeing across the local authority area. The Board meets 4 times per year and comprises 4 Members, the Mayor, 2 Executive Members and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board.			

	In 2019 the Health and Wellbeing Boards of Middlesbrough Council and Redcar and Cleveland Council merged to become the Live Well South Tees Board. The Live Well South Tees Board is jointly chaired between the Mayor of Middlesbrough and the Leader of Redcar and Cleveland Council.
--	---

Community Leadership

The Commission understands that there is no single approach to community leadership and that members represent, and provide leadership to, their communities in different ways. The Commission wants to know how members are required to provide effective community leadership and what support the council offers them in this role. For example, does the authority have a defined role and performance system for its elected members? And what support networks are available within the council to help members in their duties? The Commission also wants to see a consideration of **how the use of technology and social media by the council as a whole, and by councillors individually, will affect casework, community engagement and local democratic representation. Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic		Description
Community Leadership	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Council Constitution includes a Role Profile (Job Description) that applies to all elected Members. Contained in this Job Role the Key Tasks of all Members include: ➤ To attend and actively contribute to meetings of Full Council. ➤ To fulfil the statutory and locally determined requirements of a Member of the Council, including compliance with all relevant codes of conduct. ➤ To develop and maintain a working knowledge of the Council's policies, and of the community's needs and aspirations in respect of the Council's roles and functions. ➤ To participate effectively in and attend all meetings of any Council body, as required. ➤ To participate in the activities of and attend all meetings of any outside body to which they are appointed, providing two-way communication between the body and the Council. ➤ To develop and maintain a working knowledge of the Council's Services, management arrangements, powers and duties, and constraints, in particular as they affect the area and communities they represent; and to develop good working relationships with relevant Members and Officers of the Council.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To actively participate in casework and Members' surgeries, in order to address constituents' problems. ➤ To act as a champion for, and represent the interests of, their local area and communities to the Council. ➤ To promote open government and democratic renewal through encouraging their local community to participate in the governance of the area. ➤ To act as champions for children looked after by the Council. ➤ To ensure that all Committees (including Executive Committees) on which they serve fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities. ➤ To represent the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities in their involvement with outside bodies, in particular in relation to duties as a school governor. ➤ To take up any opportunities for Member development to help improve their performance as an effective and influential Councillor. <p>Ward work is a key aspect of the representational role of an elected Councillor and includes dealing with resident's concerns and representing the concerns and interests of individual constituents and the ward more generally.</p> <p>6 of the 46 Councillors in Middlesbrough regularly hold ward surgeries: several are now using street surgeries in addition to or in place of ward surgeries to try and make contact with harder to reach groups of residents.</p> <p>Middlesbrough has 19 Community Councils. Community Councils were originally established as part of the Council's Community Development strategy but have since been developed into independently constituted bodies. The aim of Community Councils is to enable local residents to work collectively for the good of their community, and the first objective listed in the model constitution adopted by all Community Councils is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"To enable residents to meet regularly and receive reports from Ward Councillors on matters of local importance".</p> <p>Membership of Community Councils is comprised as follows: "</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) all residents in the area (.....)</p>
--	--	--

		<p>(b) all ward Councillors for the area (....) ”</p> <p>Most Members attend meetings of their Community Council on a regular basis, and a number of Community Councils are chaired by elected Members of the Council. Councillors have the opportunity to hold office in Community Councils (i.e. Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer).</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council appoints Members to approximately 133 seats on some 69 ‘Outside Bodies’.</p> <p>These bodies range from national organisations (e.g. Local Government Association), through regional and sub-regional organisations (eg Association of North East Councils, North East Regional Employers Association, Teesside International Airport Consultative Committee and Board, Tees Valley Community Foundation), to town-wide and neighbourhood organisations (Middlesbrough CAB Management Committee, Middlesbrough Environment City Trust Ltd, local community centre management committees, etc). Some of these ‘Outside Bodies’ are statutory bodies (e.g. Cleveland Fire Authority). Finally, there are joint Committees comprising representatives from Middlesbrough and neighbouring authorities (e.g. Joint Archives Committee, River Tees Port Health Authority)</p> <p>As of September 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Councillor serves on 11 outside bodies. 2 Councillors serve on 10 outside bodies. 2 Councillors plus the Elected Mayor serve on 8 outside bodies. 1 Councillor serves on 7 outside bodies, 2 Councillors serve on 5 outside bodies, 3 Councillors serve on 4 outside bodies, 1 Councillors serves on 3 outside bodies, 10 Councillors serve on 2 outside bodies, 14 Councillors serve on 1 outside body, 9 Councillors serve do not serve on any outside bodies, <p>In spite of the clear commitment to providing representation on Outside Bodies, there are still vacant seats on several of these.</p> <p>In addition to Outside Bodies, several Members serve as School Governors.</p> <p>As of September 2023, 7 Members serve as School/Academy Governors (1 Councillor serves on 2 Governing Bodies and 6 Councillors serve on 1 Governing Body/Trust)</p> <p>39 Councillors do not serve on a Governing Body/Trust</p> <p>The Council facilitates paperless working by providing instant electronic access to papers for all formal Council, Executive and Committee meetings via the Mod.Gov</p>
--	--	--

		Committee Management System. Members are encouraged to adopt this way of working as it allows for instant access to papers for meetings and a facility to store and access papers for meetings on a mobile device. Members are issued with laptops to facilitate access to committee papers and agendas.
	Analysis	In addition to attendance at Committees, many councillors are representatives on outside bodies or are school governors. Also due to budget cuts, some services are not as readily available which leads to an increase in people attending ward surgeries/street surgeries to complain or raise concerns about services which adds to a councillors' day to day workload.
Casework	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	The Council operates a Constituency Casework Support Service, commonly referred to as the One Stop. This is essentially a clearing house and monitoring system for residents' complaints or requests to their Ward Councillor. Last year Councillors submitted 3,510 referrals through the One-Stop system. Not all Councillors use the One-Stop, they go direct to the relevant Council Department. The number referred direct to service departments is not recorded.
	Analysis	Although the traditional way of meeting constituents is through the use of surgeries, casework for Councillors also comes through letters, phone calls, emails, contact through social media, responses to leaflets, street surgeries and door-knocking. An increasing number of queries come through emails. Many Members are active on social media and this can also generate enquiries from constituents. Many people expect speedy responses from issues raised via social media which adds to the pressures on councillors.

Other Issues

Respondent may use this space to bring any other issues of relevance to the attention of the Commission.

The Council aims to ensure that Councillors can fulfil their roles effectively and efficiently and in order to do this they provide continuous training and development opportunities for councillors. Following each election, a robust induction programme is delivered for new and existing councillors. Councillors who sit on regulatory committees are required to complete the necessary training before being allowed to fully take part in the meeting.

Regular members briefings take place to keep members informed of any new developments, legislative changes or new policies and members are always briefed fully prior to the annual budget meeting to allow them to ask questions on the full implications of any measures included in the budget proposals, prior to the Council meeting.

The demographic makeup of Councillors is not currently reflective of the area which they represent particularly in terms of age, ethnicity, and gender. A possible contributory factor is work commitment, for both ward and Council business. This can include attending meetings, sitting on outside bodies, constituency matters and member development. This restricts the range of people who can commit to the necessary time requirements.

Summary

In following this template respondents should have been able to provide the Commission with a robust and well-evidenced case for their proposed council size; one which gives a clear explanation as to the governance arrangements and number of councillors required to represent the authority in the future.

Use this space to summarise the proposals and indicate other options considered. Explain why these alternatives were not appropriate in terms of their ability to deliver effective Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership.

The following options have been considered:

a) Status Quo

Maintaining the existing number of councillors is not supported as it does not address the volume of ward work or the projected increase in some ward's electorate which would restrict Councillors abilities to effectively and efficiently represent their constituents and fulfil their roles as community leaders. If the number of councillors were to remain at 46 Councillors, it could mean a likely average increase in time spent by Councillors on case work on top of their other Council duties and outside commitments. Maintaining the status quo would not be adequate particularly in relation to the Stainton and Thornton Ward where the existing councillor has an increase of 30% in the electorate.

b) Reduction in size

The number of councillors was reduced in 2013 from 48 to 46. A further reduction in the number of councillors would be detrimental to the ability of councillors to effectively represent their constituents and provide effective governance and community leadership. There are no plans to change the size or frequency of committees. A reduction in the number of councillors may mean that councillors will have to sit on more committees, and this would have an impact on the amount of ward work they would be able to complete and the amount of time they could spend on their community leadership role. If the members council role was increased, it could detract people from standing as a councillor if the role was to take up most of the week, which would leave little time for non-Council commitments. Achieving a better diversity of Councillors is likely to be impacted even more as younger people are less able to devote time because of full-time paid work or other commitments.

It is very important to the Council that, as far as possible, councillors come from a range of different backgrounds, age, sex, employment status and disability. Any reduction in the size of the Council runs the risk of reducing the diversity of its Members. For those groups (e.g. self-employed or working full time) who would find an increased workload a barrier to becoming a councillor.

c) Increase in size

It is proposed that the number of councillors increases to 47. The reason for the proposed increase is that the Stainton and Thornton Ward has a variance of over 30%. The Ward currently only has one councillor serving the whole ward. In addition, there are future housing developments planned which would fall within this ward and the number of constituents would become disproportionately onerous for just one councillor. It would also likely not allow for proper representation of residents if it remained a single-member ward.

Increasing to 47 councillors would maintain the current levels of time spent on average by councillors on the whole range of their Council duties as the case work from an increased electorate and their allocation to committee places would be spread across more councillors, meaning they could provide better community representation and leadership and the diversity of councillors would be less impacted.

It is anticipated that there will be a requirement to fill 155 seats (set to be increased to 162 seats) on Committees under the current Committee structure and political balance table. This figure does not include the Executive Committee

Executive members cannot serve on Scrutiny Committees. Also, as noted above no Executive Member currently serves on the regulatory committees.

The final number of Members will need to be sufficient to facilitate robust democratic arrangements, adequate community representation, effective and convenient local government and to ensure that Councillors can properly engage with their electorate at a ward level and serve on both the Executive and Council Committees.

Conclusion

Having carefully considered whether retaining or reducing the size of the Council could provide effective strategic leadership, community leadership and accountability we have concluded that these options would not meet these objectives. A reduction in the number of councillors would reduce their capacity to be community leaders and remain properly accountable to their constituents.

Like most Councils, Middlesbrough Council has had to contend with very significant budget reductions in recent years. In addition, this has caused an increasing pressure on Council services which are delivered by a reduced workforce. As a result, decisions around identifying and agreeing savings are becoming increasingly more difficult and take up much more Member time (both the Executive and Scrutiny) than in previous years. Austerity has also increased the amount of ward case work Members have to deal with.

It is therefore proposed that the number of councillors increases to 47. The reason for the proposed increase as set out above is that the Stainton and Thornton Ward has a variance of over 30%. The Ward currently only has one councillor serving the whole ward. In addition, there are future housing developments planned which would fall within this ward and the increase in the number of residents and managing their expectations in terms of representation would become disproportionately onerous for just one councillor. It would also likely not allow for proper representation of residents if it remained a single-member ward.

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Setting Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme 2023/2024

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider its work programme for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

REVIEW OF 2022/2023

2. At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 18 April 2023, a new structure for scrutiny arrangements in Middlesbrough was agreed including the decommissioning of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel. Consequently, scrutiny topics previously undertaken by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel will now be undertaken by OSB, where appropriate.

For Members' information, relevant matters of interest considered by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel have included:

- Council Tax Collection Processes (2018)
- Health and Safety Provision (2020)
- Boho X (2020)
- Member Communications (2021)
- Support for the Homeless (started 2023)

BACKGROUND

3. At the start of every municipal year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year. OSB can examine topics in the same way as individual scrutiny panels. However, OSB should only review topics if:
 - They fall outside a relevant panel's remit;
 - The relevant panel has insufficient time to conduct the review and the topic is deemed to be of particular significance.
4. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
5. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, Democratic Services Officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which are anticipated to be of particular interest to the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that

additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting. Priorities from the Strategic Work Plan 2021-2024 are also listed below for information.

Suggestions

Suggestion	Details
Support for the Homeless	OSB agreed to continue this review that was started in February 2023 by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel. A Work Plan will be brought to a future meeting of OSB outlining how the review will be carried out.
Cyber Security	<p>Suggestion from an officer as part of a meeting of the Information Strategy group.</p> <p>The CfGS states that, “Within our research gathering process, we reviewed documents, including scrutiny committee minutes and agendas, conducted surveying, and interviewed elected members and officers. We discovered that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many councils had a digital strategy, which included cyber security, however • cyber security was not a salient issue that had been examined through scrutiny amongst most councils. <p>It became apparent from interviewing that direct real-world experience of a cyber-attack has a transformative effect on councils, their members and colleagues, generating a longer-term increased interest and proclivity to undertake work on cyber security more widely. Specifically, members from such organisations advised that scrutiny could add meaningful value and bring about positive change.</p> <p>The CfGS also states, “Scrutiny committees may be dissuaded to undertake matters pertaining to cyber security as it, understandably, seems quite daunting due to the often-technical nature of the subject. However, neither members nor officers need to have detailed technical expertise in the subject. They can subject councils’ plans to challenge and take action to promote changes of behaviour on this matter within the organisation.”</p>

Strategic Plan Workplan 2021-24

Priority: Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
Supports the following aim(s): People, Place & Business
Description: We will tackle crime and anti-social behaviour head on, working with our partners to ensure local people feel safer.
Priority: Climate Change

<p>Supports the following aim(s): People, Place & Business Description: We will ensure our town acts to tackle climate change, promoting sustainable lifestyles.</p>
<p>Priority: Physical Environment Supports the following aim(s): People & Place Description: 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.</p>
<p>Priority: Town Centre Supports the following aim(s): People, Place & Business Description: We will transform our town centre, improving accessibility, revitalising unused assets, developing iconic new spaces and building more town centre homes.</p>
<p>Priority: Quality of Service Supports the following aim(s): People, Place & Business Description: 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.</p>

6. It should be noted that the suggested topics outlined above are exactly that, suggestions. The content of the scrutiny panel's work programme is entirely a decision for the panel to make. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that will add value to the Local Authority's work.
7. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.
8. Overview and Scrutiny Board is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community wellbeing. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel's generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as flood defence schemes, policing matters, post office closures and rural bus services.

Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid

9. Members are asked to use the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development in order to determine which topics are suitable for inclusion in its final work programme.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

10. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider and determine suitable scrutiny topics for inclusion in its work programme for the 2023/2024 municipal year.
11. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:
 - Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area.
 - Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence.
 - Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the Scrutiny Panels have considered during the last 12 months.
 - Do not relate to an individual service complaint; and
 - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council Committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
12. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.
13. Once the scrutiny panel has identified the areas of priority, support staff will draw those topics into a programme for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

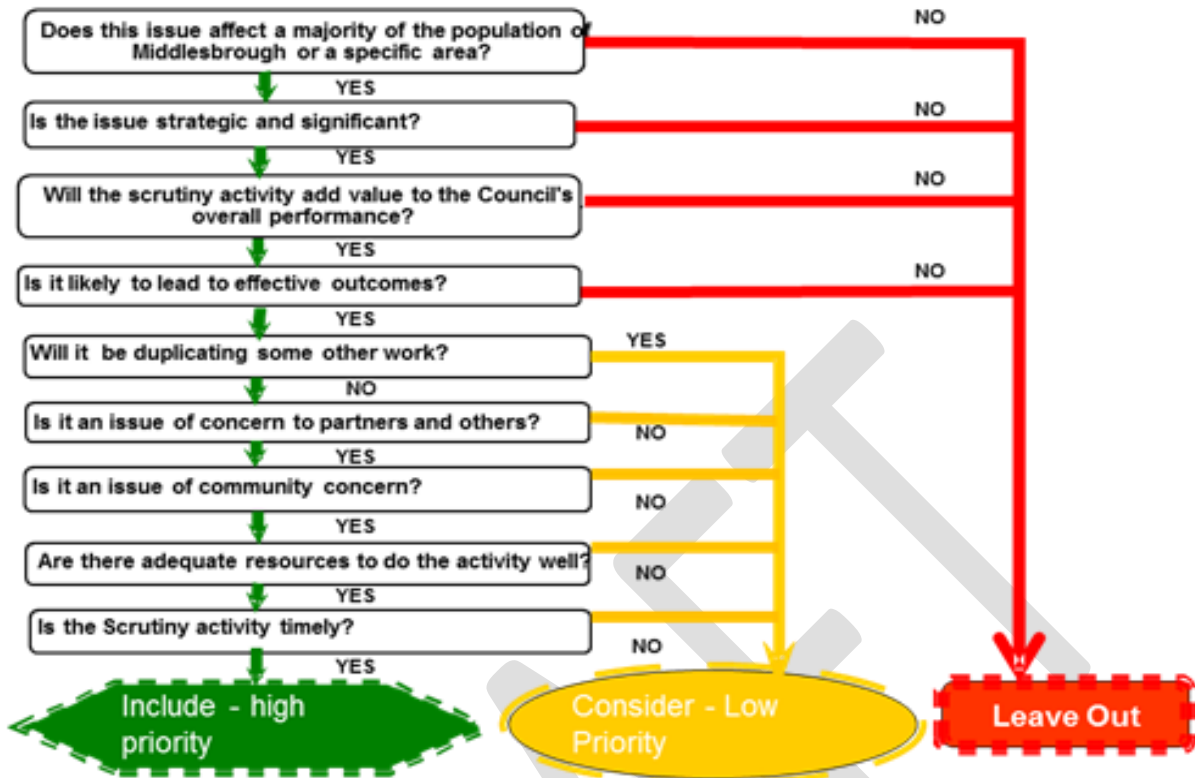
14. That, by utilising the Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid (see Appendix 1), the Overview and Scrutiny Board considers the topics above for 2023/24.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. This report has relied on source from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), Middlesbrough Council, the Local Government Association, LGiU and Gov.uk website.

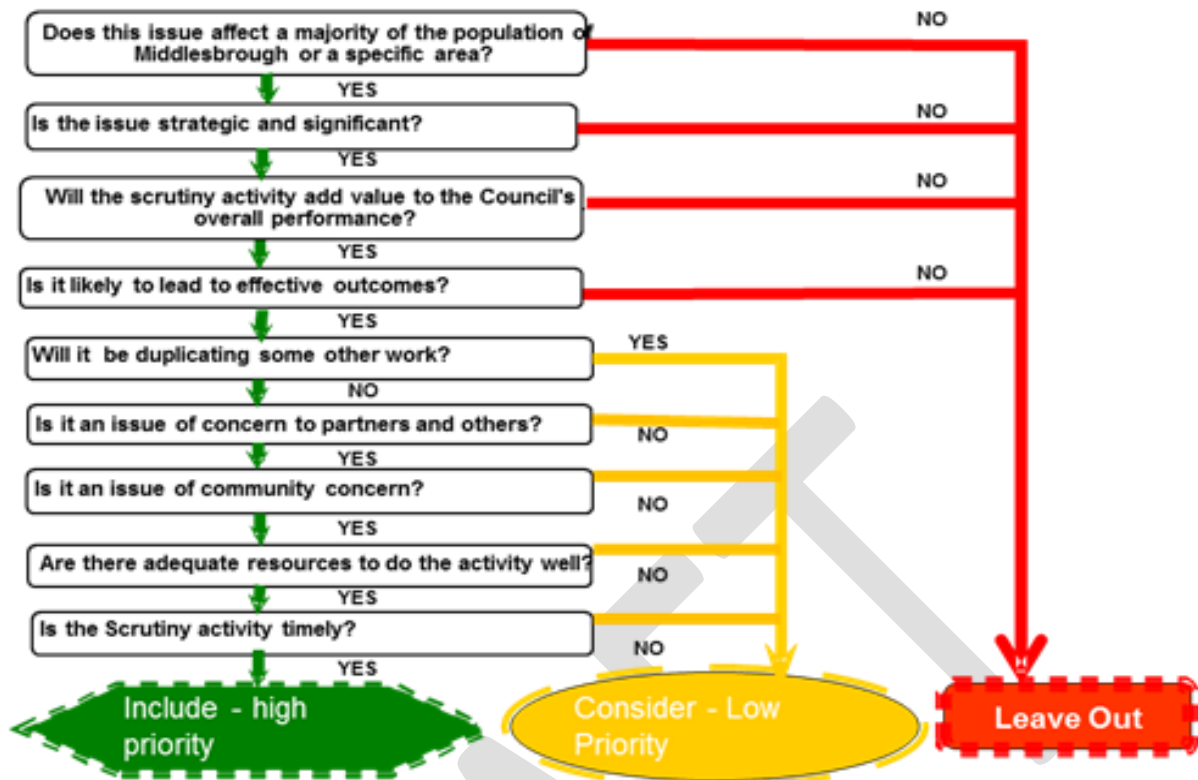
Contact Officer:

Scott Bonner
Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services
Legal and Governance Services
Tel: 01642 729708
E-mail: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk



APPENDIX 1

DRAFT



DRAFT

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

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
-------------------	---

Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
----------------------	-----------------------------

Date:	20 September 2023
--------------	-------------------

Title:	Setting the Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/2024
---------------	---

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why:	Not Applicable
-------------	----------------

Executive summary
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and agree individual Panel work programmes for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.</p> <p>When considering the work programme, the Board is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area. • Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence. • Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months. • Do not relate to an individual service complaint. • Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is for the Overview and Scrutiny Board to determine the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/2024.

Background and relevant information

2. At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Below is a list of topics which were agreed at the relevant scrutiny panel.
3. The topics agreed by each Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2023/2024 are listed below in turn for the Board's approval.

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

4. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel met on 12 September 2023 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

In-depth reviews:

- Staying put agency - looking at adaptations and ensuring older people stay in their own home for longer;
- Hospital discharge.

Short Review:

- Care homes and DDA regulations

Updates:

- Regular updates on CQC inspection and quarterly improvement plan;
- Tees Safeguarding Adults Board; and
- Update on previous reports.

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

5. The Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel will meet on 18 September 2023 where it will agree to put forward topics for consideration. OSB will be advised of these updates after they are agreed by the panel.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

6. The Environment Scrutiny Panel met on 12 September 2023 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

In-depth reviews:

- Waste Management (full review)
- Community Councils and Wider Community Engagement (full review)

Updates:

- Update on Off Road Bikes review (previous panel review)
- Flood Risk Management (statutory review)
- Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees/Crustacean Deaths Working Group (statutory review)
- RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers (statutory review)
- Prevent and Channel (statutory review)
- Community Safety Partnership (statutory review)

Health Scrutiny Panel

7. The Environment Scrutiny Panel met on 11 September 2023 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

Topic carried over from 2022/23:

- Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19

In-depth reviews:

- Avoidable Deaths and Preventable Mortality
- Obesity

Updates:

- Women's Health Services (including the development of women's health hubs)

Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

8. The Environment Scrutiny Panel met on 6 September 2023 and agreed to put forward the following topics:-

In-depth reviews:

- Planning Capacity.
- How Middlesbrough Council can fund Culture in the future.
- Housing Association Properties (if time allows)

What decision(s) are being recommended?

9. That in respect of the scrutiny work programme for 2023/2024 the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the inclusion of those topics put forward by the scrutiny panels.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

10. The Overview and Scrutiny Board is required to consider and approve the Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

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

11. No other options are put forward as part of the report.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

12. Not Applicable

Strategic priorities and risks

13. Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Council's Strategic Objectives.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

14. Not Applicable.

Financial

15. Not Applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Topic Selection Aid
---	------------------------------

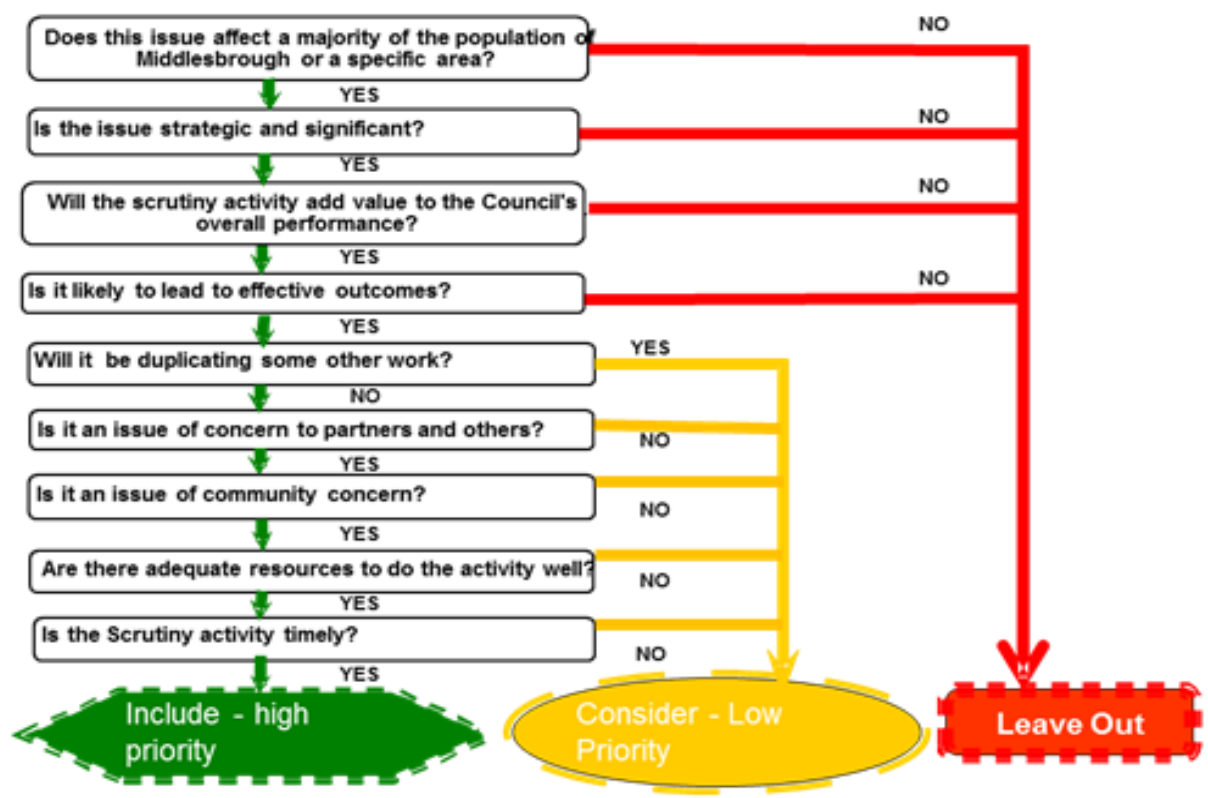
Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Scrutiny Panels	Work Programme Reports	Various

Contact: Scott Bonner

Email: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1



This page is intentionally left blank



Forward Plan 11 May 2023 - 31 December 2023

FOR THE PERIOD 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health							
015473	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection</i> <i>judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture							
I016303 All Wards	Digiwise Project - Foster Care and Supported Lodgings Wifi and Internet Use Policy	Executive 15 Nov 2023			Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture

Page 57

Agenda Item 9

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Adoption of council wide policy and approval of recommendations to be agreed for all residential and foster care settings.						<i>ralph jordinson</i> <i>Ralph_jordinson@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Children's Services							
Executive Member for Community Safety							
1016495 All Wards	Town Centre Funding and Community Safety For decision around a reviewed approach to town centre funding and community safety.	Executive 4 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Geoff Field</i> <i>geoff_field@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Environment							
1016627 All Wards	Green Strategy To seek approval of Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy Year Three action plan.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Andrew Mace, Head of Environment Service</i> <i>Andrew_Mace@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1016884	On Street Residential Electric	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
All Wards	Vehicle Charging Points To approve the acceptance of funding granted from On-street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS) for the value of £211,082 to provide up to 160 electric vehicle charging points, utilising existing lamp columns, in partnership with supplier Ubitricity.						<i>Chris Orr</i> <i>Chris_Orr@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I012273 All Wards	Tees Valley Waste Report To seek approval for MBC to enter with seven other councils a Special Purpose Vehicle company in order to manage the Tees Valley energy recovery facility that will be responsible for the disposal of Middlesbrough municipal waste.	Executive 13 Feb 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Geoff Field</i> <i>geoff_field@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Executive Member for Finance and Governance							
I016768 All Wards	Council Tax Reduction Scheme TBC	Executive 4 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016844 All Wards	Fees and Charges Review To present a review of Middlesbrough Council's Fees and Charges	Executive 4 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I016676 All Wards	Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-25 Presentation of the refreshed and updated Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-26.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Regeneration							
I016812 All Wards	Middlesbrough Development Company Closure Action Plan	Executive 6 Sep 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Setting out the action plan for the closure of the Council's wholly owned housing company.						<i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017048 All Wards	Lock Down Protocol Policies, plans and strategies, which are not part of the financial and policy framework.	Executive Member for Regeneration 10 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016601 All Wards	Asset Review A decision is required to determine the future options for a number of Council assets, that may include disposal.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017049 All Wards	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town Hall Roofs Any matters relating to bids for funding, which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Teresa Garret</i> <i>teresa_garret@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	financial and policy framework.						
I016052 Central	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.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Fully exempt		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Sam Gilmore, Head of Economic Growth</i> <i>Sam_Gilmore@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016906 All Wards	Draft Local Plan To seek approval of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Alex Conti</i> <i>Alex_Conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016907 All Wards	Houses in Multiple Occupation Article 4 Direction To agree that an Article 4 Direction be put in place to require smaller HMOs, that are currently part of the permitted development	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Alex Conti</i> <i>Alex_Conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	regime, to be subject to a planning application.						
I014849 Coulby Newham	Newham Hall - Disposal Option Update To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration, Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Andrew Carr</i> <i>Andrew_Carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016956 All Wards	Premises Security and Access Policy The purpose of this report is to seek Executive approval for the refreshed Premises Security and Access Policy (PSAP).	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I013742 Central	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park – Phase 2 Funding Agreement Executive to approval an	Executive 17 Jan 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Paul Shout</i> <i>paul_shout@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	additional 1.5 million pounds of capital which will be repaired through retention through business rates of the enterprize zones site.						



Forward Plan 11 May 2023 - 31 December 2023

FOR THE PERIOD 20 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health							
1015473	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Judith Hedgley, Head of Service - Public Protection</i> <i>judith_hedgley@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture							
1016303 All Wards	Digiwise Project - Foster Care and Supported Lodgings Wifi and Internet Use Policy	Executive 15 Nov 2023			Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Adoption of council wide policy and approval of recommendations to be agreed for all residential and foster care settings.						<i>ralph jordinson</i> <i>Ralph_jordinson@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Children's Services							
Executive Member for Community Safety							
1016495 All Wards	Town Centre Funding and Community Safety For decision around a reviewed approach to town centre funding and community safety.	Executive 4 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Geoff Field</i> <i>geoff_field@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Environment							
1016627 All Wards	Green Strategy To seek approval of Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy Year Three action plan.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Andrew Mace, Head of Environment Service</i> <i>Andrew_Mace@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1016884	On Street Residential Electric	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
All Wards	Vehicle Charging Points To approve the acceptance of funding granted from On-street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS) for the value of £211,082 to provide up to 160 electric vehicle charging points, utilising existing lamp columns, in partnership with supplier Ubitricity.						<i>Chris Orr</i> <i>Chris_Orr@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I012273 All Wards	Tees Valley Waste Report To seek approval for MBC to enter with seven other councils a Special Purpose Vehicle company in order to manage the Tees Valley energy recovery facility that will be responsible for the disposal of Middlesbrough municipal waste.	Executive 13 Feb 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Geoff Field</i> <i>geoff_field@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Executive Member for Finance and Governance							
I016768 All Wards	Council Tax Reduction Scheme TBC	Executive 4 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016844 All Wards	Fees and Charges Review To present a review of Middlesbrough Council's Fees and Charges	Executive 4 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I016676 All Wards	Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-25 Presentation of the refreshed and updated Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-26.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Regeneration							
I016812 All Wards	Middlesbrough Development Company Closure Action Plan	Executive 6 Sep 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	Setting out the action plan for the closure of the Council's wholly owned housing company.						<i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017048 All Wards	Lock Down Protocol Policies, plans and strategies, which are not part of the financial and policy framework.	Executive Member for Regeneration 10 Oct 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016601 All Wards	Asset Review A decision is required to determine the future options for a number of Council assets, that may include disposal.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard_Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017049 All Wards	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town Hall Roofs Any matters relating to bids for funding, which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Teresa Garret</i> <i>teresa_garret@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	financial and policy framework.						
I016052 Central	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.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Fully exempt		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Sam Gilmore, Head of Economic Growth</i> <i>Sam_Gilmore@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016906 All Wards	Draft Local Plan To seek approval of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Alex Conti</i> <i>Alex_Conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016907 All Wards	Houses in Multiple Occupation Article 4 Direction To agree that an Article 4 Direction be put in place to require smaller HMOs, that are currently part of the permitted development	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Alex Conti</i> <i>Alex_Conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	regime, to be subject to a planning application.						
I014849 Coulby Newham	Newham Hall - Disposal Option Update To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration, Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Andrew Carr</i> <i>Andrew_Carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I016956 All Wards	Premises Security and Access Policy The purpose of this report is to seek Executive approval for the refreshed Premises Security and Access Policy (PSAP).	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>David Jamison</i> <i>david_jamison@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I013742 Central	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park – Phase 2 Funding Agreement Executive to approval an	Executive 17 Jan 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Paul Shout</i> <i>paul_shout@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	additional 1.5 million pounds of capital which will be repaired through retention through business rates of the enterprize zones site.						