

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 8 October 2024

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2024

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 16th October, 2024** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. Minutes - Council - 11 September 2024

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5. Announcements/Communications

To receive and consider any communications from the Chair, Mayor, Executive Members or Chief Executive (if any).

6. Questions from Members of the Public (if any).

7. Mayor's Statement and Report

8. Executive Member reports

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9. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

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10. Urgent Items

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

11.	Members' Question Time	71 - 72
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Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Inspection of Papers – Documents referred to on this Summons may be inspected between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough. Copies may also be downloaded from the Council's Website.

Questions / Motions – Details of questions or notices of motion received and not enclosed with the Summons will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Should you have any queries in regard to the items on this agenda please contact Susan Lightwing/Scott Bonner, Democratic Services on (Direct Line 01642 729708/729712 or e-mail on: scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk; susan_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk.

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 11 September 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors J Rostron, (Chair), J Ewan (Vice-Chair), J Banks, I Blades, D Branson, E Clynch, J Cooke, C Cooper, D Coupe, D Davison, T Furness, P Gavigan, T A Grainge, L Henman, S Hill, N Hussain, D Jackson, D Jones, J Kabuye, L Lewis, T Livingstone, L Mason, D McCabe, M McClintock, J McConnell, J McTigue, I Morrish, J Nicholson, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Ryles, M Smiles, P Storey, J Thompson, S Tranter, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson, J Young and L Young

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, S Bonner, B Carr, G Field, A Glover, C Heaphy, R Horniman and S Lightwing

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors C Cooke - Elected Mayor, B Hubbard, L Hurst, M Nugent and M Saunders

24/30 **BUILDING EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

24/31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

24/32 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 17 JULY 2024**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 July 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

24/33 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair announced, with sadness, the death of Jeanette Walker, Councillor for Hemlington Ward.

Jeanette represented the town's Hemlington ward for more than 17 years and passed away after a long illness.

Jeanette had overcome major transplant surgery and played a huge role in Council life, chairing the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel for many years, and more recently was Chair of both the Licensing and Adult Social Care Committees.

As Ward Councillor for Hemlington, Cllr Walker was heavily involved in campaigns to save Hemlington Library and the local lollipop lady and bring a GP surgery to Hemlington, and was committed to community events. Jeanette also chaired both Hemlington Community Council and Hemlington Linx Youth Project.

Councillor Nicky Walker paid tribute to Jeanette.

Council was also asked to remember former Councillors Barbara Grant and James Allan Jones, who had sadly passed away recently.

The Chair invited Members to join her in a minute's silence, as a mark of respect.

24/34 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

There were no valid questions submitted from members of the public, within the required timescale for this meeting.

24/35 **TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY (TVCA) - UPDATE**

There was no update for this meeting.

24/36 **MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

There was no Mayor's Statement and Report for this meeting.

24/37 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS**

The Chair requested those Members who had submitted questions for The Mayor to email them to the Mayor direct.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Regeneration.

Councillor McCabe in relation to the housing allocation for Middlesbrough and unfinished housing developments.

The Executive Member agreed that target number of 589 new houses set by the Government was a high number and unlikely to be achievable. Middlesbrough Council would be challenging that allocation. Within the Local Plan all land that was allocated would be built on eventually. The Executive Member agreed that when housing developments were finished, the roads and services should be completed in a timely manner but was unable to give any assurances that the work would be done until new estates were adopted by the Council.

Question in relation to the Report of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture.

Councillor Morrish in relation to the Early Years Information Service.

The Executive Member agreed that the recent news that the Early Years Information Service had achieved 105% take up of 2-year-old nursery places was a fantastic achievement that should be applauded and publicised. The Executive Member promised to ascertain why the Council had not issued a press release congratulating the team's achievement.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Councillor J Platt in relation to the high number of agency staff in the Children's and Disabilities Team, caseloads in the Children Looked After Team and a predicted overspend of £3.7 million in Children's Services.

The Executive Member agreed to provide the requested information as soon as possible.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Community Safety.

Councillor Ewan in relation to the recent riots and the Riot Compensation Scheme.

The Executive Member confirmed that the Riot Compensation Scheme was administered by the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Office, who would assess all applications for compensation. Clarification was awaited on how funds would be paid to eligible residents. The details of the scheme and the application form were available on the PCC website and also included in the Executive Member's report. Anyone whose property was affected by the riots was encouraged to apply.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment.

Councillor McCabe in relation to the tonnage of green waste collected this year in comparison to the previous year and also how much fly tipping had occurred.

The Executive Member stated that he would provide the information requested the following day.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance.

Councillor Morrish in relation to the £3.7 million deficit and whether robust monthly monitoring was taking place.

The Executive Member referred Councillor Morrish to the opinion of the Improvement Board and Central Government in relation to management of the budget. Both had recognised the improvements made by Middlesbrough Council over the last year. The £3.7 million deficit was in fact projected overspend based on information provided at the budget challenge sessions. Measures would be taken to control expenditure within approved budgets to bring down the projected deficit.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Regeneration.

Councillor McClintock in relation to the sale of land at Nunthorpe Grange.

The Executive Member responded that the land was always for sale. There was a forward plan in place and the land would be sold over many years, piece by piece, along with a masterplan being redeveloped. As per the report, two offers had been received and due diligence had been completed on one of those offers. The purchase money would be received by the Council in this financial year and this would de-risk the Council from development not going ahead. The Executive Member stated that he would not have made this proposal if he did not think it was a good deal for the Council and for Middlesbrough.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Councillor Henman in relation increasing support to foster carers and addressing the gap in pay to private sector agencies.

The Executive Member agreed that all foster carers did a fantastic job. In February 2023 the Council had agreed a significant pay increase for foster carers to bring them at least in line with, private fostering agencies. Middlesbrough foster carers also received additional payments to assist with providing birthday and Christmas presents, holidays, clothes and bedding. All foster carers received monthly supervision and had access to support groups and comprehensive training as well as paid respite. The Council was on track to approve 15 new foster carers this year.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Community Safety.

Councillor Grainge asked whether community action days and the provision of community skips would be rolled out across the town and how Councillors could apply to have them in their own wards.

The Executive Member replied that unfortunately at the present time, this initiative would not be rolled out across the town. Funding had been provided by Safer Streets Five specifically for Beechwood and Longlands and Central Wards. Those two Wards had been prioritised for the available funding based on data received from active intelligence in relation to issues such as fly tipping, crime and anti-social behaviour. The Council had received five allocations of funding to date that had been awarded to Hemlington, Newport and Berwick Hills and Pallister Wards in addition to the two mentioned above.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment.

Councillor Jones to email the question direct to the Executive Member.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment.

Councillor Henman in relation to parking issues in Hall Drive, Acklam Ward.

The Executive Member agreed to meet with Councillor Henman, Officers and relevant organisations to seek a solution to the current issues.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance.

Councillor Kabuye in relation to the budget and the current forecasted reduction in overspend and improvement in reserves compared to the previous year.

The Executive Member commented that whilst the projected overspend was lower than the previous year, it was very important that there was no complacency. There was more for the Council to do in order to set a balanced budget next year. The Executive Member was encouraged that the Group Leaders had set aside political differences to form a joint financial resilience working group to work together on the budget.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Regeneration.

Councillor Branson in relation to the restoration of the old Town Hall.

The Executive Member commented that the old Town hall stood alone in the area and previous attempts at regeneration had failed. The ambition was that the restored Town Hall would be the focal point of the St Hilda's area and the clock tower would be framed in a contemporary way. The Council would work with the Middlesbrough Development Corporation to bring that area of the town back to life.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Councillor Banks in relation to Children's Services being removed from government intervention, progress made over the last year and also moving forward.

The Executive Member stated that in May 2023, all senior and middle managers and most social workers had been employed on temporary contracts. Since then work had been undertaken to recruit permanent staff including two Directors, four Heads of Service and the number of agency social workers had been reduced from 58 to 40. The removal of government intervention was testament to the hard work of the refreshed leadership of the labour administration and the passion and dedication of children's services staff who had worked tirelessly to deliver the improvements for the benefit of children in care.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment.

Councillor Grainge in relation to brown bins and green waste.

The Executive Member agreed there had been some confusion over a statement made that residents could put garden waste in the black bins. It was clarified that there was no sanction that could be imposed if residents did this. However, the Council strongly recommended against putting green waste in the black bin and encouraged the use of the garden waste collection service at an annual cost of £40 per household. It was also suggested that residents could share the cost by sharing a brown bin.

24/38 **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the current position regarding progress made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the individual Scrutiny Panels.

The Chair invited Members to note the report.

24/39 **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

24/40 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The Chair invited Councillor Henman to ask his question as set out at Agenda Item 12 in relation to the Council's preparedness for a major incident.

Councillor Thompson, Executive Member for Community Safety, agreed that the tragedy that occurred at Grenfell Tower was an horrendous event. Councillor Thompson was sure that the whole of the Council shared her condolences and support for the families and communities who were affected by that tragic event. Middlesbrough Council was part of the Cleveland Local Resilience Partnership and worked with the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit. A significant part of this body's activity was to work with Local Authorities and partner agencies

to be prepared for major incidents and the aftermath. Clearly the hope was that such an event never occurred in Middlesbrough or the surrounding areas. However, if it did, there was an approach and a plan in place with partners, to react to it.

24/41

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Consideration was given to Motion No. 164 moved by Councillor Morrish, and seconded by Councillor Wilson of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

This council should condemn all types of violence including foul or abusive language towards politicians, following the recent assassination attempt on the Republican candidate for US president.

The Chair stated that an amendment to the motion had been received. A Member requested clarity on Council Procedure Rule 4.32.1 in relation to amendments to motions. The Chair confirmed that an amendment to a motion could be moved at the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.32.1. The Monitoring Officer further clarified that there was provision in the Constitution to move an amendment to a motion without notice at the meeting and referenced Council Procedure Rule 4.30.1 h).

Councillor Clynych moved the following amendment to Motion No.164:

This council condemns violence and intimidation towards elected representatives and those seeking election. This is in light of threats during the UK General Election and to politicians around the globe. We especially note the growing threats to women in elections around the world. This council resolves to make members' safety a priority with regular training and advice.

The Chair sought confirmation from the proposer as to whether the amended motion was an addition to the substantive motion. It was confirmed that the amended motion was intended to replace the substantive motion.

The motion was seconded by Councillor N Walker. The Chair invited Councillor Clynych to speak on the amendment.

A query was raised in relation to the validity of the amendment and the Chair confirmed that the amendment did not negate the substantive motion.

Councillor Livingstone spoke in support of the amended motion and commented that from a procedural point of view he would like to be able to cite a constitutional provision that allowed the text of a substantive motion to be replaced entirely by an amended motion.

The amended motion was put to the vote.

On a vote being taken the amended motion was declared **CARRIED**.

The amended motion became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was put to the vote.

On a vote being taken the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

Consideration was given to Motion No. 165 moved by Councillor Storey, and seconded by Councillor Clynych of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

This Council unequivocally condemns the shameful violent disorder which took place in Middlesbrough on Sunday 4th August 2024. Completely unacceptable acts of violent disorder were committed. These included disgusting racist acts, indiscriminate and senseless criminal damage to residential properties and local businesses, and police officers being attacked.

Our communities have been shaken by the events of Sunday 4th August and we stand in solidarity with all those feeling fearful as a result of violent thuggery and dangerous extremism

which has no place in Middlesbrough.

This Council is proud of Middlesbrough's welcoming history and is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and tolerant society for all. Those intent on stoking disorder and division are not welcome in our communities and do not speak for our town.

We pay tribute to the heroic actions of the police and other emergency service personnel who put themselves in harm's way to protect our people, homes, and businesses on Sunday 4th August. We also welcome the swift and effective response from the Government to tackle the violent thuggery we witnessed in Middlesbrough and across the country.

Those who engaged in violent disorder on our streets on Sunday 4th August are now facing the full force of the law. Over 60 people have already been arrested in connection with the disorder and many more are being investigated by the police. The community spirit we witnessed in the aftermath of the events on Sunday 4th August highlighted the very best of Middlesbrough. Volunteers from all backgrounds came together in a major clean-up effort on Monday 5th August. We are deeply grateful to each and every person who attended. The kindness and generosity which we have witnessed in our town since the violent disorder represents the real Middlesbrough. This Council expresses our gratitude to every single member of our community who has helped to clean up our town and support one another.

This Council resolves to learn from and respond to the impacts of these events, providing all available support to our communities to ensure our town comes back stronger from these events and to reaffirm our commitment to a safe, inclusive, and tolerant Middlesbrough.

Councillors Storey, Livingstone, J Thompson, Kabuye, Branson, Grainge, Henman, L Young and spoke in support of the motion.

The motion was put to the vote.

On a vote being taken the motion was declared unanimously **CARRIED**.

24/42 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no Notice of Urgent Motions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

24/43 **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND SECTION 24 ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services was presented by the Deputy Mayor. The report set out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, since last reported to Council on 17 July 2024.

The Deputy Mayor was delighted to announce that on 6 September 2024 the Minister for Children and Families had informed the Council that as a result of progress on the improvement journey, the statutory direction on improvement had been revoked. Further to this, on 9 September 2024, the Council received the fantastic news that the Best Value Notice would not be renewed. The Deputy Mayor thanked the Children's Services Directorate staff, commenting that they had been fantastic.

Both letters recognised the fantastic work that Officers and Members from all parties had undertaken to reset culture and the Deputy Mayor took the opportunity to thank all Members. Whilst the fantastic progress had been recognised there was more work to do and the Council would continue forward on a two-year improvement journey with all Members. The Department would continue to engage with the Council on an informal basis and the Minister would receive periodic updates on progress. The Improvement Board would remain in place until March 2025. The next step would be a Local Government Association Peer Review which would take place in January 2025.

Members were invited to submit any questions on the report to the Mayor via email for a written response.

ORDERED that the report was noted.

24/44

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024/25

A joint report of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture and the Director of Education and Partnerships was presented to request Council's approval of the South Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2024/2025.

The Youth Justice Plan was a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Section 40 stated that it was the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners, to formulate a youth justice plan which outlined how youth justice services in the area were to be provided and funded.

This was a partnership with Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Councils, Cleveland Police, the Probation Service, the North East and Cumbria Integrated Care Board and in consultation with young people – The Children's Voice.

The plan provided an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service over the previous year, including an overview of performance against the three main Youth Justice National Indicators:

- First Time Entrants.
- Use of Custody.
- Re-offending.

The plan also outlined the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service in 2024/25, and how those priorities would be achieved.

The Youth Justice Grant of £92.2 million had recently been announced, this was an increase of 0.3% and the details of Middlesbrough's allocation were awaited.

ORDERED that the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25 was approved.

24/45

VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES 2024-2025

Council received a report which sought nominations for appointment, following resignations from Committees and Outside Bodies and vacancies that remained outstanding following the Annual meeting.

The report included a list of current vacancies on various Committees and Outside Bodies and nominations were put forward at the meeting by individual members.

ORDERED that the following vacancies, allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups, be approved by Council:

Committee Vacancies:

People Scrutiny Panel

1 vacancy for Vice Chair - Councillor Banks appointed.

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

2 vacancies – no nominations received.

You Matter to Us – Corporate Parenting Board

1 vacancy - Councillor L Young appointed.

UPDATE ON URGENT DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report which provided an update with regard to all urgent decisions that had been taken under the urgency rules since last reported to Council on 27 March 2024.

ORDERED that the report be noted.



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

Council Meeting: 16 October 2024

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **16 October 2024**.

The booklet, in addition to containing details of Executive Member activities covering the period following the last Council meeting (section 1), also details those Executive decisions taken since the last booklet was published (section 2) together with those decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting (section 3) and those decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting (section 4).

The table at section 2 contains details of decisions taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. The public reports that were considered are also available through the Modern Gov system.

The tables at section 3 and 4 contain details of the decisions to be taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. Further details on key decisions that are to be taken can also be found on the Modern Gov Forward Plan.

The Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports and the additional decision-making information will hopefully assist Members when considering any questions they may have for Executive Members at Council, which can be asked within accordance of the Council's procedure rules.

Details of those decisions to be taken, as outlined in Section 3 and 4, may sometimes be subject to change (e.g., dates of meetings may alter). Members are therefore advised to check with the Democratic Services should they have an interest in specific issues.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services
(01642) 729024

Contact details:

Susan Lightwing Interim Democratic Services Manager - (01642) 729712

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THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 16 October 2024

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

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

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 3 September 2024.

SECTION 3 – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting.

SECTION 4 – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: MAYOR CHRIS COOKE

DATE OF MEETING: 16 October 2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: Reducing inequalities in health

Common Allocations Policy Review – Consultation and Proposed Changes

1. The Tees Valley Lettings Partnership, which includes Middlesbrough Council and other local authorities and housing providers, is conducting a consultation on proposed changes to the Common Allocations Policy (CAP). The CAP governs the allocation of social and affordable housing. The consultation runs from October 7th to November 18th, 2024, seeking feedback from registered social housing applicants and relevant stakeholders. The proposed changes come as a response to the growing demand for housing and the pressures faced by local authorities and registered providers, aiming to enhance fairness in the allocation process while addressing the region's evolving housing needs.
2. Key changes include a Local Connection Requirement, under which applicants must now demonstrate a local connection (such as living, working, or having family ties in the area) to register for social housing. Exemptions apply to specific groups such as military veterans, victims of domestic abuse, and participants in the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Furthermore, the exclusion period for applicants with a history of anti-social behaviour is proposed to be extended from 12 to 36 months. Additionally, applicants in higher priority bands will be required to actively bid on suitable properties or risk losing their priority status.
3. Significant changes are also proposed in support of members of the armed forces and their families. A proposed revision introduces a new Band One Plus priority, ensuring those with an urgent need for housing, such as recently discharged personnel, are given higher priority. Additionally, armed forces members who have left within the last five years, but do not have an urgent housing need, will receive Band Three priority on their first tenancy. Bereaved or divorced spouses of service personnel who are required to vacate Ministry of Defence accommodation will be exempt from the local connection requirement. These changes reflect the council's commitment to supporting the armed forces community and ensuring fair access to housing for those transitioning to civilian life.

CQC Inspection of Adult Social Care Services

4. A recent meeting took place between Middlesbrough Council and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), where senior leadership from Adult Social Care, commissioning, procurement, and Public Health delivered an overview of services. Six cases from our Social Care Teams have been submitted to CQC, and the inspectors will now engage with families and case holders. Once the CQC provides their timetable, we will plan staff conversations to continue the inspection process.

Strengths-Based Practice and Three Conversations Approach

5. The Strengths-Based Practice and the Three Conversations Approach have been adopted following staff and public consultation. This approach focuses on empowering individuals by emphasising their strengths, promoting autonomy, and working collaboratively to achieve positive outcomes. The Three Conversations, in collaboration with service users, intend to Listen and Connect; Work Together to Resolve Issues; and Build a Long-Term Support Plan. The benefits of these approaches include enhanced person-centred care, increased independence, better use of resources, and improved outcomes.
6. A 13-week innovation site has been launched with the Access Team, starting from October 7, 2025, to further embed this approach. Weekly reflective sessions, morning huddles, and fortnightly meetings with senior leadership will ensure the approach is effectively implemented and continuously improved.

Trading Standards Tobacco Products Enforcement

7. Middlesbrough Trading Standards, in collaboration with Cleveland Police, seized over £50,000 worth of illicit tobacco and vapes in a recent operation. The haul included 37,000 cigarettes, 2,000 vapes, and 300 pouches of hand-rolling tobacco. This joint operation, supported by the regional serious organised crime unit, also uncovered Class A drugs, cash, and a large knife. The operation was the culmination of intelligence gathering and surveillance, targeting illegal tobacco being sold from off-site residential premises and vehicles. Enforcement methods included test purchases, inspections, and multi-agency raids with tobacco-sniffer dogs. Sanctions ranged from seizures and warnings to prosecution and licensing reviews.
8. Middlesbrough's enforcement efforts for 2024, including 70 complaints about illicit tobacco and 17 complaints regarding underage sales, led to the seizure of over 47,000 cigarettes, 4,000 vapes, and 38kg of hand-rolling tobacco in the first half of the year. Collaborative efforts with partner agencies have further removed nearly

9. 80,000 cigarettes and 35,000 vapes from circulation. Recent joint work with immigration authorities also led to the seizure of a further 94 illicit vapes.

HIGHLIGHTS

Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough Awards – 07/10/24

10. It was an honour to present awards at this year's Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough Celebration Event, organised by the incredible team at Dementia Action Teesside. 25 outstanding local businesses and organisations were recognised for their dedication to creating a more inclusive community for those living with dementia. These businesses are truly making a difference, and I am incredibly proud of how our town is coming together to support such a vital cause. Sarah, the keynote speaker, shared her heartfelt story about caring for her mother, Anne. Her powerful words reminded us of the importance of compassion and community in supporting those with dementia and their families.



NAME: Mayor Chris Cooke

DATE: 16 October 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EDUCATION AND CULTURE - COUNCILLOR PHILIPPA STOREY

DATE OF MEETING 16 October 2024

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Improve outcomes for children and young people
- Support Cultural assets and events

SERVICE PRIORITIES

Education:

- Supporting schools to improve the attendance of all children, particularly those who are most vulnerable.
- Improve early years parenting support and the home learning experience to support children's learning, development, and school readiness.
- Reduce the number of children and young people who are suspended or excluded.

Culture:

- Encouragement of grass roots participation
- Increase income generation events at the town hall
- Consolidate cultural offer
- Make events sustainable

HIGHLIGHTS

Education

Achievement

2. Educational outcomes this year are showing the following overall trends for Middlesbrough schools compared to national averages (it must be noted these are still unvalidated datasets and therefore maybe subject to change):

- a) **Early Years and Phonics:**
 - There were improvements in early years development and phonics outcomes which whilst behind national average is closing the gap to national
 - b) **Key Stage 2 (KS2) Results:**
 - Performance in reading, writing, and mathematics showed positive trends
 - c) **Phonics Scheme:**
 - Multiple phonic schemes have seen impact with 'Sounds Write' having a really positive impact.
 - d) **GCSE Performance:**
 - Overall GCSE performance had some good success stories but also indicated areas of concern for those most disadvantaged pupils showing disparities in attainment and progress scores (non-disadvantaged pupils generally performing better)
3. These trends suggest that while there have been some great improvements and a big congratulations and thank you is required for school staff and pupils across Middlesbrough, particularly in phonics and early years, there are still significant areas that require focused efforts to close the gaps and improve overall educational outcomes.

Attendance and admission

Attendance

4. School attendance in the town is 91.5%, work continues to improve this and it has already rose from 90% in the previous year, this is a significant increase and represents 390 children attending school every day who previously were absent. Nearly every measure of attendance has improved; most notable is the reduction in secondary persistent absence (children who are absent more than 10% of the time) which has fallen from 51% to 34%, and the improvement in primary attendance which has increased by more than a full percentage point and is rapidly approaching the national average. There is much more work still to be done and school leaders are embracing the challenge, helped by the various layers of support provided by the Local Authority and I would like to thank again, our schools and council officers who have helped drive these improvements.

Admissions

5. The autumn term is traditionally the period that parents and carers set about applying for secondary school places for their children. The vast majority will be offered a place in one of their preferred schools but parents are encouraged to express a preference for all of the schools they would be happy for their child to attend (parents can express a preference for up to 4 schools). This greatly increases the chance of being offered a place in a preferred school. Expressing a single preference for a school and leaving the other preference slots blank does

not boost chances of success and may result in a school being allocated that is not a preferred choice.

SEND

Inclusion and Specialist Support Services

6. The High Needs Budget which is provided to the Local Authority to support children and young people with SEND by the DfE is under significant pressure. This is a national issue with the SEND system being overwhelmed across the country– as many parents attempting to navigate the system will know. Middlesbrough is part of the Delivering Better Value programme to try and reduce the pressures on the High Needs Budget and work is ongoing to address:
 - Workforce development
 - Transitions
 - Review of out of area placements
 - Early identification of need
 - Inclusion within mainstream.
7. The biggest pressures within Middlesbrough are
 - Number of children in special schools
 - Number of children who are excluded
 - Need to improve inclusion within mainstream settings
8. Within Middlesbrough the SEND system received the highest grade within the joint Local Area SEND Inspection in October 2023. As a result of this achievement Middlesbrough has been approached by the DfE to be a sector led improvement partner and will be providing support to other LAs who received the lowest grade within the inspection framework.
9. That does not mean that everything is perfect. SEND is heavily oversubscribed with the SEND needs increasing by 50% since 2020. No council will be able to address this growing need without the resources needed.
10. Middlesbrough's exclusion rates are notably higher than national averages, this is a challenge shared by regional neighbours too– strategies are in place for schools and the Local Authority to work together to reduce exclusions and improve inclusion for our children.
11. I welcomed the Inclusion statement from NE ADCS (copy available on request) on this specific issue. There are broad issues causing our averages to be higher, poverty is a primary one and so too is the narrowing of the curriculum. Our schools have done amazing jobs in creating an after-school offering that includes many of the subjects not prioritised by regulators and therefore not taught in 'school-time'.
12. The Childrens Society recently published a report ([The Good Childhood Report 2024](#)), which states that in the UK children's mental well being (children aged 6 to 16) has deteriorated by 40% since 2017. This is particularly worse for girls aged 10

to 15 in the UK. The Childrens Commissioner said ‘it reflects a troubling gap in our ability to protect and support some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Local authorities, despite their best efforts, are struggling with insufficient resources and inadequate powers to track and support these children.’

13. We will not be able to tackle exclusion in schools, until both schools and LAs are adequately funded and child poverty is seen an important issue nationally. That is why I welcome the Governments open discussion on the Curriculum and the establishing of The Child Poverty Taskforce.
14. With all this, the fact that Middlesbrough has some the highest child poverty rates in the country, must be acknowledged. I welcome the Government’s decision to provide Free School Breakfast for all primary schools – however the scheme would need to provide a level of flexibility, as many of the children who desperately need that breakfast will not get into school early to have that meal before the start of the school day, as such meals need to be included with the first lesson of the day and we will be asking this of Government.
15. Councils’ response to children’s mental health needs:
[Mental Health - Middlesbrough Children Matter](#)

Culture

16. **Middlesbrough Art Week (MAW)** took place from 26 September to 5 October at various locations across the town centre. Organised by The Auxiliary Project Space, this year’s festival was inspired by the theme ‘In the Now and the Far’ and saw incredible artworks from local, national, and international artists displayed in galleries, empty shops and the public realm. The festival also put a spotlight on North East artists through the North East Open Call programme and New Graduate Award. Alongside the exhibitions, visitors also enjoyed artist talks, walks, workshops, a comedy night, gigs, and a wonderful family programme (Summat for the Bairs). As the event only concluded on 5 October, visitor numbers will be reported next month.
17. As part of MAW on Sunday 29 September, Nuovo Cinema Neo Cinetico and Eden Arts presented **Legal Alien**; a story of love and resilience, produced in collaboration with Middlesbrough’s asylum and refugee communities. The event combined cinema, photography, visual arts and live performance which took audiences on a physical journey through the town centre, starting at the Town Hall and culminating at the Train Station. The project was supported by Arts Council and Middlesbrough Council.
18. The final **Orange Pip** of the outdoor season, sponsored by Perco Foods, took place in Centre Square on Saturday 28 September and featured the usual combination of tempting food and drink, free live entertainment and independent gift stalls. We welcomed between 5,000-6,000 visitors and 35 traders including the following who were first-timers at the market – Grog & Flagon, Groovy Paws, Steel River Drinks, Sumo Bento and The Cocktail Box. There was a special

collaboration with Middlesbrough Pride on the Pride/Pip Stage, plus Newcastle Eagles dropped by the give visitors the chance to shoot some hoops. Orange Pip will be back for its festive edition at Middlesbrough Town Hall in December.

19. On the same day as Orange Pip, **Middlesbrough Pride**, organised by Curious Arts, took place with the biggest programme to date including events at Middlesbrough Town Hall, Orange Pip (Centre Square), Holiday Inn Express, MIMA and Teesside University Students Union. Curious Arts estimate a total of 5,000 people took part in Pride across the various venues (2,000 of which at the Town Hall).
20. MAW and Middlesbrough Pride both received grant support from our **Cultural Ambassadors Programme**. A special event to thank the four companies who supported this year's programme – and I'd like to thank Leonardo Hotel, Holiday Inn Express, Stagecoach and Teesside University for their generosity and kindness in supporting arts and culture in Middlesbrough – will take place in the Fire Station on 17th October.
21. September also saw the installation of the first four artist commissions at Middlesbrough train station. The artworks are part of the **Most Creative Train Station** project, supported through the Cultural Development Fund and managed by Navigator North. A special event took place at the station on 26 September to celebrate the installations with the four artists who created them – Rachael Clewlow, Adam Shaw, Beth Johnson and Emma Bennett. A further four installations of a similar scale will be installed over the coming weeks. The project has also commissioned visual artist Catherine Bertola to undertake a larger scale commission which references the opening of the original station in Middlesbrough, and sound artist Nell Catchpole to undertake a residency at the station between now and the end of March next year. Nell will co-create work with the different communities who use the station, so lots to look out for over the coming months.

Town Hall Highlights

September

22. ITV Filmed in the Council Chamber & Old Courtroom for their new series starring Sheridan Smith
Show highlights: Big Country, Maisie Adam, The Three Degrees, Matt Reed & The Beat
Hosted NCNC Legal Alien Screening as part of Middlesbrough Art Week
Hosted & Organised Middlesbrough Pride Town Hall Takeover with Curious Arts & collaboration with Orange Pip Market on Centre Square

October

23. Hosted International Older People's Day on 2nd October organised by MBC Public Health Team
We will be hosting Public Living Rooms again from 18/10 through the winter months

Taste Of Africa are holding their TOA Showcase event on 25th October in the Main Hall

TedXTeesside Women are holding their event in the Crypt on 16th October
Show Highlights: Twisterella Unconference and headline stage for first time at Middlesbrough Town Hall, The Vaccines, Matt Forde, Troy Hawke, Simon Brodwin, From The Jam, Kenton Cool

Upcoming

24. November Highlights: Lennox Lewis, Scouting For Girls, Paddy McGuinness, Animex Festival, Middlesbrough College Graduations, Jeff Stelling
December Highlights: Hungarian Radio Orchestra, PP Arnold, Orange Pip
Christmas, The Southmartins

Adult Education

Surgery Drop ins - Multi Media Exchange

25. Surgery to be held at MME from 14th November 2024 every two months. This is to support learners who are feeling less safe since the riots. It will give learners more opportunity to become familiar with Council reporting processes and meet local Councillors

Bespoke Employer Led Courses in October:

26. Programmes have been developed in partnership with Employers to make sure people have the right skills to be successful in their chosen Employment. All courses have a guaranteed interview on completion

Next Start Dates:

Monday 28th October, Monday 2nd December, 13th January 2025

1. Cleaning Academy
2. Hospitality Academy
3. Care Academy

For further information, contact Lisa Smith, 01642811400 Lisa.smith@mcls.ac.uk

Employment Hub – October Activities

27. Wide range of activity happening within the Employment hub, have attached the October timetable.

Lingfield Learning Centre


28. A busy start to the term, numbers and funding has increased from last academic year to meet the demand. Last year funding was provided for 22 young people now increased to 31. The service is at full capacity for this academic year, already we are seeing young people engaging and accessing meaningful workplacements across the council and local employers. Giving our young people a great experience of then world of work. Many of the young people accessing the Lingfield Learning Centre have a diagnosed learning need and have Education Health and Care Plans. Learners are enjoying their programme and reporting that “Lingfield is

a safe place and its Brill” Parent feedback “Cant believe how my son has changed, thank you so much he is a different person”

EDI Awards Nomination Tees Valley

29. We have been nominated for the Education Award. The award recognises individuals, schools, or organisations that demonstrate excellence in promoting learning and supporting personal and professional development to BME individuals. Results will be announced 18th October 2024

OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024





Creepy Critters Zoo*
26 October, 10.30am - 3.30pm




Spooky Science*
27 October, 11am / 1pm / 2.30pm




Halloween Crafts*
26, 29 & 30 October, 10.30am - 3.30pm



The Dorman School for Ghouls*
31 October, 10am - 4pm




Dorman After Dark*
1 & 2 November, 5 - 8pm



Spooky Halloween VR Ride*
5 October - 3 November, 10.30am - 3.30pm

🕒 Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm
 📄 Museum admission free, activity charges apply
 📍 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 6LA

Discover more family events and activities
www.wearemiddlesbrough.com



**Scan to purchase
museum tickets**
*Additional charges apply

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CHILDREN'S SERVICES - COUNCILLOR ZAFAR UDDIN

DATE OF MEETING: 16.10.2024

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND UPDATES:

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

➤ **Early Help Service (Stronger Families)**

3. The Stronger Families Service remains stable and is performing well, to ensure continuous improvement and to strengthen direct work with children and young people, a service development session for all staff has taken place. The session was interactive on how to use tools effectively to gather meaningful voice of the child. Colleagues from Frontline social work training also engaged with the session, this provided a learning opportunity for their development. Feedback was extremely positive, moving forward the session will be delivered by Early Help within next year's Social Work Practice week. In September Elaine Carter was appointed as the new head of service, which is positive news, Elaine has worked for Middlesbrough for a number of years.
4. Young People Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)
The Early Help service performs all LA statutory duties linked to participation of young people, and we have a small team of specialist staff who work with young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) or whose current activity is not known. We are performing well against all key national measures and Middlesbrough has been identified by the Department for Education (DfE) as a 'top performer' regarding the participation of young people in education, training, and employment opportunities.

➤ **Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH) and Assessment:**

5. We are continuing our work with Multi Agency Partners to strengthen of our Multi Agency Partnerships, to ensure we have appropriate and timely decision making to meet the needs of our children. The weekly MACH Audits continue weekly, and our Multi Agency Audit continue on a monthly basis to ensure we know ourselves well in terms of strengths and areas to improve.

6. We are working to strengthen the MACH Strategic and operational board and will be reviewing the Front Door arrangement with our SLIP partners Islington. We continue with our practice and positivity weeks every 3 months which supports our development and celebrated areas of good practice.

➤ **Assessment Service**

7. The Assessment Team have continued to be a relatively stable staff team with 5 Permanent Team Managers. It is acknowledged that there has been significant change within the assessment service, and this has been possible due to practice improvements within the service. We are providing more timely and proportionate assessment and signposting to the right parts of the service to meet the child and family needs. There remain some agency workers in place within the assessment service, however, we have adverts for recruitment. Weekly performance remains a focus however, there is also a real focus on the quality of our assessments, purposeful visits, and direct work around the Voice of the child/Lived daily experience. Practice and Positivity weeks will continue to take place three monthly to develop practice and celebrate good social work Practice.

➤ **Safeguarding & Care Planning/Children with Disabilities:**

8. Safeguarding & Care Planning, Children with Disabilities, Aspire and Pre-birth Team We have continued to explore our options to stabilise the workforce, this has included appointing permanently to the Head of Service Role and Service Manager. The other Service Manager post holder is on maternity, and we are now covering this by giving an opportunity to a permanent Team Manager to "act up." The impact of having a stable leaderships team across Safeguarding and Care Planning and Children with Disabilities will allow us to set consistent expectation and decision making for the workforce and for children and young people. We have begun discussions with agency social workers currently working for the teams about their options to go permanent and some have shown an interest in this. The advert for permanent staff is now live to begin a targeted recruitment campaign as part of the whole service approach to this.
9. September has seen the launch of the Youth Participation Project Pilot; this is done in conjunction with the Family Court and gives the opportunity for children and young people over the age of 12 to meet with the Judge who is overseeing their care proceedings and therefore permanence planning. The aim being that Judges get first hand insight into the lived experience of young people and the voice of the is heard even more clearly through the court process. By the end of September the Pre Case Management Hearing Meeting Pilot will also be "live", this is also within the family justice arena and will mean that when the decision is made to issue care proceedings from this time will be subject to a new process that involves a meeting between the social worker and allocated Children's Guardian (CAFCASS) and their legal representatives to discuss the Local Authority plan and rationale, as well as clarifying contact details for the family for the Guardian so that relationships within the process can be established earlier and therefore be more effective in permanence planning through the legal process for children and young people.

10. Within Children with Disabilities, we are continuing to work to understand the demographics of families and their needs to ensure they have support at the right threshold and to review the circumstances of those felt to be particularly vulnerable or in need of a high level of support to ensure that is in place across the partnership.

➤ **Children Looked After (CLA):**

11. The service has continued with a few changes in staffing over the past month. Drift and delay have been reduced. The numbers of children allocated to Social Workers remains at a good level, assisting the staff to engage with children and complete relevant tasks. The Service Manager and teams have evidenced significant progress around data, with it now showing as 'green' and has systems in place to support the service to ensure that these tasks are completed to evidence the work of the service. Work continues around quality and consistency evidenced in children's records and uses stop the clock days, service development sessions and training.

➤ **Pathways:**

12. The letter from the Focused Visit to the Pathways Service has now been published. This was a very positive visit, which evidenced that we knew the service, what was working well, what we were worried about and what needed to happen. Staff knew their young people well and were increasingly including them in their planning for the future. Staff were pleased with this outcome and are keen to further develop the services for young people in Middlesbrough. The required aspects of the service which we have implemented since May 2024 around housing, Adult Social Care etc. are established and working well. A review of the service as a whole has been completed, to consider the next steps following the recent inspection. Training sessions continue with good engagement in the teams around quality of practice and a bespoke training for Personal Advisors is being developed. Performance data continues to improve, albeit with the issues noted above still occurring. Work is progressing on recruiting Social Workers to permanent posts, to continue to improve stability in the workforce and reduce the use of agency workers.

➤ **Learning, Review and Development:**

13. The Quality Assurance team are now fully staffed, and the Practice Lead Auditors (PLAs) have delivered training and information sessions with our new cohort of Approach Social Work students (formally Frontline) and those moving into their Approved and Supported Year of Employment (ASYE) in the Social Work Academy. PLAs are developing and timetabling further training and workshops to be delivered across the next three months to the wider social care service areas, whilst also providing one to one support to practitioners in relation to best practice.

14. Work is also under way in the development of a central SharePoint location, where practitioners will be able to locate and access best practice tools, such as one minute

practice guides, direct work tools, guidance materials, practice standards and up to date policies and procedures. PLAs continue to facilitate group audit activities, supporting practitioners to build on their audit skills. PLAs have commenced delivery of the QA Framework and monthly meetings are due to commence in October to include and support assurance around audit tracking and learning. Workshops and training sessions are being designed and will be offered to service areas between now and the end of this year in connection with the audit findings and needs identified within our Improvement and Development Plan.

15. Monthly Principal Social Worker drop-in sessions continue to be offered to staff and feedback during recent induction events identified areas of positive experiences for most new starters, regarding their onboarding and induction with Middlesbrough. The induction conversations also highlighted challenges for new starters regarding the volume of mandatory training they are required to be complete in the induction period. Confirming that the current work being completed to rationalise this training remains relevant. Induction also highlighted several practitioners leaving employment in neighbouring Local Authorities to come to Middlesbrough.
16. Our Participation team continues to work with our cared for children and young people to hear from them how we better shape and improve services. They also continue to work within local schools canvassing the views of Middlesbrough children and young people. The Participation team has this month drafted a refreshed Participation Strategy, within which they are seeking to increase their reach across Middlesbrough's children and young people.
17. In addition to this two of our Care Ambassadors have been nominated for a National Voice Award and are due to attend the Awards event in Manchester next month.

➤ **Residential, Resource, Supported Accommodation:**

18. The service comprises of 6 children's homes. There are 3 homes graded as good currently, these have been consistent in maintaining this grading for some time. For the three homes not graded as good an internal review is focusing on next steps to improve overall delivery across the service. Training has been a focus for the service as part of improving service delivery. This will continue via the established quality and performance management meetings, held bimonthly.
19. A review of how residential services are delivered is underway as part of developing a longer-term vision for the service. Supported accommodation is in the process of being registered with the Local authority having submitted the required paperwork some time ago. There are no timescales on the completion of this as OFSTED report delays link to their capacity. Eleven families progressed to a family group conference this month with 21 referrals being received overall. The staff are multi-trained, and the capacity was used to support social workers in delivering supervised family time and life story work.

HIGHLIGHTS:

20. This year we are on track to approve 15 new fostering families, which in the current financial climate is a real achievement.

THE TIME AHEAD:

21. I have briefly shared at the previous meeting that, a major milestone in the progress of Middlesbrough's Children's Services. After four years of government oversight, we have officially been removed from direct intervention. This is testament to the hard work and refreshed leadership of the current administration and our passionate and dedicated Children's Services staff who have worked tirelessly to deliver these improvements for the benefit of our children in care.

22. Middlesbrough Council will always fight for children and young people, ensuring that we do all we can to give them the best start in life. Inspectors confirmed this in their letters, when they said the Council's new leadership team and elected members have "demonstrated a tangible commitment to radically improve outcomes". We remain determined to continue to improve Children's Services.

23. I acknowledge that there are still a lot to do and a lot of challenges to overcome and I am confident that our senior staff have a really strong sense of our strengths and where we can still make improvements in the best interest of our children and young people, and their families.

NAME: Cllr Zafar Uddin

DATE: 16.10.2024.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY SAFETY – COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 16 October 2024

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

TOWN-WIDE INFORMATION

Neighborhoods

Operational Community Safety

Service Requests (NSO, Enviro & Street Wardens)									Difference from last month
Ward	VA1 ASB Issues	VA2 Noise, Animal, Stray dogs	VA3 PSPO	VA4 Littering / Rubbish/ Waste	VA5 Vehicle Issues	VA6 Criminal Issues	VA7 Tasking / Patrols	Total	
Acklam	1			2	2			5	-19
Ayresome	3	2		20	1	3	2	31	-17
Berwick Hills & Pallister	27	6		107	4	6	93	243	32
Brambles & Thorntree	10	5		46	2		34	97	27
Central	75	4	3	157	8	3	155	405	-92
Coulby Newham	3			37	2		25	67	32
Hemlington	16	1		17	3	2	31	70	-24
Kader	3	1		4	5		7	20	8
Ladgate		2		33	3	1	4	43	-8
Linthorpe	1	1		14	4		9	29	-32
Longlands & Beechwood	11	2		51	11	3	11	89	-1
Marton East	2	3		8	3		5	21	15
Marton West				6	1			7	-4
Newport	19			89	9		27	144	-98
North Ormesby	7	3		43	2	1	42	98	-39
Nunthorpe				1	1		4	6	2
Park	20			81	11		19	131	-33
Park End & Beckfield	11	4		76			73	164	19
Stainton & Thornton				13	2		25	40	10
Trimdon				4	3		2	9	2
Total	209	34	3	809	77	19	568	1719	-220

Crime and ASB Overview

Neighbourhoods

Origin Ward Name 2	ASB			Crime			Enviro			Fire			Thirteen Environmental		
	Current	Previous	Variance	Current	Previous	Variance	Current	Previous	Variance	Current	Previous	Variance	Current	Previous	Variance
Central	114	107	7	470	452	18	104	136	-32	25	12	13	10	15	-5
Newport	71	43	28	329	176	153	73	117	-44	21	3	18	9	11	-2
Longlands and Beechwood	42	39	3	258	200	58	51	39	12	17	13	4	18	13	5
Berwick Hills and Pallister	61	72	-11	134	174	-40	67	66	1	21	6	15	13	8	5
Park	36	30	6	124	99	25	90	101	-11	12	8	4	1	1	0
Brambles and Thorntree	32	26	6	134	136	-2	37	22	15	18	6	12	21	19	2
Park End and Beckfield	23	33	-10	120	131	-11	57	48	9	6	2	4	30	50	-20
Hemlington	71	43	28	96	116	-20	17	28	-11	30	11	19	6	5	1
Coulby Newham	37	34	3	76	84	-8	31	20	11	3	6	-3		3	-3
North Ormesby	15	22	-7	69	60	9	35	44	-9	5	1	4	2	4	-2
Ayresome	37	15	22	45	55	-10	10	18	-8	10	6	4	1	4	-3
Ladgate	11	9	2	43	65	-22	32	31	1	1		1	1	4	-3
Stainton and Thornton	33	8	25	23	26	-3	11	11	0	2	1	1			
Kader	13	12	1	46	53	-7	3	2	1	2		2			
Linthorpe	14	13	1	35	38	-3	10	21	-11						
Acklam	7	10	-3	39	42	-3	4	10	-6	2	3	-1			
Trimdon	18	4	14	25	28	-3	1	4	-3	2		2			
Marion East	11	5	6	24	27	-3	9	2	7	1	1	0			
Marion West	7	4	3	19	15	4	2	4	-2	1	2	-1			
Nunthorpe	2	2	0	13	6	7	1		1	1		1			
Total	655	531	124	2122	1983	139	645	724	-79	180	81	99	112	137	-25

WEST NAP

2. Monthly neighbourhood walks are now taking place in all West Middlesbrough wards. Any issues or queries that are highlighted during these multi-agency walks are forwarded to responsible departments and logged for monitoring until completion.

Ayresome

- A multi-agency walkabout has taken place around the Gleeson site in Whinney Banks. Our Neighbourhood Officer along with Officers from Transport Development and Traffic Management met with Cllr Thompson and PCSO Knight, to discuss concerns around speeding. A number of actions came from the site visit which are as follows:
 - Transport Development Officer will discuss bollards on Forbes Avenue with Gleeson's.
 - Transport Development Officer will discuss the replacement of '20' speed limit signs at the entrance to the estate and also having the '20' speed limit repainted on the road.
 - Speed survey will be carried out on Kingsbridge Crescent in September.



- A resident of St Francis close had complained to Police about several youths causing ASB in the area. Neighbourhood Officer and local PCSO carried out home visits to all 3 youths identified. Relevant enforcement action has been taken against the youths and all have been issued with warning letters regarding their behaviour. Support was also offered to all families involved.
- Local PCSO had received reports of two youths throwing stones from a property towards vehicles on the A66. Neighbourhood Officer has carried out home visits to both youths involved and taken enforcement action against them. Youths and parents/guardians were spoken to about the seriousness of this incident and informed of the further action which will be taken should this behaviour continue. Neighbourhood Officer will continue to work closely with agencies to help encourage engagement in positive activities.
- Criminal damage has been caused to the CCTV camera on Northern Road. This is the 4th CCTV pole to be attacked this month in Middlesbrough. 2 males attempted to cut down the CCTV pole with a circular saw on the evening of 20/08/24?? Thankfully a vigilant resident called Police, who were near the location at the time. Police managed to arrest one of the males responsible before they cut the pole down completely. CCTV cameras have been temporarily removed from the top of the pole until welding work has taken place. Police investigations are ongoing.

Longlands & Beechwood

- Update on concerns around drug dealing and criminal activity in the Mary Jacques Court area of Longlands. Last month Neighbourhood Officer, alongside Thirteen Housing and Police carried out work with residents around reporting incidents. The main tenant involved has now been evicted by Thirteen and the property has been made fully secure.
- CCTV reported several motorbikes in the Saltersgill Avenue area. Neighbourhood Officer requested footage of the bikes, although no facials could be obtained from the footage, these images have been shared with all partners for the purpose of intel gathering so further action can be taken.

Kader

3. Two members of our West Locality Team have been out in the ward to look at potential locations to place speed warning signs. We have already liaised with both Councillors from the ward regarding speeding and they highlighted that one of the areas they would like some attention is around the shops at The Oval. The team are currently looking at different systems available on the market.



Ladgate

4. A resident from Easterside contacted our West Locality Team regarding a complaint of a group of males using a street in Ladgate Ward to store and fix cars as part of a business. A multi-agency approach was conducted led by one of our NSO's.
5. Several vehicles were sorn and not taxed and tested, these vehicles were reported and have now been removed.
6. Cars were parked on the greenbelt and parked blocking the highway. Neighbourhood Wardens visited the property and now these vehicles have been moved.
7. Two of our West Locality staff visited the ward with a view to placing vehicle calming equipment in Saltersgill Road leading to Ladgate Lane, we are considering the use of Large "lego bricks" and placing metal shicanes to reduce the accessibility to off-road vehicles along the "Black Path"

Acklam

8. Our team have placed a temporary CCTV camera in Acklam There has been reports of unacceptable graffiti in the area and hopefully by placing the camera in the area it will identify those responsible and stop them reoffending.

Trimdon

9. Site visits conducted around the ward looking at suitable location to place traffic calming to slow down and discourage off road bike from commuting in the area. Utilising funding to purchase kick rails and Lego Blocks to discourage these nuisance riders and make the paths safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Environmental Enforcement

10. Our Environmental Enforcement Officer has been working closely with all our partners to address issues such as fly tipping, untaxed vehicles, trade waste and stray dogs in our wards.

Hubs and Libraries

11. Sessions took place throughout the summer for children and their families.
12. Grove Hill community fun day supported by Thirteen housing and Friends of Grove Hill. The family day was well attended by the local community and organisations providing support and advice. These fun days provide an essential part of community cohesion and increase community spirit.
13. Feast of fun session took place Monday – Friday which provided fun activities and a healthy lunch for all children that attended. 15 children attended each session.
14. Monthly community litter pick took place and last Monday of each month. 15 bags collected from the Thorndyke area of Grove hill.
15. Neighbourhood walkabouts have taken place supported by local councilors and thirteen housing. Issues were raised regarding fly tipping and fire setting to the rear of properties. Work is taking place throughout September in partnership with MBC, Community payback and Thirteen housing.

Easterside

16. Easterside Family fun day took place 20th August. The day was supported by Thirteen housing and Easterside partnership. The day was well attended by residents and supported by various agencies providing help and support.



17. CAB appointments continue to be fully booked on Thursday mornings.
18. Community Domestic Violence training provided by My Sister's Place. Places were free and bookable online. The session was well attended and fully booked.
19. The neighbourhood walkabout was attended by MBC and thirteen housing. Issues raised to the rear of Bollington Road regarding fly tipping- Work has commenced to clear the area in partnership with Community payback.

Acklam

20. It's the summer of **Marvellous Makers** and it's all about creativity and reading. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone. Author / Illustrator Liz Million paid a visit for a fun storytelling and drawing session. Children and their parents each got to draw their own funny characters.

21. The children got up close and personal with animals from **Animal Story**. They had encounters with snakes, cockroaches, an owl, a skunk, and lots more.



22. **The Marvellous Junk Modelling** session brought out the creative side of the children and we had monsters and robots taking over the hub. They also made musical penguins that were made from recycled plastic bottles.



Ceremony

23. For the children who had finished the Summer Reading Challenge, we held 2 award ceremonies. We had magician Crazy Colin to entertain the children, then the children were presented with their medals and certificates and enjoyed some refreshments.

24. Some of the events were funded by the Friends of Acklam Library.

South NAP

Coulby Newham

- Residents meeting with Councillor Branson in relation to neighbour issues on The Meadows.
- Home visit and Acceptable Behaviour Contract issued to a young person causing Anti-Social Behaviour at Lingfield Park and surrounding area.
- Following complaints regarding Anti-Social Behaviour and criminal damage issues at the derelict Gables Pub, staff have worked alongside environmental officers and police to patrol the area and request the brewery clean the area.

Marton East

25. An abandoned vehicle was reported for being a danger due to the damage to the front end. A 7-day notice was issued which was not responded to, the vehicle was seized.



Coulby Newham

26. A vehicle was seized from Thistle Rise, this vehicle had been out of tax since 1/7/19.



Hemlington

27. Motorbikes seized from addresses in Hemlington; both are believed to have been stolen.
28. A further red moped was seized after it had been reported as dumped in the woods at Phoenix Park.
29. Untaxed vehicles seized in Boscombe Gardens and Eddison Way two untaxed and another SORN but still on the highway



30. Fly tips below were reported and cleared at the bottom of Cambourne Close, and Cass House Road, Hemlington, no evidence was found on these occasions and the waste was cleared by the Flying Squad.



Community Hubs and Libraries

Marton Community Hub and Library

31. A snapshot of some of the great activities delivered throughout the summer holidays 2024!
32. Stay & Play Monday mornings (term time only) 10am-11am A weekly free and informal session for parents/carers and their babies and toddlers.
33. Cinema Club (the group is a charity and pays Community Group rate for 2 hours - £13) First Monday of the month 1.15-3.15pm. U3A Cinema Club meet in the library to discuss films and play film quizzes.
34. Reading Group First Monday of the month 3.30pm-4.30pm, Marton Library Reading Group meet monthly to discuss and review books.
35. Dementia Drop in Monthly drop in session providing help and advice for those with dementia and those caring for people with dementia.

Hemlington Community Hub and Library

36. When Science is fun!
37. Hands-on fun where children can create their own slime to take home, with wonderful slime to sniff.



38. Friends of Hemlington and Hemlington Community Council put a great summer fete on in the Viewley Hill Centre on August 10th. One lady commented that 'it's

lovely to see the community all getting on with each other and enjoying themselves' this is how summer holidays used to be for the kids,

Coulby Newham

39. Coulby Newham Food Bank Coffee Event

40. The Coulby Newham Food Bank Coffee Event was designed to support members of the community accessing the food bank. This event provided free coffee and a welcoming environment for attendees and advice on Universal Credit (UC), housing, and other support was available if needed.

East NAP

Berwick Hills and Pallister

41. 3 Community protection warnings have been issued to males causing issues outside the Neptune Centre as well as regular proactive patrols and business welfare checks around the Norfolk Shops area. We have also issued initial warning letters to two young people causing ASB within this location.

42. We witnessed a male riding an off-road bike in an aggressive manner in and around Norfolk Shops. Having quickly collaborated with CCTV/Police with a direction of travel the male was arrested for possession of drugs and the bike was located and seized under the white bridge in Berwick Hills.

43. During joint patrols with wardens/partners we have identified x3 untaxed vehicles after residents raised concerns. Our Environmental wardens have quickly removed the vehicles within 24 hours to further enhance the value of locality working.

44. Working with Thirteen group we have carried out home visits to address issues within the community and make people aware if any poor behaviour is directly linked to those living at the address, tenancy action will be taken.

45. A male riding an off-road bike in an aggressive manner in and around Norfolk Shops having quickly collaborated with CCTV/Police with a direction of travel the male was arrested for possession of drugs and the bike was located and seized under the white bridge in Berwick Hills.

46. During joint patrols with wardens/partners 3 untaxed vehicles were identified after residents raised concerns. Our Environmental wardens quickly removed the vehicles within 24 hours.

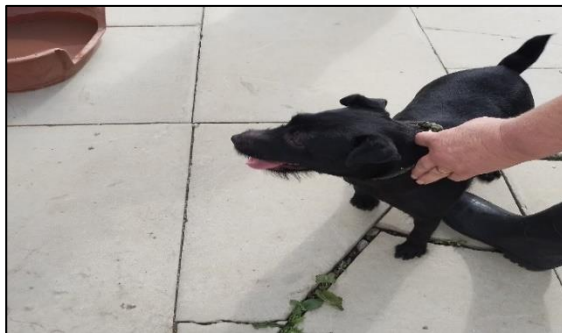
Park End & Beckfield

47. Officers were made aware of a youth riding an off-road motorbike on Elkington Walk they notified CCTV who were able to capture footage of the youth and officers were then able to identify the perpetrator. Officers carried out a home visit and issued him with a warning for breaching the terms of his Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC).



North Ormesby

48. Residents on Jubilee Street are pleased that after being subject to ongoing anti-social behaviour and criminality from a property which has been subject to a 6-month closure order, the tenancy has now been terminated. The property has now been handed back to the landlord and will be getting refurbished and relet. The letting agent has assured us they will follow SLL referencing scheme and place fully vetted tenants into the property in future.
49. We continue to receive calls asking us to deal with untaxed and abandoned vehicles in East Middlesbrough and we continue to take enforcement action.
50. We continue to collect stray dogs in East Middlesbrough, and we hopefully reunite them with their owners if the dog is microchipped and the microchip details are up to date.



Community Development

51. 15 young people from different cultures enjoyed a 2-night camping trip organised by staff from Kids Kabin. They were all from North Ormesby and come along on a weekly basis to enjoy multiple craft activities at the hub. Hub staff are trying to obtain grant funding for Kids Kabin to extend the range of activities that they offer.
52. The family summer event was one of the busiest events we have ever held at North Ormesby Hub. The tickets were free as we wanted to encourage large families from the area who might be struggling with the cost of living. It was great to see children from different cultures joining in with the disco and games. The free balloon modelling and face painting were also a huge success, and everyone loved the outdoor games and riding on the donkeys. The beauty of organising

events like this is that it really breaks down cultural barriers and the children just love to be part of everything.

53. The one activity that brings people from all of our community groups together is our Pie, Peas and Bingo events which we currently hold every 3 months. It's fantastic to see members of the Deaf Club joining in with everyone and getting to know what other groups are available

North NAP

54. Seniors Connected – Let's Move Together Event at Newport Hub.
55. As part of the 'Know Your Neighbourhood' funding initiative that Middlesbrough Libraries received in partnership with Public Health, a special event for care home residents took place on September 28th. The aim of the funding is to tackle chronic loneliness affecting older people in Middlesbrough.
56. Over 45 care home residents took part in activities aimed to encourage movement, including drumming, chair-based exercises, indoor curling, and bowls, supported by Public Health's physical Activity Team. The event was very well received by residents and care home staff, and we hope to seek further funding to make this an annual event.

Central Library Refurbishment

57. Work continues on the refurbishment project at Central Library. The Architects are now looking at the detailing for the fixtures fittings and furnishings. The general colour schemes have been chosen, and work will soon start on building library shelving. The general scheme is neutral, with colour provided by furniture, bean bags and shelving. Work is also taking place on the design of new CCTV facilities, to ensure safe coverage throughout the venue. The Reference Library ceiling is currently being decorated and break out works are taking place for the new stairs and lift.

Area Care

58. The idea of a litter pick on Park Road North and Linthorpe Road was hatched when the Area Care Team Leader popped into New Walk for breakfast with the residents and staff.
59. New Walk is an accommodation provider who have 58 units spread across 6 buildings in Middlesbrough. 1 building is specifically designed for housing vulnerable women and has onsite support. The company works alongside partner agencies such as drug and alcohol and harm reduction services, to provide support to clients.
60. The residents were really interested to find out more about the Area Care team and the work they do. They were asked if they would like to be involved in a litter pick which they thought was a good idea.

Town Centre ASB

61. The Town Centre Safer Streets Officer has continued to engage with Local businesses and partners in the Town Centre to gather information and resolve ASB in and around the Town Centre.
62. Three individuals were taken to court and charged in relation to PSPO breaches and non-payment.
63. A Civil Injunction File has been prepared and signed for a Male responsible for incidents of ASB in the Town Centre. We are awaiting a court date in relation to this matter.
64. Further to this an application for a Criminal Behaviour Order in relation to a prolific Street beggar in the Town Centre has been prepared, signed and submitted for court.

Youth ASB:

65. Officers have responded positively to reports of a group of youths causing ASB in the Town Centre. The group was quickly identified by Council Staff and investigations and intervention have led to the below actions in relation to the group.
 - 1 Final Warning Issued.
 - 4 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts issued.
 - 1 second warning issued.
 - 1 Junction referral completed
 - 1 YJS referral completed
 - 2 ASC safeguarding referrals completed.
66. The actions above have stopped any further issues from occurring in relation to this group and it is hoped that they will continue to work with services.

Hope Foundation Breakfast

67. The Hope Foundation organises a monthly breakfast, where organisations can come together, talk about what they do, network, and make important new connections.

Unity Festival

68. The Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager worked together with myself and the Deputy Mayor Phillipa Storey, the Dorman Club, and community members to develop the Unity Festival. The festival aims to raise funds to support those who have been affected by the riots and will offer practical help, such as covering the costs of new windows and car repairs.



NAME: Cllr Janet Thompson
DATE: 16 October 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT - COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

DATE OF MEETING: 16 October 2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Strategic Priorities: I continue to work on policy proposals for the short, medium and long-term. We will continue to work closely with local communities to protect our green spaces, and make sure that our roads and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.

HIGHLIGHTS

2. Since the last full council meeting on September 11th, in addition to my regular meetings with the Director of ECS I have:
 - Participated in World Litter Pick Day at Middle March Nature Reserve
 - Contributed to plans for Re-Cycling Month
 - Attended a meeting of the Crustacean Deaths Working Group.

WORKS UPDATE

Transport Planning and Road Safety

3. On-going interventions at schools and businesses to identify Road Safety messages such as visibility, considerate parking and possible alternative transport options. Support given to introduce the Junior Road Safety Officer scheme (where applicable).
4. Continued delivery of Bikeability and Pedestrian training with delivery partner Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC). Contracts have been finalised and are with MEC for review/agreement allowing completion of the 2024/2025 contract, with a possible extension of a further 12 months to avoid any break in service delivery.
5. Travel Plan for Fountain Court reviewed (with assistance from Modeshift) and updated accordingly. Enquires have begun with external organisations with the look to providing support with travel planning in the future.
6. On-going site visits with local councillors and residents to address concerns regarding inconsiderate parking/road use.

7. Partnership working with Cleveland Road Safety Partnership group and Cleveland Police to highlight areas of work that can be concentrated on to improve road safety for all.
8. Installation of zebra crossing on Eastbourne Road.
9. On-going management and support of the SCPO team.
10. On-going work surrounding Linthorpe Road
11. Continued scheme design for the CRSTS programme with TVCA
12. Support for events in Middlesbrough requiring Traffic Management, including Taste of Africa on the proposals for a new rail station for Nunthorpe.

Traffic Signals/UTMC

13. Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2024/25:
 - Junction upgrade at Hartington Rd / Brentnall Street – Due Feb 25
 - Junction upgrade to Marton Rd JCUH – Due Nov 24
 - Junction upgrade to Newport Rd / Marsh Street – To be replaced by Linthorpe Rd/Park Road South
 - Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2024/25:
 - Puffin crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / Coniston Road - Complete
 - Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / The Avenue of Trees - Ongoing
 - Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / Urray Grove - Ongoing
 - Toucan crossing upgrade CFL / Crestwood - Complete
 - Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Road / Linthorpe Road - Ongoing
 - Puffin upgrade to Marton Road / Wellesley Road - Complete

Highways

14. Verge replacement and footway improvement works programmes have been developed and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2024/25.
15. Verge works complete so far are 8 of the planned 15 schemes.
16. Footway Works complete so far are 14 of the planned 27 schemes.

Bridges and Structures

17. Transporter Bridge
 - Digital monitoring equipment has been installed.
 - Following consultation with RSPB, works are to take place to discourage nesting. The monitoring data will feed into the design/ repairs going forward.

- Preparations are underway for the main preliminary design and permanent design works, however, discussion around options to take place for future operating model of the structure and funding streams are to be resolved.

18. A66 Column 20B – Station Viaduct

- Works to column 20B and beam 20B to 20C are completed, with the Stack Development now on site undertaking their preparation works.
- Beam 20A to 20C has been temporarily covered and will be monitored with repairs to be carried out at a future date.
- The column has been poured and early concrete testing results are positive.

A66

Bridges Small Schemes

19. A scope is being drawn up for a tender for several smaller schemes involving minor parapets works, masonry, and concrete repairs.

Principal and General Bridge Inspections

20. The principal and general bridge inspections contracts have been awarded via NEPO. There are 18 principal and 169 general inspections taking place with the inspection programme completing all due inspections. The inspections are ongoing.

21. Longlands Road overbridge will be the subject of a full structural and principal inspection. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design phase will follow the assessments with major works planned for 2025/26 – Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing.

A66

22. Concrete testing at Hartington Interchange has taken place. Specification being drawn up for a works programme to repair the concrete piers. The repair scheme will involve jacking works to support the piers while the damaged concrete is removed and replaced. Ground investigation works have recently been undertaken and we are awaiting the final report which will support the jacking proposals.

23. The principal inspection at the Newport Interchange has identified areas on the piers which require concrete testing to outline the extent of works required, a specification is being drawn up.

24. Principal inspections continue on a number of the A66 structures with condition reports imminent. Closure of the A66 at the footbridges and sign gantry near to the A19 will be taking place in mid-October to facilitate the inspection process.

Borough Road Flyover

25. Resurfacing and re-waterproofing of the bridge deck have been completed on Borough Road Flyover. Further works, to replace the bridge joints, bearings, and

carry out localised hydro demolition and concrete repairs, will be commencing in 2024. Concrete testing works and report are due to start. This work is ongoing.

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

26. A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge which include replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. The tender process is completed, and the award of contract is imminent. Following the design and parapet manufacturing phase, physical works are due to take place in the summer holidays 2025.

Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

27. Painting; installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages; structural repairs to piers and decks; new bearings; concrete repairs; other repairs; and install lighting. The design phase is ending and we continue to await the sign-off by Network Rail. Initial estimated prices provided via Network Rail's main contractor for suicide prevention parapets to Linby and Belle Vue footbridges received with a further tender process to follow to ensure best value. This will take place once the design is agreed.

A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges

28. Works to repair the waterproofing/ resurfacing and install new bridge joints was completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspection for any snagging issues of the works are taking place as part of the principal inspection due for completion within the next month. See note under A66.

Newport Bridge Approach Structures

29. Work is concluding on the repairs to the West Approach Retaining Wall, Cannon Street/ Ayresome Road Bridge, and Newport Approach Bridge – mainly: concrete repairs, anti-bird mesh, renewed lighting, deck-joint replacement, re-waterproofing, and resurfacing works. The works are being co-ordinated with works to Newport Bridge. Road closures from Newport Roundabout with local diversions have now been removed. Lane closures remain in place while calculations are undertaken on the vehicle restraint barriers – it is anticipated that a temporary solution will be installed until such a time that repairs to the footpath cantilevers are programmed to take place. Once the temporary solution is installed the lane closures will be lifted. The footpath/ cycleway ramp at the side of the approach road is temporarily closed to allow repairs and is expected to be completed within the first couple of weeks of October 2024.

Newport Bridge

30. Work started on 8th July and lasted until the beginning of September 2024 on replacement of the bearings, and drainage channels these works were undertaken by Stockton Council. Further works are required to the bearings which will be programmed for Summer 2025.

Bridges Small Schemes

31. The scope is being drawn up for a tender for several smaller schemes involving minor parapets works, masonry, and concrete repairs.
32. Principal and General Bridge Inspections
33. The principal and general bridge inspections are ongoing with most of the 169 general inspections completed. The 18 principal inspections are progressing well with nearly half completed, and the remainder imminent. The inspection programme once completed will conclude all due inspections.
34. Longlands Road overbridge will be the subject of a full structural and principal inspection. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design phase will follow the assessments with major works planned for 2025/26 – Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing. The full inspection of the structure is due at the beginning of December 2024 when the rail track possession is booked in.

Carriageways

35. The 2024-25 resurfacing programme has been finalised and two contracts have been awarded for resurfacing on the unclassified and classified roads, with works due to start in October. Works were slightly delayed due to the contract and procurement processes; however, a programme is in place with the contractor, and they are due to start the classified roads on 14th October. A further two contracts are due to be tendered for thin-surfacing and surface-dressing. There are a total of 53 resurfacing schemes to take place in 2024-25.

Flood Management

36. Work continues on the clearance of the Gullies in line with the adopted risk-based approach in prioritising Gully cleansing. This work started back in April of this year and currently we have some 3,000 Gullies cleaned. We continue to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with EA and NWL and increasing our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk.

Street Lighting

37. The 2024/25 column replacement programme is still ongoing in various roads throughout the town.
38. Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 & TS3 with funding from DLUHC.

NAME: Cllr Peter Gavigan

DATE: 16 October 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – COUNCILLOR NICKY WALKER

DATE OF MEETING: 16 October 2024

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2. Strategic Priority: We will ensure that we place communities at the heart of what we do, continue to deliver value for money and enhance the reputation of Middlesbrough.

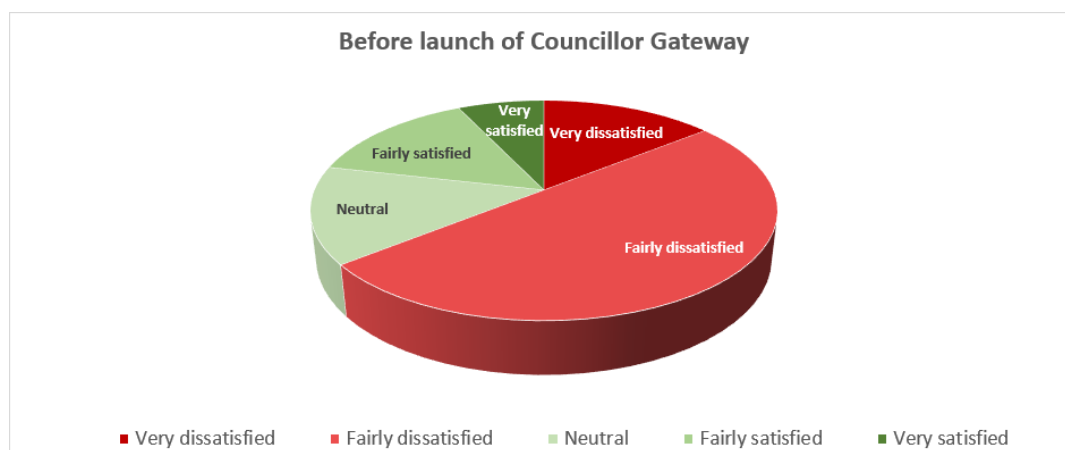
Update:

3. I continue to have weekly briefings with each of the two directors relevant to my portfolio as well as frequent additional meetings and contact with them and other officers as appropriate.

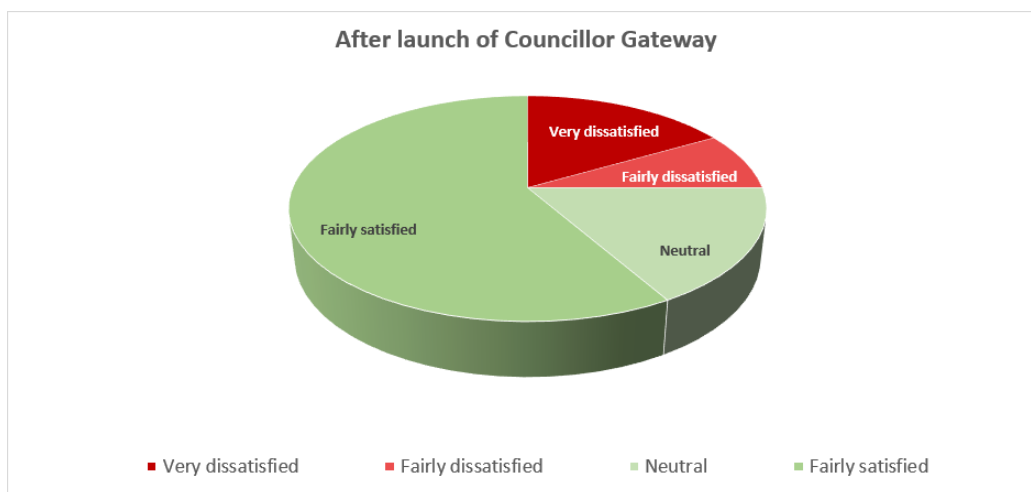
HIGHLIGHTS

Councillor Gateway

4. A recent survey of councillors showed increased satisfaction with the system for members' enquiries.
5. Before the Councillor Gateway system was launched, there was a 36% satisfaction rating amongst Councillors in relation to the old method of the onestop email.



6. This satisfaction rating has since risen to 75% following the introduction of the new Councillor Gateway system.



7. In addition, further suggestions for improvements to the system that were given by members completing the survey were analysed and the where appropriate, actions taken to put these suggestions in place.
8. Of course, work is remains ongoing in addressing any issues raised by members and following up suggestions for improvement and I continue to work with officers on this. The aim is to get the satisfaction levels higher, but the feedback reflects an encouraging trend such a short time after the new system was introduced.
9. I would like to again extend my thanks to officers who have delivered this project in a much shorter space of time than has been the case with other authorities and to all the councillors who have participated in the design and roll out of the system and worked collaboratively on it.

THE TIME AHEAD

Household Support Fund

10. The last round of the Household Support Fund was delivered between 1 April 2024 and 30 September 2024 and used to target four main groups:
- Families with children and in receipt of benefits.
 - Pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and in receipt of Pension Credit Guarantee Credit
 - Singles/Couples in receipt of benefits.
 - Application-based awards for residents not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or other benefits.
11. Middlesbrough's allocation from central government for that period was £1,653,615. It had previously been expected that the Household Support Fund could end on 30 September 2024. However, on 02 September 2024 the new

Work and Pensions Secretary announced an extension to the Household Support Fund for the next six months, with a total of £421million for local authorities across England to be used up until April 2025 to help those struggling with the cost of energy, food, and water.

12. It was announced on 27 September 2024 that Middlesbrough has been allocated a similar sum to that we received in the last round.
13. I will be presenting a report to the Executive on 28 October 2024 proposing how this money should be allocated to support our residents and have been working with officers on this, in consultation with the Mayor and Executive members. My aim is that we should continue to provide support families and other residents on low incomes but should on this occasion prioritise those pensioners on low incomes, who will lose the Winter Fuel Payment this year. Council support for this approach is requested in a motion to Council at the meeting tonight.
14. I would also like to seek the help of councillors to encourage their residents to use the scheme where they might qualify, once applications are open. There will be those for who the Council already holds bank details, for example those on Housing Benefit or who received an award earlier from the Household Support Fund who can be paid automatically, but others will be invited to apply based on data held by the Council. I understand from officers that there was only around a 50% response rate from those contacted in the last round, meaning that many missed out. I will ensure that all councillors are made aware of the details of the scheme and when applications, where necessary, can be made.

Pension Credit take-up

15. It has been estimated that nationally up to 880,000 or 63% of eligible pensioner households are entitled to, but not receiving Pension Credit, meaning over a third, or 37%, who would be eligible for this support, and would also be entitled to the Winter Fuel Payment are missing out. I would like to thank our officers for their continued work in reaching out to pensioners in Middlesbrough. I reported last month how 750 letters were being issued to households across the town where it's believed individuals may be entitled to Pension Credit who are not currently receiving it, and support of our Welfare Rights Team is offered where appropriate.
16. Pension Credit tops up weekly income to £218.15 if the claimant is single, or joint weekly income to £332.95 for a couple. If their income is higher, they might still be eligible for Pension Credit if for example they have a disability, have dependents living with them or they are a carer.
17. Councillors may also wish to provide pensioners, or their relatives, in their ward with the number for the Pension Credit Claim Line: 0800 99 1234. Applications can be made by phone, instead of through the online form, and the call can be made by a friend or family member if the pensioner applying is unable to use the phone.

18. For those unsure as to eligibility, there is also an online Pension Credit Calculator [Pension Credit calculator - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator)

Communication and Member Resources Working Group

19. I have mentioned previously that I would like to set up a member led Communication and Member Resources Working Group to look at communication issues that may be impacting members in carrying out their role.
20. All councillors have been sent an invitation and are welcome to attend the first meeting on Wednesday 09 October at 4.30pm in the Collaboration Event Space, Ground Floor, Fountain Court.
21. The aim would be eventually, if members feel it would be useful, to establish a regular forum where general issues impacting on member communication, particularly between members and officers, can be raised and discussed.
22. This has largely come about through issues that councillors have raised with me in my Governance role, or I have heard concerns expressed about at briefings.
23. Some key areas we may wish to start exploring are:
1. some type of member handbook or resource, available on the Bridge.
 2. how members can raise general questions with officers about for example an area of policy or a development in their ward which are not covered by the Councillor Gateway or NAP meetings,
23. As well as perhaps
3. to present resolutions to issues for officer consideration.
 4. to ensure that members are updated on any process, policy or procedure that may impact on them.
 5. Other areas members may feel are important.

NAME: Cllr Nicky Walker
DATE: 16 October 2024

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR THEO FURNESS

DATE OF MEETING: 16 October 2024

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

UPDATES

Historic Quarter

1. Middlesbrough's Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme formally completed on 30 September 2024. A period of financial completion and servicing contractual commitments will continue to the end of the financial year.
2. To date, the programme has transformed over 50% of the 245,000 square ft property into leisure uses and has aided the family and visitor appeal into Middlesbrough.
3. Funding has been secured for additional phases of development, through the Tees Valley Combined Authority Indigenous Growth Fund (IGF). This funding will enable the additional phases of expansion to include a new boutique cinema and the conversion of additional units including former TK Maxx and Shelter unit(s).
4. Works for the new, boutique, three-screen cinema have concluded and the construction contract will commence in late October 2024. The facility will be operational in late 2025.
5. Tenants are reporting positive trading over the summer period, including some settling in and operational changes, for some of the newest arrivals. Visits from family favourites the Gruffalo, Sonic the Hedgehog and Pepper Pig, throughout August, provided a huge draw for families.
6. Members will be aware that one of the Captain Cook Centre tenants, Bazaar, has an ownership association with the operation of the Oven restaurant. It is understood that the operator and landlord of the Oven restaurant premises are in a private tenancy dispute. Upon investigation of the underlying matters, the Council have been assured that this is a discrete dispute and, albeit an unfortunate situation, has no material impact on the Bazaar operations at Captain Cook Square, nor the legal protections secured under the lease agreement.
7. The centre has prepared a programme for the Christmas period which is aligned with the Council's main Christmas light switch on programme.

8. Retail lettings in the centre are progressing well with the announced arrival of TJ Hughes to occupy the former H&M unit. This occupation highlights that retail still has a role in our high streets, albeit at a much-reduced scale. Many visitors and residents are frustrated by the withdrawal of many retail brands from highstreets across the UK. This is an irreversible trend for all but the biggest cities and retail parks and is reflective of our collective behaviour as consumers. Town Centres are evolving their role and adapting to service the wider needs of the community. This is the underpinning principle of the regeneration strategy for the Town Centre.
9. The Live Well Centre refurbishment is progressing well with first-fix fit out being delivered on schedule. A planning application was recently approved by Middlesbrough Mayoral Development Corporation (as Planning Authority) for the changes to the elevations on to Albert Road with a future application for the branding and signage on the Albert Road elevation to be submitted. The completion of the works is on target for December 2024.
10. Designs are progressing with the Middlesbrough Community Learning and Employment Hub relocation to the Cleveland Centre. To be situated in the vacant former Poundland Unit in the Cleveland Centre, the new facility presents an opportunity to relocate the service to the heart of the town centre, addressing the oversupply of retail and helping to rebalance the town centre economy. This move will complement the Live Well's relocation, whereby the services can share facilities.
11. The planning application for the change of use will be submitted to MDC imminently. The works will be tendered for at the end of 2024, with work programmed to start in February and complete in October 2025.

Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (TeesAMP)

12. The Council completed the disposal of TeesAMP to an institutional investor, in September 2024.
13. It is important to note that this disposal has no material impact on the tenancies, use classifications or lease terms of the tenant companies. It is anticipated that the site will be used, and potentially expanded, in line with its current and intended uses.
14. The development is testament to the Council fundamentally addressing a market failure in the commercial property market, stimulating complementary investment and creating a product which is viable and with significant commercial appeal.
15. Having provided the proof-of-concept that manufacturing businesses will pay premium leases for quality premises, landlords and investors have taken note. A stream of investment in new property, or upgrade of existing stock has been witnessed in Middlesbrough's commercial areas and this is having a strong influence on healthy rental and yield rates in Middlesbrough.
16. The private sector has the confidence in the local market's ability to sustain strong financial returns on speculative development, so it is an opportune time for the Council to withdraw from the market.

17. An additional benefit of this disposal is the significant capital receipt, which will aid investment in the Council's transformation programme. Whilst this comes at a revenue offset, the opportunity cost of forgoing this revenue stream is bettered by the opportunity to invest in measures to create long term structural savings in the Council.

Nunthorpe Grange

18. In September, Executive considered an offer for the disposal of land at Nunthorpe Grange.

19. The Net Present value of the offer was in excess of the independent valuation of the land and the anticipated phasing of the payments for the land.

20. Local concerns with regards a refresh of the site Masterplan, and its weight as a supplementary planning document, were assuaged as the process to review the masterplan has been committed to, and this will precede the planning application for the site.

21. The offer is to be made as a single, lump sum payment in the 2024/25 financial year, which supports the Council's transformation programme. The legal process to transfer the land will complete in the coming weeks.

Middlesbrough Golf Course

22. Middlesbrough Golf Course has now been placed on the market for expressions of interest for sale or rent of the facility.

23. The disposal is covenanted as a going concern and will retain its use as a Golf Course.

24. Interested parties have been instructed to submit tenders for the purchase or lease of the site by 6 December 2024. Following this a process of due diligence will be conducted against the bids and the most advantageous proposal will be forwarded for Executive determination.

Newbridge Court

25. The development of Newbridge Court, Tollesby has provided 24 high quality residential apartments, which are to be let at an affordable rent, and four commercial units including the Onestop convenience store.

26. The Council has successfully let all 24 of the residential units and this is managed by appointed Michael Poole: Estate and Letting Agents to manage the residential units.

27. Two commercial units have been let and are open for trading, they are One Stop Shop and a Barber's shop. Two commercial units remain to be let and are being actively marketing with some level of interest. Officers are exploring options to mitigate some of the extensive fit-out costs (as a newly occupied premises) which are a barrier to some smaller business interests.

Local Plan

28. The Council is continuing to work on the Publication Local Plan, finalising the main document alongside updating the evidence base. A key aspect of this is determining which sites within the Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) area will be progressed now the asset transfer process has been put on hold. The Council remains committed to working with the MDC to support regeneration activity in this area. Despite this, the Local Plan remains on track for consideration at Council in January 2025.
29. In July 2024, the Government consulted on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which proposed mandatory housing requirements and a stronger focus on housing delivery and universal local plan coverage across the country. There are proposals to help securing more social rented housing and to strengthen strategic planning at a Combined Authority Level. There are also proposals to increase planning fees and add capacity into local authority planning services. The consultation closed on 24th September 2024. The Council will need to accommodate these changes once the revised NPPF comes into effect and, depending on when this is, this may have an impact on the emerging Local Plan.

NAME: Cllr Theo Furness

DATE: 16 October 2024

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	16 October 2024
Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That Council note the report.

Executive summary

To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council note the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

4. Background and relevant information:

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 25 September 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

- a) Corporate Performance Update – Quarter One 2024/2025
- b) Revenue and Capital Budget – Projected Outturn position – Quarter One 2024/25
- c) Executive Member Update - Regeneration
- d) Community Cohesion – Discussion
- e) Executive Forward Work Programme

4.3 Members heard that 11 (25%) actions were delayed due to external factors beyond Middlesbrough Council control and 3 (7%) actions were delayed due to internal capacity to complete within approved timescales. However, Members were also informed that 90% of outcome measures were expected to be completed by the end of the year.

4.4 Members also heard the Council was projected to have a budget overspend of £3.7 million for 2024/25. However, it was also stated the projected overspend at Quarter One was without any actions being taken so it was hoped this would reduce as the year progressed.

4.5 The Executive Member for Regeneration was in attendance, accompanied by the Director of Regeneration, and provided an update on his portfolio. Members were presented with the challenges and opportunities facing the Regeneration portfolio including the need to ensure fair access to high quality homes and strengthening transport links within Middlesbrough and beyond. A significant challenge facing the Regeneration portfolio was the rejuvenation of the Town Centre.

4.5.1 Following social unrest in Middlesbrough, and further afield, the Board discussed if a review into community cohesion was necessary. Members attention was drawn to a previous scrutiny review into Community Cohesion produced in 2020 by the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group lead on the issue of Community Cohesion and report its finding back to OSB.

- 4.5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Board also met on 30 September 2024 to consider a Call-In request in relation to the Executive decision to dispose of land at Nunthorpe Grange (Executive Sub Committee for Property, 4 September 2024)
- 4.5.3 Cllr Tom Livingstone presented the Call In on behalf of Cllr Morgan McClintock with the Executive Member for Regeneration, accompanied by the Director of Regeneration, putting the case supporting the decision. The Call In focussed on if sufficient alternatives had been proposed to Executive when making its decision.
- 4.5.4 After hearing evidence from both the Call In proposer and respondent, OSB decided not to refer the decision back to the Executive Sub Committee for Property.

5. Scrutiny Panel Updates

- 5.1 The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

People Scrutiny Panel

- 5.2 A meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel took place on 16 September 2024.

At the meeting, Members considered the Work Programme for 2024/2025. The topics chosen for review this year were Children Missing from Education and Homelessness. Should time allow, the topic of Obesity would also be pursued.

Regarding the topic of Children Missing from Education, the Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision was present at the meeting and provided the panel with an overview of the key issues involved.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 October 2024 and the panel will continue the investigation into Children Missing from Education by discussing and determining the Terms of Reference. In addition, the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration will be in attendance to provide an update position regarding the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of Middlesbrough Council.

5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel

- 5.5 Two meetings of the Place Scrutiny Panel took place in September. At the meeting held on 2 September 2024, the Panel received overviews of two of the topics chosen for review this year: Home to School Transport and Empty Properties.

At the 23 September 2024 the Panel considered the former Environment Scrutiny Panel's Final Report on Waste Management. Members of the former Environment Scrutiny Panel also attended the meeting. The Final Report was approved and will now be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 October 2024 and the Panel will continue the investigation into Home and School Transport with a presentation from the Council's Independent Travel Trainer. In addition, the Director of Regeneration will be in attendance to provide an overview in relation to Middlesbrough Council's

responsibilities with regard to empty commercial properties in Middlesbrough. The Panel will also discuss and determine Terms of Reference for both reviews.

6. Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

6.1 Since the last update to Council, no Final Scrutiny reports have been submitted to Executive.

7. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

7.1 That an update on the work of the scrutiny function is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for updates on the scrutiny function, to be reported to full Council.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

8. *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

9. *Legal*

The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.

10. *Risk*

10.1 The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

Risk No	Risk Description	Impact
O8-054	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.	If updates on the work of the scrutiny function were not provided to Council, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

11. *Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion*

11.1 The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.

12. *Climate Change / Environmental*

Not applicable.

13. Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable.

14. Data Protection

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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16 OCTOBER 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.27

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO	QUESTION
02/2024	Councillor Wilson	Mayor Cooke	<p>Spider Park was part of the original Colmore Ave play scheme . Spider Park was meant to get new equipment and the overall Colmore Ave scheme was allocated a budget of £63,431. However, Mayor Cooke you split the £63,000 between Newham Grange leisure farm & the Regeneration Events team. At the time you said that the Colmore Ave play scheme would get the full amount back and that Spider Park would be upgraded. There are no facilities for teenagers in Brambles Farm. Spider Park was to be upgraded with facilities suitable for teenagers including an ‘all steel teenage shelter’, a teq ball table and lastly a rubbish bin. Also included in the scheme was for the Boro wall to be rebuilt , defunct equipment removed, and the CCTV and street lighting upgraded.</p> <p>Could I be told when you will fulfil the commitment you made?</p>
03/2024	Councillor Mason	Councillor Furness	<p>It is with great sadness that that it would appear that ‘The Wired Lobby’ based at Captain Cook Square has recently entered administration with claims of some £923,000 lodged against it. According to sources as much as £400,000 of which is owed to Middlesbrough Council. With this in mind can the executive member confirm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What type of legal charge was placed over the loan/grant which was given by Middlesbrough Council?2. That this legal charge was correctly registered?

			<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. How many other legal (and equitable) charges exist over the assets of this company?4. What company owned 'The Wired Lobby' and when was it incorporated?5. Why was such a loan/grant approved by council officers given the business assets amount to roughly £20,000?6. What risk assessments were undertaken by the Council to ensure that this loan/grant could be approved?7. What steps are being taken to recover the roughly £400,000 owed to Middlesbrough Council?8. How many other businesses have been lent money by Middlesbrough Council whose total assets are less than the loans/grants given where these loans/grants remain outstanding?
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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Mayor, Chris Cooke and the Chair of the Improvement Board, Wallace Sampson
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	16 October 2024
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Title:	Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board: 12-month progress Report
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Strategic priority:	All
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Key decision:	Not applicable
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Why:	Not applicable
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Subject to call in?	Not applicable
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Why:	Not applicable
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Proposed decision(s)

<p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expresses its condolences following the unexpected passing of Suki Binjal who had been supporting the Council’s Corporate Governance improvement journey as a member of its Independent Improvement Advisory Board, and • notes the report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board which reflects on progress made by the Council on its Corporate Governance improvement journey over the last 12 months.
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Executive summary

<p>The Board’s report sets out its view of the Council’s position on its improvement journey and the progress it has made over the last 12 months.</p>
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1. Purpose

1.1 The Board’s report sets out the background to its appointment, a summary of activity to date, its view of the Council’s programme and a forward view on the Council’s improvement journey.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That Council:

- expresses its condolences following the unexpected passing of Suki Binjal who had been supporting the Council’s Corporate Governance improvement journey as a member of its Independent Improvement Advisory Board, and
- notes the report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board which reflects on progress made by the Council on its Corporate Governance improvement journey over the last 12 months..

3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Council must continue to respond effectively and at pace to the deliver the improvements set out in both the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the Section 24 report if it is to effectively address the concerns around its culture, governance and financial challenges.

3.2 The report of the Board provides an independent view of progress made to date and its expertise and advice will assist the Council in its improvement journey.

4 Background and relevant information

The Improvement Board

4.1 In September 2023 the Council appointed a discretionary Independent Improvement Advisory Board, currently comprises the following members:

Name	Experience / speciality
Wallace Sampson OBE	Local authority CEO (Chair)
Ros Jones CBE	Unitary local authority Mayor / Leader
Suki Binjal	Unitary local authority Monitoring Officer
Barry Scarr	local authority Chief Finance Officer
Caroline O’Neill	Former Director of Childrens and Adults services
Mark Edgell	LGA Regional Lead

4.2 The Board's role is to provide oversight, support and challenge to the Council's improvement and transformation journey, with particular focus on ensuring compliance with the Council's Best Value Duty under the Local Government Act 1999, and addressing the reasons why government had been compelled to issue a Best Value Notice, notably:

- Cultural and governance issues, including those identified through previous CIPFA and previous, and any future, external auditor reports.
- Financial sustainability, including a balanced medium-term financial strategy aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan.

Suki Binjal

4.3 Sadly, shortly before publication of this latest report, the Council learned of the unexpected passing of Suki Binjal who had been supporting the Council's improvement journey for the last year. Suki had brought a wealth of experience, skill, warmth, enthusiasm and empathy to her role and was a highly valued member of the Council's Improvement Board who will be greatly missed. Members are asked to send their condolences to her husband and family at this very sad time.

Best Value Notice update

4.4 On 9 September 2024, the Council received notice that its Best Value Notice would not be renewed following the work of the Council to deliver improvements to its corporate governance arrangements. The Notice stated:

'We acknowledge the significant progress made by the council, such as making positive changes to personnel in key leadership positions and delivering the improvement plan, as well as developing strategies and establishing the infrastructure for ongoing improvement in culture, governance and financial sustainability. It is encouraging that the council recognises that the implementation of these strategies will be vital to embedding the progress made to date.

Whilst the council's financial position has improved since the first Notice was issued in January 2023, we note that significant financial risks remain. We recognise the work the council has undertaken to understand its previous financial position and the strategies in place to address these through transformation. We also acknowledge the additional plans the council is developing following the recent external finance management assurance review.

It is reassuring to see that the authority's overall progress is endorsed by the Independent Improvement & Assurance Board, albeit whilst recognising that changes need to be embedded. We welcome the council's commitment to maintaining the Board structure until March 2025, as well as proposals for the Local Government Association to undertake a corporate review in early 2025, demonstrating the council's intention to maintain its improvement journey beyond the Notice process.

In light of the above, based on the available evidence ministers are reassured as to Middlesbrough's capacity to comply with its Best Value Duty under the Local Government Act 1999 and the Notice will not be reissued at this time.'

Children's Services intervention

4.5 In addition, on 6 September 2024, the Council received positive news in relation to its Children's Services improvement journey. The Department of Education recognised the progress that had been made to improve services for Middlesbrough's children and families and revoked the statutory direction that had been in place since 2022.

Next steps

4.6 The latest Board report reflects on the positive nature of both government decisions. It sets out the activities of the Board since it last reported to Council in March 2024, its views of the improvement journey to date and outlines the planned approach of the board to supporting the Council's transition to business as usual, following the removal of formal interventions.

4.7 This Board report makes several recommendations and comments in relation to the continued delivery of the Council's improvement plan, namely that the Council:

- 'Continue to embed improvements in member behaviour and conduct
- Retain a laser focus on delivering a balanced budget for 2024/25 and using the transformation programme to support this
- Develop robust proposals, at pace, to balance the 2025/26 budget
- Begin the process of moving away from an intervention governance model to a business as usual governance model
- Be clear about leadership priorities as the council transitions to permanent officer leadership arrangements.'

4.8 The Council welcomes this ongoing support and the positive nature of the Board's fourth report.

5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

6.1 Not applicable.

Legal

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

Risk

6.3 the work of the Council and the Board, as well as the recent government decisions positively impact on the following risks within the Strategic Risk Register:

- Failure to meet a balanced budget.
- Risk of an unlawful decision by the Council.
- Corporate governance is not fit for purpose.

Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

6.4 Not applicable.

Climate Change / Environmental

6.5 Not applicable.

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

6.6 Not applicable.

Data Protection / GDPR

6.7 Not applicable.

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

6.8 The Chief Executive will issue revised appointment letters to the Board to reflect the content of this report and the enact the appointment of the additional subject matter expert.

Appendices

1	Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board: Fourth Update Report
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Background papers

Reporting body	Report title	Date
Executive	First Report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	17 January 2024
Council	Second Report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	27 March 2024
Executive	Third Report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	24 July 2024

Contact:

Ann-Marie Johnstone, Head of Governance, Policy and Information
Ann-marie_johnstone@middlesbrough.gov.uk

**Middlesbrough Council Independent Improvement Advisory Board:
Fourth Report
September 2024**

PURPOSE

1. This is the fourth report of Middlesbrough's Independent Improvement Advisory Board (MIIAB).
2. MIIAB's Terms of Reference commit it to report half-yearly to the Council as whole alternating with half-yearly reports to the Executive. The aim of this reporting cycle is to assure the Council and its stakeholders that the right actions are being undertaken, the right changes are being made, and the fundamental issues are being resolved.

BACKGROUND

3. At the invitation of the Council, and with the advice of the Local Government Association, the MIIAB was established in October 2023. It is a non-statutory Board which brings together independent expertise from across the sector. The Board is part funded by the UK Government as part of the LGA's sector improvement programme.
4. The Board was established to provide oversight, support and challenge to the Council's improvement and transformation journey. This includes a focus on helping the Council ensure compliance with its Best Value Duty under the Local Government Act 1999; particularly around:
 - 4.1. Cultural and governance issues, including those identified through the previous Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) review, progress towards implementing the actions arising from the Section 24 Statutory Recommendations of the External Auditor and any future external auditor reports.
 - 4.2. Financial sustainability, including a balanced medium-term financial strategy aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan.
5. Underpinning the Council's improvement journey was a formal 'Best Value Notice' issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 24 January 2023. Within that Notice, it was clear that a failure by the Council to demonstrate continuous improvement would be judged to contribute to Best Value failure and the Secretary of State would consider using their statutory powers as appropriate.
6. That Best Value Notice was extended by DLUHC on 30 January 2024, for six months. That Notice set out the Department expectations that the Council would continue:
 - to work with the Independent Improvement Board.
 - efforts to deliver against its agreed action plan, accepted at Full Council on 30 November 2022, at pace and to meet the set milestones and success measures established.
 - efforts to implement cultural change, particularly in relation to the relationships

between officers and members.

- to deliver on the Best Value requirement to secure the financial recovery and return to financial sustainability through setting a balanced 3-year MTFP over the period to 2026/27.
7. In September the Council received two bits of good news which confirmed that, in the eyes of 2 government departments, the Council was making good progress. The Department for Education (DfE) lifted the Council out of 5 years of statutory intervention in Children's Services citing the strong leadership and progress made. Secondly, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which was formally known as DLUHC, decided not to extend the Council's Best Value Notice again citing the progress made.
8. Whilst these 2 decisions do not mean the Council does not face significant challenges ahead, it is a positive reflection of the improvements that the Council has made during the period the MIIAB has been in existence.

ACTIVITY SINCE LAST REPORT TO COUNCIL

9. Since the last update report to Council in March 2024, there have been some changes to the Board's operations, notably:
- 9.1. Introduction of an additional Board member with expertise in Childrens and Adults Services to provide additional 'People' services focus.
 - 9.2. A change in the Board member with financial expertise
 - 9.3. Move to a 6 weekly meeting cycle in order to release council capacity away from supporting the Board and towards supporting its improvement work.
 - 9.4. Extension of the Board's Term of Office until 31 March 2025 to align with the planned recruitment and transition to a permanent Chief Executive.
10. Through formal meetings, the Board has engaged with key elected politicians and officers at Middlesbrough Council, including the Mayor, Executive, Interim Chief Executive, Leadership Management Team (LMT), Head of Financial Planning and Support, Head of Governance, Policy and Information, Head of Strategy, Business and Customer, Head of Human Resources, and the Chair of Middlesbrough's Children's Executive Improvement Board (CEIB).
11. In addition to the Formal Board meetings, activity and support has included:
- 11.1. Meeting regularly (informally) to discuss and consider the progress the Council is making regarding its improvement journey.
 - 11.2. Meeting with all Political Group Leaders.
 - 11.3. Meeting with the Chair of Audit Committee, Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, and members of the Constitution and Members' Development Committee
 - 11.4. Providing an anonymised channel of communication for elected members.
 - 11.5. Observing public council committee meetings online.
 - 11.6. Meetings with a cross section of the Council's key strategic external partners.

- 11.7. Regular contact between the MIIAB Political Peer and Middlesbrough Mayor.
 - 11.8. Regular meetings between the MIIAB Chair and Middlesbrough's Interim Chief Executive.
 - 11.9. Meetings between the MIIAB Governance Lead and Middlesbrough's Director of Legal and Governance Services.
 - 11.10. Meetings between the MIIAB Finance Lead and Middlesbrough's Interim Director of Finance.
 - 11.11. Meetings between the MIIAB People Lead and Middlesbrough Director or Children's Services and Director of Adult Services.
 - 11.12. LGA provided Organisational Redesign support through the Decision-Making Accountability (DMA) approach.
 - 11.13. LGA Peer Challenge of Cultural Services.
 - 11.14. Offering support, including mentoring, for members of the Executive and LMT, and around councillor development.
12. The Board continues to be grateful for the constructive and open way the Council, at all levels, has engaged with it.

THE COUNCIL'S IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY: CULTURAL AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

13. After the best part of a year of the MIIAB's work, it feels the Council continues to make good progress. The Council is clear about wanting to move through the steps of "recovery" through to "reset" and on to "delivery." There is now a clear vision for Middlesbrough and for the Council, although it needs a bit more socialising and continuous reinforcement. The leadership (officer and politician) of the Council could do more to better articulate what sort of place and what sort of Council they are aiming towards. Creating an inspiring narrative around this will help, even more, in pulling people together and galvanising collective action in moving faster in the right direction.
14. Having said that, there has been some good progress in the production of key strategies, such as on member development and the people strategy. Although there could be more done to align them to the council vision.
15. There has also been some significant progress around culture change. There is evidence of some better member behaviour, as well as some member-member and member-officer relationships. Also, at long last, there has been progress on the Councillor Gateway. These are early days and there will be some bedding in issues, but we were impressed by the cross-Group working carried out to get there.
16. On that front we generally see some signs of a greater willingness and desire to do what is right for Middlesbrough, greater openness and some good early signs around other cross-Group working such as on the Transformation Assurance Board, as well as some Vice Chairs of Scrutiny now being undertaken by members not from the controlling Group.
17. We don't have complete confidence that all these changes are embedded, and we

know you can and need to go further, but the steps taken are positive and you are to be congratulated.

18. The Mayor, himself, has led a lot of the positive change, with his open, engaging style, through initiatives such as “Coffee with Chris,” “Mayor’s Focus Group” and Department visits. But the organisation may want to consider whether the balance of effort on all this between the Mayor and the LMT is right, moving forward.
19. In summary, on culture and governance, there has been good progress. This has especially been due to changes in personnel over the last 18 months. Greater clarity over roles, work around code of conduct and behaviours and member training on the Councillor Gateway has all helped. But more needs to be done. There continue to be some member behaviours that concern us and the LGA over the next few months will be facilitating some political peer workshops and conversations onsite with all Middlesbrough Council elected members.

THE COUNCIL’S IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

20. Your financial challenge is considerable. You need to ensure your financial recovery and stability and your short and long term financial resilience and sustainability.
21. We now know that your efforts in the previous financial year paid off. You made good progress in reducing your projected overspend from £11.5m in Q1 to £3.6m by Q4 outturn. But you did still overspend your budget last year and used up more of your reserves as a result.
22. You have set a budget for this financial year. But you needed to apply for Exceptional Financial Support from the Government to ensure you could set a balanced budget.
23. Of course, agreeing a budget is one thing. Delivering it is a very different one. Achieving the savings required within it is, and will be, very, very challenging. You are planning to do this largely through what you have called your “Transformation Programme.” This is basically about seeking to deliver the same or better outcomes for Middlesbrough and its people through different means, different approaches, different ways. Different ways should, within your plans, cost the Council less and save you money
24. Working to the budget you have set will need clear leadership and collective ownership. It will need a relentless attention to detail and strong accountability. It will be challenging and will require difficult decisions. Because of the balance of your spending, that will especially (but not only) require difficult decisions within services for children and services for adults.
25. You have put in place some appropriate project and programme management; such as the Transformation Assurance Board, Corporate Transformation Board, and Theme Boards with Executive Director sponsorship. The MIIAB have taken the opportunity to attend various transformation meetings to seek assurance that there is strong focus on delivery and appropriate escalation of issues through the governance structure. We are satisfied that there is an effective governance structure in place. But £13.9m of

savings/additional income is a big ask and the project and programme management arrangements you have put in place needs to be effective in ensuring those savings are found and delivered on time.

26. Exceptional Financial Support is a crucial one-off opportunity for you. It gives you time. But you need to use that time productively, effectively and carefully. If you don't, you will run out of time and run out reserves. The new Government have not yet made any announcements on the future of Exceptional Financial Support, if indeed there is a future for it.
27. You are already overspending your agreed budget for 2024/25. You need to do all you can, all pull together to deliver the budget that the Council set. If you don't meet the challenge, there will be no financial bail out. Indeed the letter to The Mayor from the MHCLG Minister reminded the Council that a failure to demonstrate continuous improvement may be judged to contribute to Best Value failure and the Secretary of State will consider using their powers as appropriate.
28. The current year's overspend will have an impact on the 2025/26 position, and we note that the most recent report to Executive shows an estimated 2025/26 budget gap of £7.9m. We would urge you to have a laser focus from all of you on the delivery of the 2024/25 budget and the development of robust options to close the 2025/26 gap.
29. On this front, we would particularly like to see even greater evidence of LMT collectively acknowledging the overall situation and owning the challenge of the budgets they have been set. Overspending is not uncommon and reflects national and regional trends in demand and costs. But this needs to be seen as a team responsibility, not just that of the CFO and CEO.
30. The MHCLG removal of your Best Value Notice is a vote of confidence in you. We feel you can do this too. But it is a huge challenge. This financial year is crucial.

TRANSITION TO A BUSINESS AS USUAL ENVIRONMENT

31. Many of the actions within the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan are now complete and the Council needs to turn its attention to maintaining a strong focus on delivering its transformation programme whilst transitioning to a 'business as usual' environment and 'normal' governance arrangements, following the removal of statutory intervention.
32. Due to the need to maintain a focus on transformation it is premature to move towards implementing a continuous improvement model just yet, but the council needs to begin thinking about how it works towards a continuous improvement model as transformation activities are delivered.
33. At the time of writing this report the Council had advertised for a permanent Chief Executive as well as a permanent Director of Finance and Transformation. These are important appointments with interviews expected in November and the Council should carefully consider the experiences and leadership qualities that it requires from both positions in order to continue to drive forward the transformation required to become a

'Best Value' council.

34. The MIIAB believes that the council is now entering a critical transitional period as officer leadership changes around March 2025. Work had already commenced around developing a new Target Operating Model and considering what that may possibly mean in terms of future structural change. As time moves on, and with the appointment of a new permanent CEO in mind, the council may wish to consider whether these are issues that are perhaps led by the new CEO with the interim CEO continuing to deliver the transformation (and budget) priorities through to March 2025.

SUMMARY

35. In summary the MIIAB would encourage the Council to:
- 35.1. Continue to embed improvements in member behaviour and conduct
 - 35.2. Retain a laser focus on delivering a balanced budget for 2024/25 and using the transformation programme to support this
 - 35.3. Begin the process of moving away from an intervention governance model to a business as usual governance model
 - 35.4. Be clear about leadership priorities as the council transitions to permanent officer leadership arrangements.

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



Report of:

Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services

Relevant Executive Member:

The Mayor, Chris Cooke

Submitted to:

Council

Date:

16 October 2024

Title:

Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report

Report for:

Information

Status:

Public

Council Plan priority:

Delivering Best Value

Key decision:

Not applicable

Why:

Not applicable

Subject to call in?

Not applicable

Why:

Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That Council notes the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan and agrees the change controls outlined in the report at 6.1 to pause FRR3.18 Further development of the Finance Business Partnering model to ensure ownership and accountability of budget managers, until the Grant Thornton report on the financial management and financial standing of the organisation is received.

Executive summary

This report sets out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, since last reported to Council on 17 July 2024.

1. Purpose

1.1 This report sets out the key activities and progress since an update was last provided to Council, in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council’s External Auditors and the Council’s Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That Council notes the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan and agrees the change controls outlined in the report at 6.1 to pause FRR3.18 Further development of the Finance Business Partnering model to ensure ownership and accountability of budget managers, until the Grant Thornton report on the financial management and financial standing of the organisation is received.

3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Council must respond effectively and at pace to the deliver the improvements set out in both the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the Section 24 report if it is to effectively address the concerns around its culture, governance and financial challenges.

3.2 Member oversight is crucial in delivery of these actions and also provision of assurance that intended impacts to address the governance weaknesses identified by the Council’s External Auditors are being realised.

4 Background and relevant information

4.1 On 18 September 2023, Council received a report that set out the activities of Phase Three of the proposed Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, alongside the associated governance arrangements providing oversight of delivery. It also received a report from the Council’s External Auditors which made statutory recommendations in relation to the Council’s governance. This report provides an update on delivery against the action plan that was put in place in response to that report, as well as an update on delivery against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

4.2 The activities in the improvement plan comprise ten workstreams, each with a milestone delivery plan which is monitored and reported monthly to the Leadership Team, the Independent Improvement Advisory Board and at each full Council.

5. Performance management methodology

5.1 The Council’s and Programme and Project Management policy set out the methodology used to assess and report on progress against delivery, which is applied across the Corporate Governance Improvement and Section 24 delivery plans.

KEY:	
BLUE - COMPLETE	Activity delivered in full
GREEN – ON TRACK	Delivery plan activities are on track and / or a or above standard
AMBER – OFF TRACK	Delivery plan activities are < 5% below standard

RED – OFF TRACK	Delivery plan activities are > 5% below standard
IMPACT - NO CHANGE	The measures of success used to assess impact, refresh on differing time periods. Some are annual, others are more frequent. If it says no change, either the data has stayed the same or is not due to be refreshed
IMPACT MET – NO (AMBER)	Performance measures for this workstream are within 5% of the target
IMPACT MET – NO (RED)	Performance measures for this workstream are below target by more than 5%
IMPACT TREND – MIXED CHANGES	Of the range of performance measures that are against the workstream, some have improved, and others have worsened

5.2 Overall performance in relation to delivery of activity across the two improvement plans is as follows (excluding activity not yet planned to start and not due to be delivered yet):

Activity	STATUS AT 11/09/2024			
	% On-track	% Off-track	% Delivered	Overall % on track or delivered
Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	8% (8/95)	1% (1/95)	91% (85/95)	99%
Section 24 Action plan	2% (1/47)	0% (0/47)	98% (46/47)	100%

5.3 The above table shows that 99% of planned activity has either been delivered or is on-track for delivery in relation to the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, with one planned activity across the ten workstreams measuring as off-track.

5.4 100% of activity in relation to the Section 24 delivery plan is on-track or has been delivered, with one activity remaining which is showing as on-track to deliver within approved timescales.

5.5 The remainder of this report sets out the detail of the delivery plan activity and an update on Measures of Success that are in place to assess the impact of activity.

6. Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: progress status and change controls

6.1 For the current reporting period, all workstreams are on target in terms of activity, as per timescales set out in the corporate Governance Improvement Plan, with one action in one workstream being off target, which it is proposed is paused as it cannot be progressed. The action is outlined below:

- *A milestone in relation to the further development of the Finance Business Partnering model to ensure ownership and accountability of budget managers.* In order to ensure the model aligns with the findings of the two external reports from CIPFA and Grant Thornton, that have been undertaken in relation to financial management and financial standing, this milestone needs to be paused until both those reports are issued in order to ensure that the model addresses any findings within them.

Measures of success

6.2 The Council, in identifying the data sources to measure success, has set a baseline against which it will judge ongoing performance. Frequencies in updating these measures vary. Some measures are ad hoc, some annual, while others are refreshed on a quarterly or monthly basis.

6.3 The Council continues to review its delivery plans and measures of success to ensure it is taking the right actions and is focussed on assessing the impact of its activity.

6.4 Work to seek updates on measures is undertaken on a monthly basis, data on measures of success has been refreshed and refined in recent months to ensure it tracks current impacts. Changes in performance in the measures of success since last reported include:

- An increase in the number of agency staff working for the Council. Drivers for the increase include increase in use within Children’s Services to provide emergency resource and residential worker cover. There has also been an increase in use of agency staff across a number of other departments where recruitment attempts have been unsuccessful.
- The number of complaints being received has reduced, however the % upheld continues to be high, reflecting that the majority of complaints relate to service delivery in Environment which is undergoing significant transformation in service delivery. We fully expect this to return to normal in the coming months as the new services settle in.
- The measure tracking the % of key audit actions delivered in line with original timescales has been updated to track 2024/25 performance to give a better reflection of current compliance. 22 actions so far are due to be delivered in 2024.25. Of the 6 that have passed their deadlines for implementation, 100% were delivered in line with original timescales.

Key activities

6.5 The following activities within the governance improvement plan have been delivered since progress was last reported to Council:

THEME	WORKSTREAM	COMPLETED ACTIVITIES WITHIN REPORTING PERIOD
Cultural Transformation	Development and implementation of a Member Development Strategy and Programme	Commence delivery / implementation of the Strategy against the underpinning delivery plan, feeding into corporate performance reporting cycle.
Cultural Transformation	Implementation (Completion) of a Senior Management Review including review of spans and layers within the organisation	Development of a Workforce Plan to address interim appointments at Head of Service and other key leadership positions within the Council. Formal approval of Workforce Plan by Leadership Management Team. Implementation of Workforce Plan
Financial Recovery and Resilience	Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management, across the organisation	Implementation of demand and cost modelling forecast for high spend areas for MTFP development, using a combination of demographic data and trends combined with scenario planning and sensitivity analysis. Review effectiveness of demand and cost modelling forecast for high spend areas for MTFP development.
Section 24	Review of financial forecasting processes to understand why significant financial pressures, over and above those anticipated and reflected in the Council’s annual budget, have emerged within the first half of both the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years and ensure future forecasting reflects lessons learnt.	Implementation of forecast demand models over the medium to long-term, using a combination of demographic data and trends combined with scenario planning and sensitivity analysis.

Summary of progress against plan

6.6 The following tables set out a summary position against planned activity and progress against the measures of success that have been agreed to track the long-term impact of this plan. There is one change control and update to be considered within a Council report this month. If it is agreed, the last financial workstream will move from green to complete, with:

- 15 out of the 17 activities within it having been completed (one was cancelled), and
- the remaining action is recommended to be paused by Council - development of the Business Partnering model within Finance until it can be assessed against a report awaited from Grant Thornton on the Council's Financial management and financial standing.

CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT		LMT LEAD	EXEC MEMBER
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?		
Development / implementation of People and Cultural Transformation Strategy	Green	Green	Mixed	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Development / implementation of Member Development Strategy and Programme	Green	Green	Data not updated	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Development / implementation of a corporate governance training programme	Complete	Complete	Improved	Yes	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	Green	Green	Worse	No	C Heaphy / C Benjamin	Mayor Cooke
Development / implementation of improved focus on employee performance and accountability	Green	Green	Data not updated	Yes	C Heaphy	Cllr N Walker
Review Council's approach to Member enquiries and engagement	Complete	Complete	n/a	n/a	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Develop / implement communications and engagement plan to support cultural transformation	Green	Green	Data not updated	No	C Heaphy	Mayor Cooke

FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT		LMT LEAD	EXEC MEMBER
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?		
Controlling 2023/24 expenditure to within approved budgets	Complete	Complete	n/a	No	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker

Setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27	Complete	Complete	Data not updated	No	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker
Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management	Green	Red	Data not updated	Complete	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker

8. Independent Improvement Advisory Board

8.1 Since its work was last reported, the Board met on 10 July 2024, 19 August 2024 and 1 October 2024. These meetings considered the following:

- Updates from the Mayor and Chief Executive
- Updates on delivery of the Member Development and People Strategies
- An update on development of a Partnerships Working Strategy
- Discussion on the development of a Target Operating model
- Progress within the transformation programme. The Board is reviewing the programme on a theme-by-theme basis. The Board have observed a number of the transformation programme meetings that take place as part of steps to seek assurance around the governance of the transformation programme.
- Updates on the recruitment process for the Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Transformation posts
- the 2024/25 budget
- a standing update on progress against the improvement plan and Section 24 report.

8.2 The Board also met with staff focus groups as part of their work to assess progress made in the Council in relation to culture.

8.3 Action points arising from formal Improvement Board meetings, excluding admin related tasks, e.g., facilitation of meetings, are set out at Appendix 1, alongside a summary of information requested by the Board.

9. Section 24: progress update

9.1 The table below sets out the current status of activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations, along with a summary of the impact these activities are having on the longer-term measures of success that have been set in order to enable the Council to be able to assess whether the activities are having the intended impact.

9.2 There is now only one action left within the section 24 action plan to be delivered which is to complete recruitment to the Chief Executive and Section 151 officer posts by March 2025.

S24 ACTIONS	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT	
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?

1. Progression of next phase of Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, prioritising actions to address cultural and governance issues.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
2. Development of contingency and succession governance protocols to mitigate potential impact of any future changes in senior leadership.	Green	Green	Data not updated	No
3. Conclusion of Constitution review and provision of officer / member training ensuring changes are understood and implemented.	Complete	Complete	4 out of 5 above target	No
4. Identification of deliverable short-term savings, protecting limited remaining reserves, considering statutory responsibilities and delivery of services.	Complete	Complete	N/A	Baseline set for 23/24
5. Review service delivery models to ensure that they are efficient, represent value for money and achieves the outcomes required.	Complete	Complete	N/A	N/A
6. Review of financial forecasting processes to understand emergence of significant financial pressures, in both 22/23 and 23/24.	Complete	Complete	No Change	Below target
7. Conclusion of Financial and Contract Procedure rules review to ensure they are fit for purpose.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
8. Provision of training on Financial and Contract Procedure rules to all officers involved in contracting, procurement or financial decisions.	Complete	Red	Complete	Complete
9. Completion of contract review to ensure compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
10. Review oversight arrangements for Middlesbrough Development Company to assure value for money.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
11. Develop action plan for the demise of Middlesbrough Development Company setting out benefit realisation.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

*No baseline set

Section 24: measures of success

9.3 Work to seek updates on measures is undertaken on a monthly basis. Many of the measures have been marked as complete or updated to reflect the completion of the 2023/24 financial year. Where measures of success remain active and have been updated, all are either at baseline, target or have not been updated.

9.4 The measure tracking the % of key audit actions delivered in line with original timescales has been updated to track 2024/25 performance to give a better reflection of current compliance. 22 P2 recommendations are due to be delivered in 2024/25, of the 6 due to be delivered as at 18 September 2024, 100% of actions have been delivered in line with original timescales. The impact measures for recommendation 6 reflect the impact of the predicted budget pressures identified within the Quarter One Finance outturn report.

10. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

11.1 Not applicable.

Legal

11.2 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report, however delivery of this plan provides evidence of compliance with a number of recommendations that have been made by the Council’s External Auditors under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Risk

11.3 If the Council fails to respond effectively to the improvement plan, this will have a negative impact on the following strategic risks:

- Failure to meet a balanced budget.
- Risk of an unlawful decision by the Council.
- Corporate governance is not fit for purpose.

Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

11.4 Not applicable.

Climate Change / Environmental

11.5 Not applicable.

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

11.6 Not applicable.

Data Protection / GDPR

11.7 Not applicable.

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

11.8 Not applicable.

Appendices

1	Key activities update from the Board
2	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success
3	Section 24 Plan: Measures of success

Background papers

Reporting body	Report title	Date
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons Learnt: Best Value Inspection of Liverpool City Council	5 Aug 2021
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Boho X: Draft findings from internal audit and proposed management response	6 Apr 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Audit Results Report 2020/21	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Statement of Accounts 2020/21	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons learned: Best Value and external assurance within other councils.	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Commencing a corporate governance improvement journey	22 Jul 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Journey: CIPFA findings and next steps	19 Oct 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update	30 Nov 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	External Audit: Value for Money Governance Update	5 Dec 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update	18 Jan 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Statement of Accounts 2020/2021	28 Apr 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Auditor's Annual Report – Year Ended 31 March 2021	29 Jun 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Next Steps	5 Jul 2023
Council	Section 24 Statutory EY recommendations	18 Sep 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	18 Sep 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons Learnt: Best Value Inspection of Liverpool City Council	5 Aug 2021
Audit Committee	Section 24 Report – Delivery and oversight arrangements	5 Oct 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	25 Oct 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	29 Nov 2023
Audit committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	14 December 2023
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	1 February 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	14 March 2024
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	27 March 2024
Council	Second Progress report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	27 March 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	25 July 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	22 August 2024
Audit Committee	Best Value Notice – Status Update	22 August 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	3 October 2024

Contact:

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Appendix 1: Summary of information requested and major action points arising from the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board (MIIAB) July 2024 and August 2024 meetings (minutes of the 1 October 2024 meeting are awaited).

Information requests	
	External Audit Value for Money report 2021/22 to 2022/23 – presented to Audit Committee on 25 July 2024
	Statistics on engagement undertaken in recruitment hub sessions
	Data on engagement undertaken with Members as part of the Member Gateway project.
	Information requested on the breakdown of agency numbers in August 2024.
	Timeline requested for a plan to align performance, finance and risk reporting.
Major comments / action points	
	Consider undertaking lessons learned approach to build on the good practice coming out of the Councillor Gateway development.
	That the Council should increase pace around development of a Target Operating Model.
	That the Council should progress plans to develop a more integrated approach to performance, finance and risk.
	The Council should consider use of pre-scrutiny in relation to transformation.

Benefits realisation information should be embedded within the Council's Communications plan.

Session with the Board and Executive Members to be arranged in September 2024.

The Board thanked all staff involved in the Member Enquiries Gateway project.

Further staff engagement sessions to be held with staff in October who met with the Board in March to assess current views.

The Council should consider developing a timeline for the development of a number of activities that will have interdependencies including the Customer strategy, Target Operating Model and staffing reviews.

Appendix 2 Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success

Outcome	Measure of Success	Current performance	Previous performance	Target	Status against target	Frequency of data refresh	Current performance data	Previous performance data	Previous performance period
Improved understanding of corporate governance policies and process and improved adherence to them	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance in 2024/25	No change	0	0	0	every 2 months	0 in 2024/25	n/a	2 out of 16 up to 2024
	Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	Improved	Improved	80% or higher	Above target	Quarterly	100%	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales	Nov-23
Improved relationships between officers and members	Staff and Member surveys to assess health of relationships	Improved	Improved	50% of staff and 80% of councillors or higher	Below target	Ad hoc	38.65%	35.60%	August 2023 Survey
Improved retention of staff	Staff turnover rates – Number of leavers	No change	Improved	5%	Above target	Quarterly	2.85%	3.40%	Q4 2023/24
Improved staff satisfaction	1-10 Score of how valued staff feel as an employee of the Council	No change	No change	6.2 or higher	Below target	Ad hoc	5.98	5.9	August 2023 Survey
Reduced need to use agency staff	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Total	Worse	Worse	75	Below target	Monthly	204	194	Jul-24
	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Transformation	No change	No change	No target set	No target set	Monthly	10	10	Jul-24
Improved ability to recruit to key roles.	Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	No change	3	Below target	Monthly	5	5	Jul-24
Improved outcomes for our community by ensuring that staff have the skills needed to deliver excellent services and that the behaviours increase trust in the Council	Number of complaints – total	Worse	Improved	Less than 150	Above target	Monthly	136	115	Jul-24
	% of complaints upheld or partially upheld by the central team	Worse	Improved	Less than 40%	Below target	Monthly	73%	71%	Jul-24
Members have a Member development programme that meets their needs and is well used	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	Complete	100%	At target	Annual	100%	100%	Oct-22
	Percentage of Members attending wider skills	n/a baseline	n/a baseline	95%	Above target	Annual	98%	Data not available	Oct-22
	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	n/a baseline	n/a baseline	90%	Below target	Annual	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7	Oct-22
Performance is effectively managed within the organisation	Completion of appraisal process	Improved	n/a baseline	95%	Below target	Annual	83%	81%	Jul-24
Improved Member behaviour	Number of member on member complaints received	No change	Worse	2 or fewer per quarter	Below target	Quarterly	4	0	Q4 2023/24
Residents are increasingly satisfied with the way the Council is ran and with the Council overall	Questions within the 2023 Resident survey currently underway	No change	n/a baseline	61% (NE average 21/22)	Below target	TBD	40%	64%	Previous survey was in 2017
Residents increasingly agree that the Council acts on their concerns	Questions within the 2023 Resident survey currently underway	No change	Not previously asked	55% (NE average 21/22)	Below target	TBD	43%	n/a	Not previously asked

Outcome	Measure of Success	Current Performance	Previous Performance	Target	Status Against Target	Frequency of data refresh	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules training delivered	LMT, WLMT, all Budget Holders trained by 31 December 2023	Complete	Improved	95% or higher	Complete	Monthly			89.08%	Jul-24
Corporate finance training programme established	Quarterly programme of finance training established	100%	n/a baseline	One training session delivered per quarter	Complete	Quarterly	100%	Feb-24	n/a	n/a
Budget management and purchase to pay dashboards developed to improve management information and compliance	Budget management dashboard available to all budget holders from Business World through Power BI reporting tools by 30 November 2023. P2P Dashboards available by 31 March 2024	Complete	n/a	Dashboard in place	Complete	n/a one off measure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Budget management training rolled out to budget holders	All Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Holders Training delivered December 23 to March 24	Complete	n/a	95% or higher	n/a at this stage	n/a one off measure	n/a due from April 2024 onwards	n/a	n/a	n/a
2024/25 net expenditure is delivered within the approved budget	Forecast outturn is within the agreed budget	Below target	n/a	Compliant / within budget	Below target	Quarterly	£3.742m	Q1	n/a	n/a
The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain GF balance in line with approved reserves policy - 7.5% of the net revenue budget which would be £11.1m at 31/3/25	Baseline set	n/a	£11.1m	On target	Annually	£11.1m	Q1	£11.1m	Apr-24
The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain unrestricted usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25	Baseline set	n/a	£8m	Below target	Annually	£6.57m	Q1	£8m	Apr-24
2025/6 budget is set and balanced	Balanced Budget for 2025/6 set	Not yet measured	n/a	£0 variance	baseline set	Quarterly	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Set a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan in place for the period 2025/6 to 2028/9	Balanced MTFP to 2028/9	Below target	n/a	Compliant / within budget	Below target	Annually	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Financial Recovery and Resilience

Appendix 3 Measures of success – Section 24 Report

Recommendation	Measure of Success	Also in CGIP	Current performance	Target	Status against target	Frequency of data refresh	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
1	Delivery of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan activity		Above target	n/a	Above target	Monthly	9 out of 10 workstreams activity on target or complete	Nov-23	10 out of 10	Oct-23
2	Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	Y	No change	3	Below target	Monthly	5	Aug-24	5	Jul-24
2	Number of Transformation roles that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	Y	No change	No target set	No target set - baseline	Monthly	10	Aug-24	10	Jul-24
3	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance in 2024/25	Y	At target	0	At target	Quarterly	0	April 2024 - March 2025	2 out of 16 complete audits 2022 to 2024	2022-24
3	Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	Y	Above target	80% or higher	Above target	Annual	100% 0 P1 issued or due in 24/25, 22 P2 actions to be delivered in 24/25, 6 complete, all in line with original timescales, 16 not yet due	Jun-24	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales	Mar-24
3	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Y	Complete	100%	Complete	Annual	100%	Oct-23	100%	Oct-22
3	Percentage of Members attending wider skills	Y	No change	95%	Above target	Annual	98%	Oct-23	Data not available	Oct-22
3	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	Y	No change	90%	Below target	Annual	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	Oct-23	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7	Oct-22
5	90% of projects within the programme, once launched are on track			n/a	n/a at this stage	Quarterly once live	90% once launched	n/a		
5	90% of benefits from projects realised in line with benefits realisation trackers			n/a	n/a at this stage	Quarterly once live	90% once launched	n/a		
6	Maintain expenditure in line with agreed budgets in 2024/5	Y	n/a to be reported from September onwards	Compliant / within budget	n/a baseline		£3.742m	Q1	n/a	n/a
6	Maintain GF balance at £11.1m at 31/3/25	Y	n/a to be reported from September onwards	11.1m	n/a baseline	Quarterly	£11.1m	Q1	£11.1m	Apr-24
6	Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25.	Y	n/a to be reported from September onwards	Between 8m and 10m	n/a baseline	Quarterly	£6.57m	Q1	£8m	Apr-24

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 16 October 2024
NOTICE OF MOTION 166, 167, 168, 169 and 170**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
166	Cllr L Mason	Cllr D Coupe	<p>Motion of No Confidence in the Chair of Middlesbrough Council</p> <p>This Council expresses its deep concern and dissatisfaction with the manner in which full council meetings have been conducted under the current Chair's leadership.</p> <p>We believe that effective governance and robust democratic processes are paramount for the success of our council and the well-being of our constituents. Unfortunately, recent practices under the Chair's guidance have fallen short of these expectations. In particular, we are deeply troubled by the Chair's refusal to allow supplementary questions during full council meetings. Supplementary questions are a vital component of our democratic process. They allow elected members to seek necessary clarifications, challenge responses, and ensure accountability. By denying members the opportunity to ask supplementary questions, the Chair is effectively stifling debate, limiting transparency, and undermining the ability of this council to serve our community effectively.</p> <p>This approach has created an atmosphere where crucial issues cannot be thoroughly examined, and where members are unable to adequately represent the concerns of their constituents. Such practices are unacceptable and do not align with the principles of open and accountable governance that this council should uphold.</p> <p>Given the ongoing issues with the conduct of full council meetings and the lack of faith we have in the Chair to change their approach to full Council meetings, we hereby submit this motion of no confidence in the Chair of Middlesbrough Council, Councillor Julia Rostron.</p> <p>This Council therefore resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Express its disapproval of the manner in which recent Council meetings have been held. 2) Call on Cllr Julia Rostron to resign from the position of Chair of the Council with immediate effect.

167	Cllr N Walker	Cllr L Young	<p>Motion to commend the work Middlesbrough Council is doing to enrol more eligible pensioners onto Pension Credit, to resolve to prioritise the use of the Household Support Fund to help pensioners on low incomes or liable to higher heating bills due to disability, who will lose the Winter Fuel Payment and therefore could struggle to pay their bills, to resolve to continue and enhance the council's awareness campaign and to call on HM Treasury to reform the means testing of the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility so as to bring more people into the scheme.</p> <p>This Council acknowledges the huge black hole in public finances left by the previous Tory Government and the need for savings and the government's changes to the Winter Fuel Payment and recognises that many pensioners will still receive the payment and some pensioners on higher incomes will not need it. There are many lower income pensioners in Middlesbrough who will just miss out on receiving Winter Fuel Payment because of these changes. This will leave many just above the Pension Credit threshold, including for example those with a small private pension who are no longer eligible for the Winter Fuel payment.</p> <p>The Council commends the work of its Revenues and Benefits team for its ongoing work in identifying and supporting eligible pensioners to apply for Pension Credit and thus to receive the Winter Fuel Payment.</p> <p>This council resolves to, as far as government guidance permits, prioritise the use of Central Government funding under the Household Support Fund to assist those pensioners on low incomes, or liable to higher heating bills due to disability.</p> <p>This Council also resolves to continue and enhance its awareness campaign, targeting those who may be eligible to maximise the uptake of Pension Credit, and to publicise assistance available in Middlesbrough for those who may struggle this winter, in particular support available under the Household Support Fund for those pensioners who will just miss out on Winter Fuel Payments.</p> <p>Finally, this Council resolves to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking that HM Treasury considers reforming eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment to protect those pensioners who will struggle without the Winter Fuel Payment, and provide further mitigation for those in need who will no longer qualify, and to ask the Government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those eligible who do not claim Pension Credit, are encouraged to do so.</p>
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168	Cllr M Saunders	Cllr B Hubbard	I call on this chamber to agree to the Council sending a letter to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling on them to reverse the decision (taken by Parliament on the 10th September) to remove winter fuel payments from pensioners.
169	Cllr J Platt	Cllr D McCabe	<p>The people of Middlesbrough voted for a mix of Labour, Independent, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors. The Mayor promised the people of Middlesbrough that he would ensure fairness and scrutiny by ensuring opposition councillors were given chairs of scrutiny panels.</p> <p>This Council needs to move to a system of electing chairs on the basis of proportional representation; with the Mayor electing his Executive based on Proportional Representation and proportional representation being used to allocate the chairs of all committees / panels to relevant political denominations. This is to ensure that the people of Middlesbrough are fairly represented and their voices are heard.</p>
Page 103 170	Cllr P Storey	Cllr A Romaine	<p>Baby Loss Awareness Week is held annually from 9 to 15 October and is a special opportunity to mark the loss of pregnancies and the brief lives of babies lost at or soon after birth.</p> <p>Miscarriage is a common, but horrendous experience, it is estimated that one in six confirmed pregnancies ends in miscarriage and this can be devastating for the people affected.</p> <p>According to SANDs, currently in the UK, 13 families a day suffer the heartbreak of losing their baby before, during or shortly after birth. That's around 4,500 babies a year. And at least 15% of pregnancies end in miscarriage. These numbers are shocking and show the scale of the problem and grief this causes.</p> <p>Currently, far too many babies die without scientists, doctors, midwives, or their own parents understanding why. That's why we believe research is vital in improving our understanding of how to save babies' lives and using that evidence to drive changes in maternity policy and practice.</p> <p>As a large employer within Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough Borough Council is in a position to help employees affected by pregnancy loss. As an organisation that exists to serve the people of</p>

			<p>Middlesbrough, it is also in a position to deal supportively with residents who have experienced miscarriage and baby loss.</p> <p>This motions calls for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managers have the correct training to help employees who miscarry or who have suffered a loss.• Managers have good quality resources on miscarriage and baby loss in the workplace, such as SANDS, Tommys and Still Parents Teesside.• Frontline staff have training and resources to help understand the needs of residents in Middlesbrough affected by miscarriage and baby loss and to be able to recognise the affect it can have on long term mental health.• That Middlesbrough Libraries and Community Hubs hold and display information on local support groups, such as Still Parents Teesside, as well as national support organisations such as SANDS and Tommys so families can access help.• That Middlesbrough Council calls on the Government to work closely with SANDS to improve maternity services, so that more small lives can be saved.
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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	16 October 2024
Title:	Vacancies on Committees 2024/2025
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That the Council, subject to receipt of nominations to the vacancies listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other Councillors and fills the vacancies.

Executive summary

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council

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

Committee Vacancies:

Place Scrutiny Panel

Vice Chair

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

2 vacancies

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL:

River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy

Middlesbrough-Oberhausen Town Twinning

1 vacancy

JOINT COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE:

Staying Put Advisory Committee

1 vacancy

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 Council is required to appoint to any vacant places on Committees to ensure that all meetings will be quorate.

4. Background and relevant information

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

5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

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

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

5.2 *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

5.3 *Legal*

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council periodically reviews the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.

The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

The Council is under a duty to:

- (a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.
- (b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.

5.4 *Risk*

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

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

5.5 Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

No protected groups are affected by the decision.

5.6 Climate Change / Environmental

Not applicable.

5.7 Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable.

5.8 Data Protection

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Update Memberships of Committees	Democratic Services Officers	18 October 2024

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Council	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025	11 September 2024

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