

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2023
Time: 4.30 p.m.
Venue: Mandela Room, Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 20 September 2023 3 - 12
4. Revised Minutes - Overview and Scrutiny Board - 26 July 2023 13 - 20
5. Executive Member Update - Children's Services 21 - 26
6. Middlesbrough Boundary Review 2023 - Final Draft Proposal 27 - 52

The Democratic and Registration Manager will be in attendance to present the final draft of the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

7. Revised Report - Setting the Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny Board 2023/2024 53 - 60

Following the previous submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 20 September 2023, an updated version of the report will be submitted to include a previously omitted scrutiny topic.

8. Executive Forward Work Programme 61 - 72
9. Scrutiny Chairs Update

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel
Councillor J. Walker (Chair)

Children and 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)

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

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall
Middlesbrough
Tuesday, 10 October 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 Chris Lunn, 01642 729742, chris_lunn@middlesbrough.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on Wednesday 20 September 2023.

PRESENT:	Councillors M Storey (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), J Banks, I Blades, E Clynych, S Dean, J Ewan, M McClintock, J Platt and J Ryles
PRESENT BY INVITATION:	Mayor C Cooke (Elected Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health)
OFFICERS:	A Wilson, C Heaphy and S Bonner
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:	Councillors D Davison, M Smiles and J Walker

23/11 **WELCOME AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed those present and described the fire evacuation procedure. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Chair proposed re-ordering the agenda to ensure all invited guests could be present at the meeting and would seek the Board's approval for this at the appropriate time.

23/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

23/13 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - 26 JULY 2023**

It was raised the Minutes from the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting of the 26 July 2023 contained several typographical inaccuracies. It was agreed these would be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Notwithstanding the typographical errors identified, the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 26 July 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.13.2 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDERED: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 4.57, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business to deal with agenda item 6, Middlesbrough Boundary Review 2023, as the next item of business.

23/14 **MIDDLESBROUGH BOUNDARY REVIEW 2023**

The Head of Legal Services (People) advised Members the submitted report was the first draft of the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission, as agreed at OSB's meeting of 26 July.

Members were reminded the review had commenced in May 2023 and was happening partly due to electoral inequalities in some parts of the town. The draft submission was the culmination of phase one of a two-phase process, with the second phase beginning in November 2023. It was commented an email had been sent to all Members advising them they could submit their own proposals, in addition to the Council submission, the deadline for which was 31 October 2023. Following any input from OSB, the final version of the Council's phase one submission would be brought to OSB's meeting on 18 October.

The submission template was attached at Appendix 1 of the report. The submission still required minor update, namely if OSB agreed the submission was a joint Member/ Officer submission as well as the governance section requiring input from the Leadership Management Team. It was noted any reference to the Constitution was the new Constitution approved by full Council on 18 September 2023.

The draft submission recommended Councillor numbers increase by one to a total of 47. Members queried if any analysis had been carried out in relation to Marton East Ward, as Stainton and Thornton Ward had been mentioned several times. It was clarified analysis was carried out across the entire town and while some wards were notable for their population changes, there was no requirement to be ward specific at this stage.

A Member pointed out the Council had previously reduced its Councillor numbers by two following a previous boundary review. While the draft submission was generally sound, it was felt a rationale for the previous reduction was needed. The Head of Legal Services would take this away for consideration but commented the previous reduction was based on electorate numbers presented at the time. The Chair pointed out previous wards, including Middlehaven, had been significantly overrepresented and this had been part of the reason for Councillor number reductions.

The Mayor pointed out there was an important difference between population and electorate. He commented some wards in east Middlesbrough were potentially overrepresented. While there were arguments to reorganise certain wards based on statistics, there were also identity related factors that needed to be considered. The Chair suggested that, given its population change, could the proposed additional Councillor be added to the Stainton and Thornton Ward. The Head of Legal Services confirmed decisions of that nature would be driven by the Boundary Commission, however it was likely that area would be examined as part of the overall process.

The Chair also commented while there had been significant population changes in the Stainton and Thornton area, this was predicted to be more pronounced in the future and queried should the Council recommend an increase of two councillors. It was confirmed the town had been examined as a whole and an average was attempted based on the data available. The Mayor queried the possibility of Trimdon Ward being reconfigured to create an additional single Member ward, based on projected population changes in that area. The Chair reminded all Members they should not be drawn into discussions about where ward boundaries should be drawn at this stage.

It was queried if an updated dataset for the Indices of Multiple Deprivation was available as that cited in the report was for 2015 – 2019. It was clarified the Council had not been notified of any updates, but any updated information would be included in the final submission. It was also pointed out that, in respect of political balance, the MICA group appeared to be missing and needed to be included. It was suggested that a list of wards be included at a future stage with accompanying electorate and population details.

OSB agreed that despite the electoral arrangements working well in Middlesbrough an increase in one Member at this stage would be beneficial.

ORDERED that:

1. The proposal to increase Councillor numbers by one, be approved;
2. The proposal be a joint Member/ Officer submission;
3. The final submission potentially included the rationale for previous Councillor reductions;
4. Updated data relating to Indices of Multiple Deprivation be included in the final submission should they be available; and
5. The MICA group be included in the political balance element of the submission.

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.13.2 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDERED: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 4.57, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business to deal with agenda item 8, Scrutiny Chairs Update, as the next item:

23/15

SCRUTINY CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair invited each Scrutiny Panel Chair to advise the Board about activity in their respective Panels.

The Chair of Health Scrutiny informed Members the Panel continued their review into dental health care, particularly the impact of Covid-19. This review remained important as it was

extremely difficult to secure dentist appointments. The Chair of OSB, as Vice Chair of Health Scrutiny Panel, was invited to update OSB on Teesside University's initiative of providing free dental care. Patients could be referred to the state-of-the-art service by their respective dentist. The Dean of the Faculty had been invited to attend the Health Scrutiny Panel to provide an update on its operations.

The Chair of Health Scrutiny also advised OSB the Panel had chosen two topics to consider, namely preventable deaths and obesity. The headline figures for each topic were some of the worst in the country, especially in terms of preventable deaths. Between the two topics there was lots of work to do.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel advised OSB the Panel had met on the 18 September decided to consider School Attendance and Allocation School Places as their main topics, as well as an update on Children's Services finances. The Panel's next meeting was scheduled for 30 October.

The Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel advised the Panel had met on 12 September and decided to consider Waste Management, Community Councils and wider Community Engagement as their main review topics. It was expected the Panel would receive updates including those on Flood Management, Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and PREVENT. While the Panel considered the issue of Grass Cutting it decided this would be considered as part of the Waste Management review. The Panel's next meeting was scheduled for 9 October.

The Chair of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel advised OSB the Panel had met on 6 September. The agenda for that meeting considered the Local Plan and the Panel's prospective work programme. Given its importance, the Panel decided an update on the Local Plan would be considered at every meeting. It was stated the presentation slides delivered at the meeting could be made available upon request. The first review topic for the panel would be Planning which, as a service, was suffering from a back log of work due to a shortage of Planning Officers. The second review topic was the delivery of a cultural agenda with little to no budget with a third, possible, review being the power of Housing Associations.

NOTED

23/16

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE: THE MAYOR

The Chair welcomed the Elected Mayor and Chief Executive to the meeting and invited the Mayor to deliver his presentation.

The Mayor thanked OSB for the opportunity to appear before the Board. He explained this was his first appearance before OSB and the second would be as the portfolio holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health. As part of his portfolio the Mayor was also intending to appear at the Health Scrutiny Panel.

The Mayor identified the main areas of his presentation which included 'Hot Topics', the Council's Section 24 Notice, with corresponding statutory audit recommendations, and the Council Plan. It was explained the Section 24 Notice had taken up a considerable amount of the Mayor's time. It was important to address the concerns raised in the notice as non-compliance could have negative consequences for the Council.

Aside from working on the Section 24 Notice the Mayor identified four areas he described as 'Hot Topics'. The first being the creation of a Poverty Strategy. By creating this strategy, the Mayor was hopeful life chances could be improved in Middlesbrough. The second 'Hot Topic' was the Social Value Charter. Intended for local businesses, and requiring the Council to lead on it, this was based on three tenets: to employ locally, use local suppliers and be involved with local communities.

It was important the Council embedded the Charter's values, using tools such as the Locality Working model. Once embedded in the Council's ethos the Charter would demonstrate its commitment to using local suppliers. It was hoped the Social Value Charter would be in place by the end of the year with all local businesses committing to the values contained in it. The Mayor also explained that, once businesses adopted the values of the Charter, they could adopt an optional third commitment. An example of an optional commitment was using the Council's

50 Futures Programme to enhance a workforce. The Mayor was keen for businesses to adopt the Social Values Charter and to take ownership of its principles. The Mayor cited AXA as a recent example of a business demonstrating social values with their contributions to foodbanks.

The Mayor explained his third 'Hot Topic', Health and Equality, crossed both his roles as Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health. Health was a crucial factor in people's lives. It was pointed out Middlesbrough had some of the worst health outcomes anywhere in the UK. It was also explained there were significant disparities in health outcomes between Middlesbrough's electoral wards, with some being considerably worse than others. An example was the Brambles Farm area. However, there was not the same focus on this area for poor health outcomes in the same way as other areas received focus for high levels of Anti-Social Behaviour. In some areas there were generational health inequalities, and it was important Members were able to identify such inequalities so they could be targeted, and improvements made.

The fourth 'Hot Topic' was the creation of Family Hubs which would help to improve health outcomes for communities. It was important the Council had a visible presence in local communities. There were currently four main Hubs with two satellites that were broadly based in the North, South, East and West of the Town. The Hubs would play a role in the early life of a child. The Hubs would act as early starting points for parents. Previous experience showed that contact with parents had been lost quite early in a child's development. It was hoped the Family Hubs would help to maintain contact with families and children.

Moving to Executive decisions, the Mayor summarised the decisions that had been recently considered. The first concerned the Revenue and Capital Budget. The Mayor described how actions had been taken to address the projected overspend of £11.563m including the instigation of budget challenge meetings, which had been quite successful with officers now proactively suggesting ways to reduce their expenditure. Members were advised the projected overspend was not immovable and while picked up late, mitigations being put in place would result in the overspend not being repeated. The Mayor also commented that going forward the Council would need to spend within established budgets as there was little chance of those budgets increasing.

In terms of the Medium-Term Financial Plan, an important factor was the introduction of three-year plans rather than current approach of one-year financial planning.

The Mayor also described the Executive decision to approve the recommendations arising from the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel's review into off-road bikes. He commented there was work to address this issue from a strategic rather than a reactive standpoint. For example, rather than just pursuing perpetrators there was a need to understand how the perpetrators got to that position in the first place.

The Middlesbrough Development Company closure was also discussed. The Mayor pointed out this had been quite challenging. There had been several instances of poor governance and closing the company met three of the statutory recommendations in the Section 24 report. It was noted that following the Company's closure the Mayor had a better understanding of how an organisation of that nature should operate.

The Hemlington North disposal was the final Executive decision to be discussed. This was seen as a positive initiative as North Star could occupy the site and create affordable housing.

The Mayor moved on in his presentation to explain a timeline of events regarding the Council's Section 24 Notice. The Mayor commented one criticism had been the process lacked pace and improvements with some recommendations not being followed up quickly enough. The issues surrounding the notice were exacerbated with the change in political administration. It was commented Members had received an extensive level of training following the local elections which had contributed to Members understanding of the issues surrounding the Section 24 notice. It was noted improvements to Member/ Officer relations had been seen. However, there was still work to do and there was a need for the Council to focus on how it improved itself going forward. The Mayor suggested that a special OSB meeting be convened when the Council's Value for Money report was released as this would demonstrate if improvements had been made.

The Mayor moved on in his presentation and outlined areas of concern raised in the Section 24 report. It was commented work was underway to ensure each area of concern was addressed. The Mayor had met with the auditors to explain any actions and improvements, as this would help to provide context from which the Council could be assessed.

In terms of the Governance Improvement Strategy, there were two main themes: Cultural Transformation and Financial Recovery and Resilience and Recovery. In terms of Cultural Transformation this included improvements to the Constitution and Member/ Officer protocols. It was noted that, at the previous Council meeting, Members voted unanimously to accept the proposals of the Governance Improvement Journey. This theme would also see the re-introduction of the appraisal process for officers. In terms of the Financial Recovery and Resilience and Recovery theme, it was commented that any improvements to Governance processes required financial support. One of the initiatives for this theme was the creation of a Reserves Policy, which would help to top-up the level of Council reserves.

The Mayor proceeded to outline his vision for the town and how the improvement journey could fit around these. The general themes were, "A Successful and Ambitious Town", "A Healthier Place", "Safer and Resilient Communities" and "Delivering Best Value". The Mayor provided some detail about each of the general themes including how protecting and improving our environment could lead to a healthier place to live. The Mayor stated the most ambiguous theme was "A Successful and Ambitious Town". The Mayor commented it was important to focus on what Middlesbrough was going to do next, rather than focus on its past. Examples were provided which included Middlesbrough being the home for the development of a very successful computer game, as well as a prominent contractor for Sony. However, such examples were not widely known. It was important that Middlesbrough advertised its accomplishments to instil a sense of ambition in the Town's young people.

The Mayor proceeded to describe how his plan would link with wider initiatives. Ultimately the underpinning element of this process was a strong cultural base with operational documents such as Service Plans and the Council Plan supporting the Mayor's priorities. The Mayor commented the Council was in a good place with more plans being created that would address the issues it was facing.

The Chair thanked the Mayor for his presentation and invited questions from the Board.

A Member asked how a Medium-Term Financial Plan could be created when it was unknown how much money the Council would receive as part of the Local Government settlement. The Mayor agreed with the Member that the settlement was agreed at a late stage in the budget setting process. He expressed concern that some Councils were approaching the government for financial assistance before the settlement had been agreed. The Mayor was keen for Middlesbrough to reach the settlement period before contemplating such an approach to government. The Member responded the Medium-Term Financial Plan should be seen as aspirational. It was clarified that creating the Medium-Term Financial Plan involved using information that was both current and projections. Based on this data the Council was able to make an informed prediction about its finances.

A Member stated that criticism continued to be levelled at the Council for its financial management despite agreeing a balanced budget for the previous financial year. The Mayor responded that not adhering to savings targets also contributed to Council's current financial position. The Chief Executive commented the Medium-Term Financial Planning process was common across the local government sector and plans were made on the best assumptions. The Local Government Association and others had lobbied government to change the system but without success. The Chief Executive also stated a financial control period for local government would be preferable to the current system as Councils would know what resources they had to work with for a longer period.

A Member asked what had gone wrong with the Middlesbrough Development Company, as they felt not all of the relevant details had been made available. The Mayor confirmed there was a full audit report submitted to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee that detailed this issue. The Member clarified they were aware of the audit report and as such the Mayor suggested if any further detail could be brought back to OSB. The Mayor also suggested that a report regarding the Crown be brought back to OSB. The Chair commented it was important OSB did not trespass on the remit of Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee and that a report identifying lessons learned and how that could be used for policy development could be considered by

OSB at a future meeting. The Mayor stated a lessons learned document was being created at his request. The Chair suggested that such documents could be brought to OSB when the Executive Member for Regeneration appeared before OSB in January 2024.

It was stated the Member Induction programme had been beneficial and well received. However, a Member also stated some expectations raised during the inductions were not always realised. The Member stated suggestions about how things could be done differently were not always taken on board. An example of a transformative approach was the Andy Man's Group that supported men's mental health. It was hoped this group was receiving additional funding as it could be saving money in other areas, such as healthcare.

Regarding the Council's projected overspend, a Member asked where it had been spent and if plans were in place to prevent this happening in the future. The Mayor responded the overspend was a projection and work was being carried out to understand if services could be delivered differently to reduce this. The Mayor stated one of the most challenging elements of this year's budget setting process was the unknown level of settlement received from government. If the settlement was more generous than expected this would help negate some of the Council's financial challenges. Otherwise, the Council would have to make some difficult decisions going forward.

A Member queried what the phrases "resilience", "living within our means" and "mindset change" meant for Middlesbrough. The Mayor responded that "mindset change" meant how the Council could adapt its current ways of working to make sure everything in its control had been addressed. It was important the Council was able to strike a balance between delivering its statutory services and non-statutory services. In terms of resilience, the Mayor provided the example of assisting an individual with housing needs. He stated it was better to provide someone with the tools to maintain a tenancy on a home rather than having that person lose their tenancy because they did not have the tools to support it. On the whole reactive costs were much higher than preventative costs.

A Member queried if the numbers of Children in Care/ In Need could be made available since the central funding of Youth Services ended. The Mayor confirmed he would look into this and respond.

The Chair stated he was concerned about how the new Middlesbrough Development Corporation would operate and queried what the situation was regarding requests made of central government by the Chief Executive. The Mayor responded that issues stalling the process included asset transfers and the ongoing enquiry. Once the enquiry was completed it was expected a response to the Chief Executive's letters of concern would be received. The Chief Executive commented he was still in conversation with the Combined Authority and undertaking benchmarking exercises against other Development Corporations to understand what good governance should look like for that kind of organisation. The Chair expressed concern about conflict of interests at the Middlesbrough Development Corporation, including the Mayor of the TVCA being the Chair of the Board. The Chair also expressed concern that assets could be transferred without the Council's agreement and before any concerns had been addressed. The Chief Executive responded that it was unlikely any assets would be transferred before a response to the concerns was received. It was also clarified that assets could be transferred at nil value, but the Council had received confirmation that should it incur any financial losses because of such transfers it would be compensated. Due to its importance, the Chair suggested a Middlesbrough Development Corporation agenda item be included on every Council agenda as this would allow all Members to be updated with progress.

The Chair commented that in a recent meeting with local businesses a suggestion had been made for the creation of a Business Improvement District. Such a district could be funded by a levy from business rates. This had worked in other areas and would require a ballot of local businesses. The Mayor responded by saying it was important the Council work to reshape the Town Centre. Having a Business Improvement District would complement the Investment Zone and Historic Quarter. The Mayor welcomed the idea. The Chief Executive commented that Birmingham had a positive experience with a similar initiative.

A Member commented that similar initiatives had been attempted under the Town Centre Company previously and while supportive of the suggestion reminded Members such things came with a cost. The Mayor pointed out there was no dedicated bid writing function in the Council any longer, but not having that function may have cost the Council in lost revenue.

It was queried if there was a dedicated portfolio holder for business. It was clarified this was covered by several portfolios but largely sat with the Executive Member for Regeneration.

The Chair thanked the Mayor and the Chief Executive for their presentation and input.

ORDERED that:

1. A future report on lessons learned from the closure of the Middlesbrough Development Company be considered for a future meeting of OSB;
2. The number of Children in Care/ In Need since the central funding of Youth Services ended be made available;
3. That the Chair of Council and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be contacted to seek the inclusion of an MDC agenda item on all Full Council meeting agenda; and
4. Consideration be given to balloting local businesses with a view create a business improvement district.

23/17

SETTING THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD'S WORK PROGRAMME - 2023/24

A report proposing the 2023/24 work programme for OSB was submitted for consideration.

The suggested scrutiny topics in the report were:

- Homelessness
- Cyber Security

Members were advised the review into Homelessness would be the first topic examined by the Board. This was a continuation of a topic started by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel. The topic would be considered around OSB's existing work schedule and work was ongoing to secure relevant witnesses.

A Member highlighted their suggested work topic regarding the electoral canvass was not included in the report. It was confirmed this was an oversight and that an updated report to include the afore mentioned suggestion would be brought to the next meeting of OSB on 18 October 2023.

A Member also queried if, in relation to the proposed Cyber Security topic, the Council had a Disaster Recovery Plan. The Chair commented this would be examined as part of the review.

ORDERED that:

1. A further OSB Work Programme report be brought back to OSB to include a member suggestion of the electoral canvass.
2. Notwithstanding the omitted suggestion the OSB Work Programme 2023/24 report be approved.

23/18

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

The Democratic Services Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which was to invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider each scrutiny panel's work programme for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

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

Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

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.
- Update on previous reports.

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

In-depth reviews

- School Attendance.
- Allocation of School Places.

Topic for Updates / Task and Finish Group Activity

- Financing of Children's Services.

Updates

- South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (STSCP).
- Update on Previous Investigation (SEN review undertaken by former Education Scrutiny Panel).
- School Exclusion Statistics.
- Ofsted Updates.
- Performance Information.

Environment Scrutiny Panel

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

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

In-depth reviews:

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

ORDERED that the topics put forward by the scrutiny panels for inclusion in the 2023/2024 scrutiny work programme be approved.

23/19 **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.

ORDERED that the information presented in the report be noted.

23/20 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

23/21 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Date and Time of the next meeting of OSB was confirmed to be 18 October 2023 at 4.30pm.

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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, J Ewan, M McClintock, J Platt, M Smiles and J Walker

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillor 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 Ryles

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 Smiles	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 to 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, OSB would commence at 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 deliver her presentations.

The Executive Member stated she had three presentations to deliver each covering a different part of her portfolio. Within the Education and Partnerships element of her portfolio there were several opportunities that could be capitalised on, which included creating a constructive dialogue with schools to understand local need. This also applied to special schools to address SEND needs.

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

The Council had an opportunity to maximise Family Hubs which could be used to 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 which 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 for all children particularly the most vulnerable; increasing the number of SEND children and young people in mainstream settings; and improving parenting support and the home learning experience to support children's learning and development.

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

The Chair thanked the Executive Member for the first part of her presentation and invited questions from the Board.

A Member queried how the Council would ensure a permanent school for Outwood Riverside. It was clarified this would primarily be achieved by working with the Department for Education (DfE). When questioned about the timescales involved the Executive Member confirmed it was important the Secretary of State expedited the process. This was due to the permanent school's start date being 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 improving Ofsted ratings. The Executive Member responded that reducing the number of exclusions was a high priority as this would help both young people and schools themselves.

Members queried how many students were occupying the temporary Outwood Riverside site at Russell Street. It was confirmed 445 students were occupying 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 an increase in SEND provision would work the Executive Member advised there was a need for mainstream schools to offer SEND provision. The rationale for this included the number of excluded children excluded with 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. However, more young people were being diagnosed with additional needs and, as such, service provision 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 this would be covered later in the meeting.

It was asked how the Council was dealing with high exclusion rates. It was commented the exclusion rates remained high and that a conference for all Chief Executives of local school trusts was being held in October 2023. It was commented the Council's 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 of workforce development funding to help support schools on this matter.

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

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

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

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, leading on cultural partnerships, cultural funding bids and liaison with the Arts Council. The Council had several cultural venues 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 functions including the Orange Pip Market; Mela; Teesside Archives and various arts and music projects.

Cultural priorities for the Executive Member included extended use of the Town Hall, the creation of an independent quarter and making 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 others. It was recognised 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 use of the Town Hall could be extended, and what cost implications there 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 felt 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 learning classical instruments during the school day for no charge. Those 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 a bar, as it was currently not in use. 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 it was a National Portfolio Organisation. It was commented that inclusion was a strand of activity that needed a plan as the Arts Council had 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 the widest possible range of customer.

It was confirmed that tours of the Town Hall still took place. A discussion took place regarding the Town Hall as a venue and how it should be utilised more.

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

The Executive Member advised OSB that part of her portfolio 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 the Strategy included continued work with the Middlesbrough Truth Poverty Commission, to give Middlesbrough a voice on the Northeast Child Poverty Commission, and to work with the Institute on Public Policy Research on their poverty analysis.

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

The Chair commented there was a link between austerity and poverty and 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 faced similar problems as Middlesbrough who were developing similar anti-poverty strategies.

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 was 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.

The Chair thanked the Executive Member for Education and Culture for her presentations.

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 that population variance was not an exact science and the review considered different factors in the area. At this point in the meeting, it was agreed 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 including the 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 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 20 September with the final draft being submitted at the 18 October meeting.

A Member queried what work was being done to increase the number of residents on the electoral register. It was confirmed a lot of work had been undertaken in the lead up to the local elections as well as the annual canvass. It was also discussed that non-registration was a significant problem in some parts of the town, though this was a national issue.

The Head of Legal Services was asked if the Council's budgetary constraints played a factor in the review process. It was explained 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 a defined proposal or several different 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 and 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 considered in 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 12 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, particularly 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 15 June and received the South Tees Trust's Quality Accounts. 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 19 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.

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Childrens Services Overview and Scrutiny Board

18 October 2023

Childrens Services

Policy/Plans:

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

Working closely with DCS, DCC, HOSs, Executive member for finance and Governance, and all other relevant officers of the Council.

- Driving Strategic priorities and Directorate priorities to improve outcomes for our children and young people and their families.
- Children Services Improvement Plan
- Children ACT 1989
- Children ACT 2004
- Work of the Virtual schools
- Early Help and Multi Agency children's Hub

- Work with safeguarding Children's Board
- Children Looked After (CLA)
- Residential Supported Accommodation Resources and Care leavers.
- Bring back children and our young people Nearer to their Homes and Families.
- Continue to recruit inhouse foster carers.
- Purchase and renovate residential properties.
- Explore and increase youth provisions purchase community centres when central funds are available.
- Develop different types of Kinship Care packages as appropriate.
- Strengthening partnership working with Health, Education, Police & Youth Justice Team.
- Challenge poor practices, supporting and sharing good practices where applicable, with internal and external colleagues in the best interest of our children and young people.
- Address Equality and Diversity issues as appropriate.

My Priorities

- Supporting Early help & MACH (Multi Agency Children's Hub)-Thresholds and responses.
- Constructive dialogue with all agencies involved increase the referral intake.
- Consider reducing external residential placements and IFA (Independent Foster Placements)
- Continue to monitor and swap our internal placements.
- Purchase residential properties.
- Seek funding where needed.
- Continue to consult with Ward Councillors and residents.
- Recruit inhouse Foster Carers
- Continue to improve internal workforce Team support.
- Extend providing parental support to all parents and carers.
- Support and protect vulnerable children and young people in our society.
- Address Equality, Diversity, Sexuality, Age and Gender issues where needed.
- Always build on strong working relationships and regular communication between staff members and our service users.

Questions?

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Date:	18 October 2023
Title:	Ward Boundary Review – Council Size Submission (Phase One)
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	All
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary
<p>The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body responsible for determining the electoral arrangements of local authorities across England.</p> <p>Each year, the Commission considers electoral data to establish if there is a need for an electoral review. Due to an identified electoral inequality in Middlesbrough, the Commission advised the Council that it will carry out such a review.</p> <p>Phase One, which considers councillor size, is considered first, followed by Phase Two which will examine warding patterns.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Board received a copy of the Council's draft submission regarding Council size at the meeting held on 18th September 2023. Following recommendations by the Board, the draft Council size submission has been amended.</p> <p>The revised document is submitted for approval by the Board, prior to submission to the Boundary Commission by the deadline of 31st October 2023.</p>

Purpose

1. To present Members with the final submission with regard to Council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission in respect of the forthcoming Electoral Review.

Background and relevant information

2. On 26 July Overview and Scrutiny Board received an overview of the proposed Ward Boundary review. The overview covered how the review would take place and the timescales involved. 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.
3. The draft Council size submission was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 18th September 2023, where members suggested a number of minor amendments to the document.
4. The revised Council size document is submitted for approval by the Board, prior to submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission. The deadline for submissions with regard to Council size is 31 October 2023.

What decision(s) are being recommended?

5. That Overview and Scrutiny Board:

Recommend that the attached Council submission to phase one – Council size, of the Local Government Boundary Review 2023 be submitted to the Local Government Ward Boundary Commission.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

6. 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.
7. 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.

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

8. There is an opportunity for all individual Councillors, and political groups, to submit proposals in respect of Council size.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Legal

9. There are no legal implications in relation to this decision as this is simply a proposal for a decision that will be made by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Strategic priorities and risks

10. 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

11. No protected groups are affected by the decision.

Financial

12. At present, each Member is entitled to an annual basic allowance of £7,608. The Council has proposed to the Commission that one additional Member is appointed. If this is agreed, it would impact on the Members Services budget in 2027/28 which is outside of the current MTFP period.

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
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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

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Middlesbrough Council

Council Size Submission: Template

Middlesbrough Council

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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.

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

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.

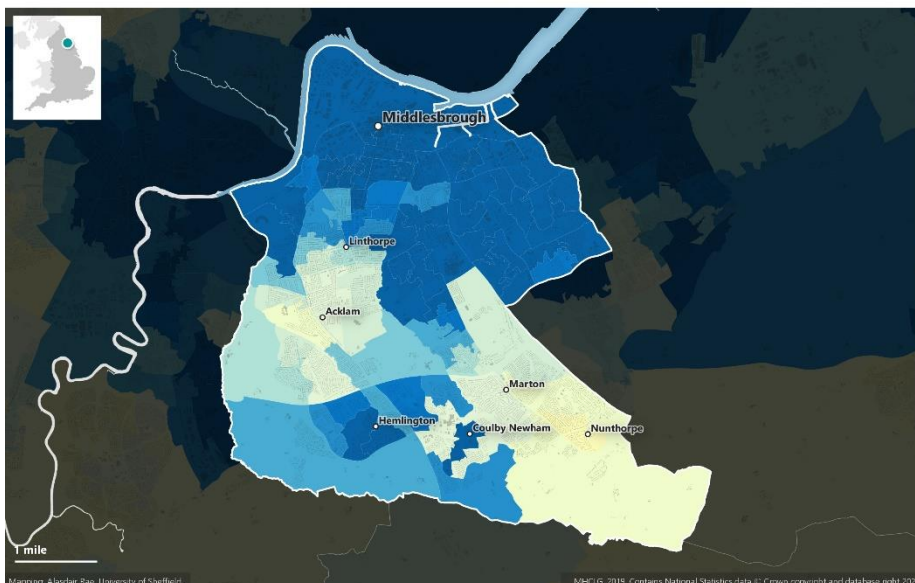
There are no other wards in Middlesbrough which fall into the top 10% most deprived in England.

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.

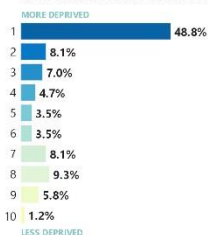
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019

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	
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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, 12 MICA, 4 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats, 2 Marton East Independent Group and 2 Independents plus the Labour Elected Mayor. The Council has adopted the Elected Mayor and Executive 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> <p><i>It is submitted that a total of approximately 15 seats on major Council committees will be required to ensure that there are sufficient Councillors to properly undertake the business of the Council. Working on the principle that each Member would serve on three Committees, this would result in a requirement for a minimum of 52 Councillors (156 divided by 3) in addition to the elected Mayor. This figure does not take into account the Executive Committee. However, in reality not all councillors would take up the three places on committees which is why the Council is only recommending that the Council gain one additional councillor.</i></p>
	6Analysis	<p>1. During 2022/23 the Council's External Auditor, Ernst and Young (EY), set out a series of concerns about the Council's governance in an Annual Audit Results Report considered by Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee on 22 July 2022. At the time those concerns were set out on non-statutory footing. The concerns related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and relationship issues between Members and between officers and Members • Understanding and adherence to code of conduct standards and declarations of interest • Adherence to and understanding of boundaries and respective responsibilities as set out in the constitution. <p>2. At the same meeting, the Council's three statutory officers (Chief Executive, Director of Legal and Governance Services and Director of</p>

		<p>Finance) submitted a report entitled 'Commencing a Corporate Governance Improvement Journey' that set out how the Council intended to respond to those concerns.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. The report explained that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) would be commissioned to provide a wider, independent review of the Council's culture and governance. This work was completed and reported to Council on 11 October 2022, whereby the findings were fully accepted, completing Phase 1 of the improvement journey.4. CIPFA's report was accompanied by a joint report from the then Mayor, Andy Preston and the then Chief Executive, setting out an ambitious improvement delivery plan to address concerns over four key themes, shaped into task and finish working groups with a view to demonstrating progress over 90 days (Phase 2):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roles and responsibilities• Training and development• The Constitution• Culture and communications.5. Each task and finish working group was comprised of a range of officers and members and overseen by an independently chaired board of officers and members with full political representation, referred to as the Corporate Governance Improvement Board, which sat monthly for the duration of the 90-day plan.6. The approach taken by the Corporate Governance Improvement Board and supporting working groups was to develop delivery plans to support the key actions identified by CIPFA. During this phase, work focused on improvements and revisions to processes, policies and documentation providing a strong foundation to facilitate ongoing, positive progress and cultural change.7. Additionally, within Phase 2, substantial focus was given to addressing concerns in relation to officer and member and member and member relations.
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		<p>8. In August 2022, the Council’s External Auditors, EY, issued a further progress report, which set out ongoing concerns, this time on a statutory basis, these concerns related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to deliver cultural transformation at pace through a refreshed Corporate Governance Improvement Plan • Delivery of work to complete reviews of the constitution and supporting documentation • Addressing financial pressures • The need to review delivery models to ensure they provide Value for Money • Put in place arrangements to manage the winding up of a wholly owned Council company. <p>9. This report was considered by Council in September 2023. At the same meeting the Council agreed a new Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the refreshed Constitution and supporting documentation. The improvement is now in delivery and will be overseen by an independent Improvement Advisory Board that will meet monthly from October onwards.</p>
<p>Portfolios</p>	<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<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> <p>The Executive has established several sub committees and Advisory Groups, such as Joint Archives Committee and the Local Plan working group. Officers</p>

		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 1 valid question from the public was 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-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="338 1456 523 1881"> <p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="523 1456 1450 1881"> <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="338 1881 523 1989"> <p>Analysis</p> </td> <td data-bbox="523 1881 1450 1989"> <p>The Planning Committee meets monthly and on average the meeting lasts 2.5 hours.</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>
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<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>
<p>Licensing</p>	<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<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
	<p>Analysis</p>	<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>
<p>Other Regulatory Bodies</p>	<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<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

There are 156 committee places in total across all committees which have been allocated as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number in group</u>	<u>Allocation of places</u>	<u>Number of places (rounded)</u>
Labour	24	81.39	81
Conservative	4	13.57	13
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association	12	40.70	41
Liberal Democrats	2	6.78	7
Marton East Independent Group	2	6.78	7
<i>Unallocated* Independent or vacant</i>	2	6.78	7
Total	46		156

* Do not count as a group
mayor not counted

Analysis

It has been recommended that the function of the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee be revised. The Corporate Affairs Terms of Reference will be added to the Terms of Reference for Constitution and Members' Development Committee and the Audit Committee will become a standalone committee.

External Partnerships

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.

The Council's external partners include:

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.
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.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. ➤ 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>We currently have 9 community councils active for the following wards:</p> <p>Newport,</p>
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Acklam,
Marton East,
Marton West,
Nunthorpe,
Stainton & Thornton,
Park End & Beckfield community forum,
North Ormesby,
Thorntree & Brambles

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:

“To enable residents to meet regularly and receive reports from Ward Councillors on matters of local importance”.

Membership of Community Councils is comprised as follows: “

- (a) all residents in the area (.....)
- (b) all ward Councillors for the area (....) ”

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).

Middlesbrough Council appoints Members to approximately 133 seats on some 69 'Outside Bodies'. These bodies range from national organisations (e.g., Local Government Association), through regional and sub-regional organisations (e.g., 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)

As of September 2023:
1 Councillor serves on 11 outside bodies.

		<p>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, 1 Councillor serves on 6 outside bodies, 1 Councillor serves on 5 outside bodies, 3 Councillors serve on 4 outside bodies, 1 Councillors serves on 3 outside bodies, 11 Councillors serve on 2 outside bodies, 13 Councillors serve on 1 outside body, 9 Councillors serve do not serve on any outside bodies,</p> <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) 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 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.</p>
	Analysis	<p>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.</p>
Casework	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<p>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.</p>

	Analysis	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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 because of the variances in electorate in some wards, 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

Following a review of Ward boundaries in 2013, the number of councillors was reduced from 48 to 46. In 2013 there was a reduction in the number of committee seats available from 132 to 120 seats and the Council had 48 councillors. This compares to the current number of councillors (46) and the number of seats available on committees (156). 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 the variances in electorate in some wards, one of which is over 30%. If there are too few councillors serving a ward and there are future housing developments planned which would fall within these wards, the increase in the number of residents and managing their expectations in terms of representation would become disproportionately onerous if there are not enough councillors.

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 156 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 the variances in electorate in some wards, one of which is over 30%. If there are too few councillors serving a ward and there are future housing developments planned which would fall within these wards, the increase in the number of residents and managing their expectations in terms of representation would become disproportionately onerous if there are not enough councillors. It would also likely not allow for proper representation of residents if there was not enough councillors representing the ward.

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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

18 OCTOBER 2023

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Overview and Scrutiny Board to consider its work programme for the 2023/2024 municipal year. This report has been updated to include the prospective scrutiny topic of the electoral canvass as a prospective scrutiny topic.

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.
Electoral Registration	<p>Member Suggestion:</p> <p>“In the course of the recent election campaign, I found a considerable number of houses that looked occupied, but where there was no-one on the electoral register. Also, when door knocking, I frequently found that people on the electoral register no longer lived there, and the people who did live there were not on the register. In addition, many Commonwealth and EU residents did not know their entitlements in terms of voting in our elections. Many unregistered people were also unaware that, even if they were not interested in voting, being on the electoral register affects people's credit rating and can be used as part of tenancy referencing and referencing for job applications. There is also the legal obligation to be on the list used for jury service, to support people's right to trial by their peers.</p> <p>While, no doubt, the council carries out its legal obligations, it appears that democracy and the welfare of residents might be better served if bigger and more frequent efforts were made to encourage people to register as voters where legally permitted. Practices from other local authorities could be of interest.</p> <p>I think the problem disproportionately affects the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with high turnover of population, which tends to go with private rental properties rather than social housing and owner-occupied properties. • Areas with high numbers of students • Residents who have come from overseas and do not know their rights. • Young people from families where the parents do not value inclusion on the electoral register, and possibly young people leaving the care system.”
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>
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Strategic Plan Workplan 2021-24

<p>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.</p>
<p>Priority: Climate Change 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

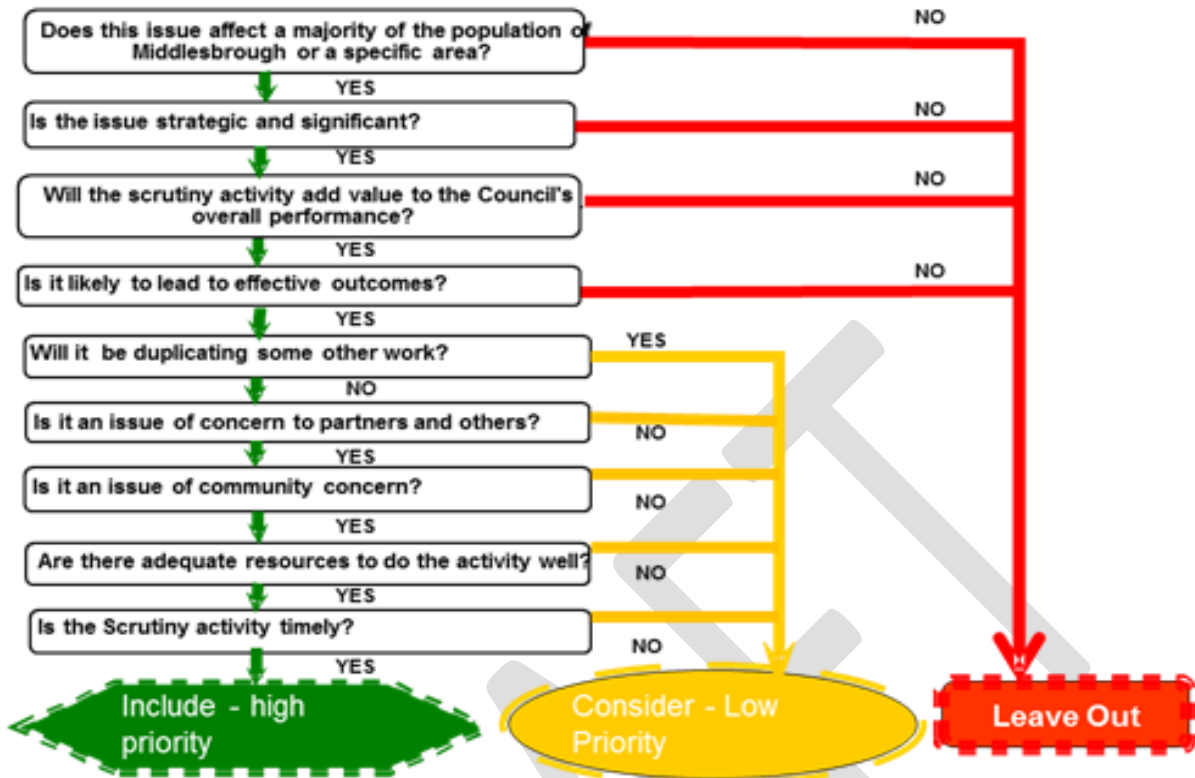
14. That, by utilising the Scrutiny Work Plan Prioritisation Aid (see Appendix 1), the Overview and Scrutiny Board considers the topics above for 2023/24.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

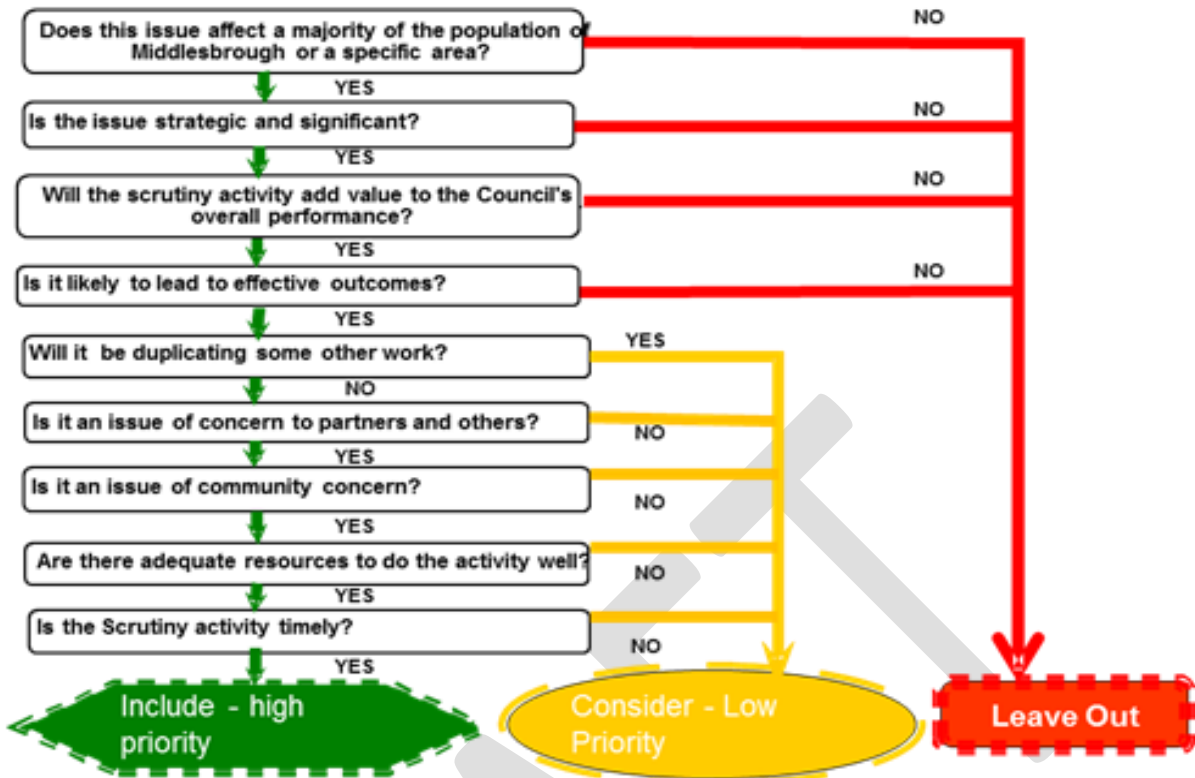
Contact Officer:

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



APPENDIX 1

DRAFT



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Report of:	Chief Executive
Submitted to:	Overview and Scrutiny Board – 18 October 2023
Subject:	Executive Forward Work Programme

Summary

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

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

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.	Open and transparent scrutiny supports all elements of the Mayor’s Vision.

Ward(s) affected
All Wards affected equally

What is the purpose of this report?

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

Why does this report require a Member decision?

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

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

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

What decision(s) are being asked for?

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

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

No other options were considered.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

Not Applicable

Financial

Not Applicable

Policy Framework

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

Equality and Diversity

Not Applicable

Risk

Not Applicable

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

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

Appendices

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

Background papers

Executive Forward Work Plan

Contact: Scott Bonner
Email: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk



Forward Plan 11 May 2023 - 31 December 2023

FOR THE PERIOD 10 OCTOBER 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							
1017349 All Wards	EXEMPT - Public Health Strategy The Public Health Strategy outlines the key priorities for public health over the next 3 years giving clarity to the public health outcomes that will be delivered through the programme approach. The Strategy will outline the principles and	Executive 20 Dec 2023		KEY	Fully exempt		The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Mark Adams, Director of Public Health - South Tees</i> <i>mark_adams@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
	processes for the allocation of the public health grant and how each directorate can support the achievement of the public health outcomes underpinned by an SLA						
15473 Page 64	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Executive 14 Feb 2024		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 Adoption of council wide policy and approval of recommendations to be agreed for all	Executive 14 Feb 2024			Public		Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>ralph jordinson</i> <i>Ralph_jordinson@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
	residential and foster care settings.						
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							
1016884 All Wards	On Street Residential Electric 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	Executive 20 Dec 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Environment <i>Chris Orr</i> <i>Chris_Orr@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
	charging points, utilising existing lamp columns, in partnership with supplier Ubitricity.						
I012273 All Wards Page 66	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>
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	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	of Middlesbrough Council's Fees and Charges						
I017166 All Wards	Review of Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2023/24	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance
I016676 All Wards Page 67	Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-25 Presentation of the refreshed and updated Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-26.	Executive 17 Jan 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Keely Trainor</i> <i>Keely_Trainor@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
Executive Member for Regeneration							
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	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
Wards	Hall Roofs Any matters relating to bids for funding, which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the financial and policy framework.						<i>Teresa Garret teresa_garret@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
1016052 Central Page 68	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 Sam_Gilmore@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017156 All Wards	Levelling Up Partnership Executive consideration of a funding package to address deprivation indicators and improve services for residents of Middlesbrough.	Executive 15 Nov 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration, The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health <i>Sam Gilmore, Head of Economic Growth Sam_Gilmore@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
I016906 All Wards	Draft Local Plan To seek approval of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation.	Executive 20 Dec 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 regime, to be subject to a planning application.	Executive 20 Dec 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Alex Conti</i> <i>Alex.Conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I017303 All Wards	Middlesbrough Development Company Update To update members on the process of closing down the company.	Executive 20 Dec 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Richard Horniman, Director of Regeneration</i> <i>Richard.Horniman@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i>
I014849 Coulby Newham	Newham Hall - Disposal Option Update	Executive 20 Dec 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration, Executive Member for Finance and

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.						Governance Andrew Carr Andrew_Carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk
1017304 Nunthorpe	The Disposal of Land at Nunthorpe Grange for Housing The report seeks approval for Middlesbrough Council to progress with the disposal and marketing of the land and to utilise capital reserves and Section 106 monies to undertake de-risking of the site to ensure Best Value for Money (BVM) at the point of sale. This will include a review of the adopted masterplan.	Executive 20 Dec 2023		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Regeneration Peter Brewer peter_brewer@middlesbrough.gov.uk
1013742 Central	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park	Executive 17 Jan 2024		KEY	Public		Executive Member for Finance and Governance

Ref No. / Ward	Subject / Decision	Decision Maker and Decision Due Date	Council Strategy	Key / PFP	Likely Exemption	Background documents	Member / Officer Contact
	<p>– Phase 2 Funding Agreement Executive to approval an additional 1.5 million pounds of capital which will be repaired through retention through business rates of the enterprize zones site.</p>						<p><i>Paul Shout paul_shout@middlesbrough.gov.uk</i></p>

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