

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 19 November 2024

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 27th November, 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 - 16 October 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).

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7. Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) – Update

8. Mayor's Statement and Report

9. Executive Member reports

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10. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

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11. Urgent Items

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

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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 729712/729708) or e-mail: susan_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk/scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Address: Democratic Services, Middlesbrough Council, Town Hall, Middlesbrough TS1 9FX

Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 16 October 2024.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: W Sampson, Chair of Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, M Brown, B Carr, C Cunningham, A Davis, G Field, C Heaphy, R Horniman, A Hoy, A Johnstone, S Lightwing, C Lunn, J McNally, K Whitmore and A Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were submitted on behalf of Councillors B Hubbard, D McCabe, M McClintock, J McTigue and Z Uddin

24/47 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

24/48 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Business
Councillor J Rostron	Personal	Agenda Item 14 – Motion No. 166

24/49 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 11 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 September 2024 were submitted.

Councillor Morrish stated that currently the minutes were factually inaccurate at page 9, as they did not reflect that one third of the Councillors walked out of the meeting in disgust at the actions of the Chair of the Council. It was Councillor Morrish’s view that the Chair had accepted that the motion he presented was to be replaced by Councillor Clynch, who admitted that it was to be a replacement motion and not an amendment. Councillor Morrish’s opinion was that this was not in compliance with the Constitution rules 4.32.1 b) 1 to 4. Councillor Morrish acknowledged that whilst the minutes were not required to be a verbatim record, they should reflect the meeting accurately and stated that they should not be used as a tool to re-write history.

ORDERED that:

1. Councillor Morrish’s comments were **NOTED**.
2. the minutes were approved.

24/50 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no announcements or communications for this meeting.

24/51 **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.

24/52 **SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 4.13.2 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Councillor Mason proposed a motion without notice to change the order of business in the agenda of the meeting in accordance with the Constitution paragraph 4.30.1 (c). The motion

was seconded by Councillor Smiles.

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

ORDERED that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 4.57, Council agreed to vary the order of business to deal with the items in the following order: Agenda Item 14, Agenda items 7 to 13, Agenda Items 15 and 16.

24/53

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Councillor J Ewan, Vice Chair of Council, took the Chair for consideration of Motion No.166.

Motion No. 166

Consideration was given to Motion No. 166 moved by Councillor Mason and seconded by Councillor Coupe of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Motion of No Confidence in the Chair of Middlesbrough Council

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.

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.

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.

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.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- 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.

Councillor Coupe reserved his right to speak to the motion. Councillor Mason spoke in support of the motion.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillors Smiles, Saunders, Livingstone and Coupe spoke in support of the motion.

Councillors Walker and Henman spoke against the motion.

On a vote being taken the motion was **REJECTED**.

Councillor Rostron, Chair of Council, in the Chair.

Motion No. 167

Consideration was given to Motion No. 167 moved by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor L Young of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Councillor L Young reserved his right to speak to the motion.

Councillor Walker spoke to the motion.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillors Coupe, Smiles, Saunders and spoke against the motion.

Councillors Livingstone and L Young spoke in support of the motion.

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

Motion No. 168

Consideration was given to Motion No. 168 moved by Councillor Saunders and seconded by Councillor J Platt of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

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.

Councillor J Platt reserved his right to speak to the motion.

Councillor Saunders spoke to the motion.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillor Clynch spoke against the motion.

On a vote being taken the motion was **REJECTED**.

Motion No. 169

Consideration was given to Motion No. 169 moved by Councillor J Platt and seconded by Councillor Saunders of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

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.

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.

Councillor Platt spoke to the motion.

Councillor Saunders reserved his right to speak to the motion.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillor Livingstone spoke in support of the motion.

An amendment to the Motion was moved by the Mayor as follows:

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.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to assess how minority voices can be given a significant formalised role within the scrutiny process, as part of broader constitutional reforms which will be explored over the coming year through Constitution and Members' Development Committee. These reforms would be subject to consultation and the concurrent introduction of measures to improve standards in key areas such as attendance, standards of behaviour, and other reasonable expectations of members.

In line with our commitment to learning from best practice across the country, we will look to successful measures implemented by other councils to inform this process, such as formalised 'opposition lead' positions and other solutions. This is to ensure that the people of Middlesbrough are fairly and conscientiously represented and their voices are heard.

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Clynch.

Responding to a question from Councillor Morrish as to whether the proposed amendment was valid in accordance with the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the proposed amendment was valid. Councillor Morrish stated that the amendment looked to be a replacement to the original motion and read out the relevant paragraphs from the Constitution in relation to amendments to motions. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the proposed amendment was valid as it did not negate the effect of the motion.

Cllrs Smiles and Grainge asked whether the proposed amendment would mean that there would be Scrutiny Chairs from other parties.

The Mayor spoke in support of the amendment, stating that Councillors needed to try and work together in a way that was fair for everyone which was set out clearly in the Constitution.

Councillor Platt spoke against the proposed amendment.

Councillors L Young and Heman spoke in support of the proposed amendment.

Councillor Grainge spoke against the proposed amendment.

The amended motion was put to the vote.

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

Councillor J Platt exercised his right of reply.

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**.

Motion No. 170

Consideration was given to Motion No. 170 moved by Councillor Storey and seconded by Councillor Romaine of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Middlesbrough, it is also in a position to deal supportively with residents who have experienced miscarriage and baby loss.

This motions calls for:

- 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.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillor Romaine spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Storey spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Smiles queried the amount of leave granted by Middlesbrough Council to those who sadly experienced pregnancy loss and asked whether this could be given further consideration. Whilst the motion did not include this proposal, the Deputy Mayor suggested that this issue could be raised at Works Council.

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

24/54

SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 4.13.2 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor proposed a motion without notice to change the order of business in the agenda of the meeting in accordance with the Constitution paragraph 4.30.1 (c). The motion was seconded by Councillor Clynych.

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

ORDERED that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 4.57, Council agreed to vary the order of business to deal with the items in the following order: Agenda Items 12, 7 to 11, 13, 15 and 16.

24/55

MIDDLESBROUGH INDEPENDENT IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY BOARD: 12-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

A joint report of the Mayor and Chair of the Improvement Board was presented for information.

The Mayor announced with great sadness the news of the recent 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.

The Chair invited all present to stand and observe one minute's silence, as a mark of respect.

The Chair of the Improvement Board noted that this was the fourth report of Middlesbrough's Independent Improvement Advisory Board (MIIAB). A detailed update was provided which included: activity since the last update to Council, cultural and governance issues, financial sustainability and the transition to a business as usual environment.

Whilst progress had been made, significant challenges remained, particularly in relation to the current budget.

The MIIAB encouraged the Council to:

- 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.
- 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 transitioned to permanent officer leadership arrangements.

Members asked questions in relation to improvements in behaviour and conduct, embedding financial resilience and collaboration between the Mayor and the Leadership and Management Team, to which the Chair of the MIIAB responded.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the MIIAB for the comprehensive report.

ORDERED as follows that Council:

1. expressed condolences following the unexpected passing of Suki Binjal who had been supporting the Council's Corporate Governance improvement journey as a member of the MIIAB.
2. noted the report of the MIIAB, which reflected on progress made by the Council on its Corporate Governance improvement journey over the last twelve months.

24/56 **SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 4.13.2 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Mayor proposed a motion without notice to change the order of business in the agenda of the meeting in accordance with the Constitution paragraph 4.30.1 (c). The motion was seconded by Councillor Clynch.

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

ORDERED that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 4.57, Council agreed to vary the order of business to deal with the items in the following order: Agenda Items 13 and 16, 7 to 11 and 15.

24/57 **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 Mayor.

The report set 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. The Mayor highlighted that one hundred percent of activity in relation to the Section 24 delivery plan was on-track or had been delivered.

For the current reporting period, all workstreams were 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 was proposed to pause as it could not be progressed. The action was outlined in the report as follows:

- 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.

ORDERED as follows that Council:

1. Noted the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan.
2. Agreed the change controls outlined in the submitted report at paragraph 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 was received.

24/58 **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:

Place Scrutiny Panel

1 vacancy for Vice Chair – Councillor Livingstone appointed.

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

Councillor Ryles appointed.

1 vacancy – no nominations.

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL:

River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy – no nominations.

Middlesbrough-Oberhausen Town Twinning

1 vacancy – Councillor Livingstone appointed.

JOINT COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE:

Staying Put Advisory Committee

1 vacancy – Councillor Rostron appointed.

24/59

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

The Mayor informed Council that recruitment was underway for the posts of Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer and thanked the Members of the Chief Officer Appointments Committee in advance for their input and time.

Visits to Middlesbrough were in progress from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Care Quality Commission (CQC) and OFSTED and the Mayor would provide an update at the next Council meeting.

A Housing Recovery Plan would be launched in November with the Council taking on properties with the aim of renting to the most vulnerable. The Council was keen to take on those properties that were a blight in many areas of the town. The Council was currently working with Ethical Lettings who had secured funding to purchase or renovate homes. The Council was open to working with other providers and there was an opportunity for discussion with social landlords regarding empty properties that could be brought back into use.

The Council was also investing new vehicles including gully suckers and road sweepers to ensure the town could be cleaned more effectively. It was anticipated that the new vehicles would be available by the end of the year. Communal bins would also be refreshed. The Council was working to get back to business as usual, refocus priorities, and make improvements for residents in terms of the town's environment.

Responding to a question, the Mayor indicated that he would provide an exact date for completion of the work on the housing development at Gresham which was being delivered by Thirteen Group. Work on road allocation was not yet completed.

A Councillor raised an issue in relation to unadopted roads and the Mayor agreed to follow this up.

The Chair requested that Members note the Mayor's statement.

ORDERED that the Mayor's statement was noted.

24/60 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS**

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

Councillor Saunders in relation to Pension Credit Take-up.

The Executive Member confirmed that in relation to increased government funding for Middlesbrough, the Mayor had made representations to the Government. Both the Mayor and the Executive would take any opportunity they could to influence the Government. However it was clear, from prior to the election, that there would not be a great deal of extra funding available for local government. Through meetings with the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA), Middlesbrough and other Councils were seeking a solution that would see a redistribution of the funding available on a fairer basis. Austerity had both reduced the amount of funding available and the way in which it was redistributed. Redistributing the funding in a fairer way would better help areas like Middlesbrough who, for example, experienced higher levels of deprivation than other areas.

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

Councillor Henman in relation to Newbridge Court in Acklam.

The Executive Member confirmed that the units were being let by the Council's Valuation Services. The upper level was now fully let but there were still 2 vacant units available within the shopping parade. Whilst there had been some interest shown, the Council was keen to promote and publicise the vacant units to businesses. The Executive Member added that this project to regenerate a derelict area demonstrated the Council's commitment to improving the town.

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

Councillor Livingstone in relation to on-going work in Linthorpe Road.

The Executive Member clarified that the Council was continuing to work proactively with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) regarding the proposed removal of the Linthorpe Road cycle lane. As the scheme was externally funded by the Department for Transport, Middlesbrough and the TVCA had to work through required mechanisms to facilitate the removal. Middlesbrough Council was currently awaiting legal and technical information from TVCA before further progress could be made. Although not directly involved in discussions, it was the Executive Member's understanding that waiting for information from the TVCA was unfortunately a common theme in the process.

Questions submitted for the Executive Members for Children's Services and Regeneration would be emailed for a response.

Questions submitted for the Mayor and Executive Member for Community Safety were withdrawn.

24/61 **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.

ORDERED that the report was noted.

24/62 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

24/63 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The Chair invited Councillor Wilson to ask his question as set out at Agenda Item 11 in relation to the Spider Park Play Area in Brambles Farm.

The Mayor explained that as part of a wider decision to be made in December 2024, funding would be allocated for several parks and green areas across the town and Colmore Avenue was a potential site. The Mayor was keen to have an open discussion with Police in relation to their previous planning objection to ensure that any scheme submitted for planning approval was entirely suitable. The Mayor confirmed that Ward Councillors would be consulted to ensure the funding was spent in a good way. Another element of the proposal would be ongoing maintenance to parks and green areas as there was currently no budget and a dedicated pot of funding was required. In summary, funding would be reallocated in December and a scheme would be delivered at a later date in partnership with Ward Councillors.

The Chair invited Councillor Mason to ask his question as set out at Agenda Item 11 in relation to The Wired Lobby in Captain Cook Square.

ORDERED that, with the Chair's approval, the question was **DEFERRED** to the next Council meeting.

24/64

NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)

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

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 NOVEMBER 2024
QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.26

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO	QUESTION
1/24	Steven James	The Mayor	<p>Prior to the election, Keir Starmer explicitly pledged to freeze council tax if Labour gained national control, a commitment that was also reiterated by Chris Cooke, the Mayor.</p> <p>Can the Council clarify its position on this pledge and whether it will impact council tax rates in Middlesbrough next year?</p>

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

Council Meeting: 27 November 2024

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THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 27 November 2024

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor <i>Chris Cooke</i> VERBAL UPDATE
<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 Adult Social Care and Public Health <i>Councillor Jan Ryles</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Councillor Luke Henman</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Development <i>Councillor Theo Furness</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability <i>Councillor Peter Gavigan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Finance <i>Councillor Nicky Walker</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Member for Neighbourhoods <i>Councillor Janet Thompson</i>

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 8 October 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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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **27 November 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:

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Mayor & Executive Member for Education and Culture

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 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.

1. COUNCIL PLAN 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.
- Increase adult learning and skills outcomes.

Culture:

- Encouragement of grass roots participation.
- Increase income generation events at the Town Hall.
- Consolidate cultural offer.
- Sustainable events.

2. EDUCATION

2.1. Alternative Provision

As of November 2024, there are currently 279 children accessing education in an Alternative Provision. Of these pupils, 26 are secondary and 15 are primary. This equates to 1.07% of the total current school age population.

Of the 279 children in alternative provision:

- 188 are there as result of being permanently excluded from their mainstream school.
- 108 have identified special educational needs (SEN).
- 42 have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for their SEN.
- 38 are open to Social Care on a Child In Need plan (CIN)
- 13 are open to Social Care on a Child Protection Plan (CP)
- 8 are Children Looked After (CLA)
- 7 are open to the Youth Justice Service

Last academic year, 4.8% of permanently excluded children reintegrated back into mainstream education following a period in alternative provision. Reintegration of permanently excluded children is a priority area of focus which the local authority is working in partnership with schools to achieve. This year there is a stretch target in place to achieve 50 pupil re-integrations over the academic year. So far since September 2024 there have been 2 successful re-integrations with another child currently on a transition programme back into school.

There are a small number of children who are assessed for an education, health and care plan (EHCP) during their time in alternative provision. Last academic year, 7.64% of children and young people permanently excluded from school subsequently received an EHCP and 66.6% of primary aged children referred to Alternative Provision for intervention places subsequently received an EHCP. Nine children who were assessed for an EHCP in alternative provision subsequently on into more specialist provision within 12 months of securing an EHCP.

2.2. Ofsted Inspections for Primary Schools

Ofsted September 2023 to end of October 2024 for Middlesbrough Primary Schools:

- Acklam Whin – 25/10/2023 – Good
- Berwick Hills – 14/11/2023 – Good
- Caldicotes – 24/09/2024 – Good
- Corpus Christi RC Primary School – 09/04/2024 – Good
- Linthorpe Community Primary School – 30/04/2024 – Outstanding
- Newham Bridge – 05/10/2023 – Good
- North Ormesby Primary Academy – 01/10/2024 – Good
- Sacred Heart Primary School – 08/05/2024 – Good
- St Alphonsus' Catholic Primary School – 22/05/2024 – Good
- St Edward's RC Primary School – 05/02/2024 – Good
- St Gerard's RC Primary School – 01/04/2024 – Good
- St Thomas More RC Primary School – 20/02/2024 – Good
- Sunnyside Academy – 30/11/2023 – Good
- River Tees Academy Primary – 10/04/2024 – Good
- River Tees Hospital School – 03/07/2024 – Good
- Trinity Catholic College – 06/10/2023 – RI
- Priory Woods School – 13/09/2023 - Outstanding

3. FAMILY HUBS GOOD NEWS STORIES

3.1. Amazing Babies

Aimee recently attended Amazing Babies with her son, Kaiden, at West Middlesbrough Family Hub. Despite initial nerves, Aimee quickly settled into the sessions where she felt welcomed and comfortable.

Aimee said: “As a first-time mum I found the classes both useful for Kaiden and myself too – Amazing Babies has got me out the house and interacting with other mams. “I’ve learnt it’s never too early to interact with my baby through talking and reading, as you think they’re not listening, but they are and pick up everything.

“The sessions also showed you don’t need to spend a fortune and buy all the latest toys – you can make your own fun out of household items.”

Sessions are suitable for babies under 6 months old. They are delivered in 5-week blocks each half-term at our Family Hubs.

3.2. Let’s Talk

The Let’s Talk sessions are hosted by the Family Hubs service and provide practical ideas and tips to help develop young children’s language skills. Andrea and Mark said: “Over the last couple of months the help and support we have been given has been invaluable.

“We were put at ease during our video calls and the sessions were fun for us as adults “

“We took so much from it and my son has become a right chatter box and is already stringing a few words together, which he wasn’t doing prior to the sessions.”

“We have trained ourselves as parents to different approaches and it’s really worked.”

“For any parents who have concerns about their children’s speech, please give it a go, as we only have positive things to say about the help and guidance given. Without this support, I believe my little boy would still be struggling with his speech.

“The six weeks sessions taught us so much as parents.”

Parents of two-year-olds who meet the criteria can take part in the Let’s Talk programme.

3.3. Triple P for Babies

Once activated, the code gives 12 months access to seven online modules, which can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smartphone and completed at any time.

Middlesbrough first-time mum, Haley said: “I have loved using the Triple P app to access information at the tap of the button. It has provided me with lots of reassurance about my baby’s development.

“The app is very interactive and features lots of videos and quizzes to test your knowledge. I am a very visual learner, and the online programme has helped to boost my parenting skills.”

Your code will be sent you as part of your welcome call from the Family Hub team, this will take place once your health visitor has completed your new birth visit.

4. CULTURE

4.1. Middlesbrough Theatre

The theatre hosted *Les Misérables* by Middlesbrough Youth Theatre. The performance was outstanding and a huge congratulations to all the young people involved for such a fantastic show.

The theatre has enjoyed several sold-out performances this Autumn, notably by Taylor Fever – a tribute to Taylor Swift - which sold out two performances, has already sold out a third in February and a fourth has just gone on sale for April.

On the drama front, Rita, Sue and Bob Too – widely known from the film version – also sold out – only the third play to have done so in the past 25 years (the others were Abigail's Party and Jim Cartwright's Two).

The theatre is now gearing up for panto. This year it's the turn of Snow White with Melinda Messenger starring as the Wicked Queen - the first time she has played the "baddie" – and popular comic Philip Green returning for his sixth year as Muddles the Jester. Advance sales are very healthy, and the theatre is looking forward to another successful season (oh yes, it is!).

4.2. Museums

Boro, A Shirt History Exhibition:

The purpose of the exhibition is to democratise our spaces while allowing community members to gain a greater understanding of the work of museums, considerations, and curatorial techniques. The opportunity gave them hands on experience which has grown their confidence and knowledge to continue to deliver pop-up exhibitions. The exhibition was 50% funded by the Tees Valley Museums NPO.

The exhibition ran for 3 months and attracted 3234 paying visitors. Income generated from the exhibition was 4x greater than the museum investment. There was a noticeable change in visitor demographic attending and engaging with the exhibition with an increase of male teenagers, fathers and grandparent visiting as groups which was welcomed as they would be previously considered as less engaged in museums.

Working with the MFC foundation we delivered weekly dementia sessions with 74 attending over 6 days.

The exhibition was well received by the media with a few highlights:

- BBC Look North - https://youtu.be/QYN2vO5Q9Nw?si=GU6-UI96laT_tMtX
- Renowned Football Youtuber - <https://youtu.be/nutSBAzqBak?si=dmxErQbRCtITUji->
- BBC Radio Tees, A tour of the Boro Shirts Exhibition on BBC Sounds

Visitors to the exhibition have included:

- Tom Hatfield, son of legendary Jack Hatfield who supplied essential equipment to the club and was made one of the club's directors in 1952).
- Former footballer and now councillor Jim Platt who played for Middlesbrough before coaching in the local community centre and at a private football school in Teesside. I'd like to Thank Councillor Platt for his personal support towards the exhibition.
- Nick Gates, son of defender Bill Gates who retired in 1974, who inspired a charity campaign related to footballers with dementia after heading footballs, for which his wife, Dr Judith Gates, launched the "Head for Change" and "Head Safe Football" charities.
- Premier league referee Jeff Winter who is a proud supporter of the club and was a regular Premiership referee for over seven seasons.

- Most recently former striker Bernie Slaven, who has several shirts displayed as part of the exhibition. Slaven was twice named the club's Player of the Year and scored 146 goals during his eight years at Ayresome Park.

My Boro My Shirt was a community exhibition funded by Borderlands featuring 15 different fan portraits of MFC fans showcase the diversity among the Boro's supporter base. Co-ordinated by Rob Nichols and Ellen Sowerby from the Middlesbrough Supporters Forum, following the recent riots the exhibition was a poignant reminder of the makeup and strength of our community and was celebrated and positively praised by visitors.

Middlesbrough Museums in your Classroom:

October saw the start of an exciting new partnership between Middlesbrough Museums, Literacy Trust and Beech Grove Primary School who will be working together over the next 3 years to use museum to inspire literacy learning and enhance teaching skills. Pupils from Beech Grove have visited Dorman Museum 3 times through October to see and investigate items from its WW2 collection followed up by working with a local author to develop their creative writing. Upcoming sessions with Beech Grove Primary School also include working with an animator, discovering the history of their school with Teesside Archives which will accumulate into an annual exhibition at their school with real artefacts where engaged students will share their learning with their peers.

Dorman Museum programmed a packed activity for October Half Term with activity available each day. The programme was designed to add to the existing museum offer while optimising on commercial opportunities.

The Museum team continue to do an absolutely outstanding job and their contribution to the fabric of events and cultural offer in Middlesbrough remains critical to the success of the town.

WINTER WHAT'S ON 2024



DORMAN
MUSEUM



Christmas Extravaganza

Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Market | Elf Town | Trails | Family Crafts



Festive Magic Weekend

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec, 10am - 4pm
Magic Workshops | Crafts | Shows | Exhibition



Big Science Workshop

Sat 14 Dec, 10.30am & 12pm
Interactive Workshop & Experiments



Groovy Kinda Christmas

Sun 15 Dec, 11am & 1pm
Interactive Family Show



Holly & Ivy's Festive Book Club

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Dec, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Storytime | Crafts | Games | Biscuit Decorating



Magical Sleigh VR Ride

Sat 30 Nov - Sun 22 Dec, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Fly around the world on Santa's new sleigh

- 🕒 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
FOR
TICKETS



EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member Adult Social Care and Public Health

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 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.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

A healthy place

Safe and resilient communities

Update:

- 1.1 *The Live Well Centre relocation will support early interventions to support health across the town, and support independence and resilience within vulnerable populations.*
- 1.2 *Both the CQC inspection and Adult Safeguarding Week have raised the importance of our work to protect vulnerable adults, and prompted evaluation of areas for improvement.*
- 1.3 *Auto-enrolment of free school meals continues to promote health and wellbeing in young people across our town, supporting our efforts to tackle child poverty.*

2. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

2.1 Live Well Centre Relocation

- 2.1.1 The Live Well Centre is relocating into an empty unit in the Cleveland Centre at the end of December. The Live Well Centre is a positive initiative to improve the health of Middlesbrough residents, offering a wide range of preventative clinics and health and wellbeing services. The centre, a joint Public Health South Tees and Middlesbrough Council project, follows the 'Health on the High Street' model which makes services easier to access for everyone. By placing our services in the heart of our community, we hope to reduce barriers to accessing services and improve overall health outcomes within the town.
- 2.1.2 The Live Well Centre currently attracts around 1,000 visitors weekly to its current home at Dundas House. We expect footfall to increase as we move to a more accessible location and offer new services, which will be a big boost in supporting town centre businesses.
- 2.1.3 Services that will be offered include:
 - Various NHS clinics, such as:
 - Bowel screening,
 - Diabetes remission and support,
 - TB clinics,

- Community Midwifery,
- Pulmonary Rehab,
- Waiting well programme.
- Sexual health services provided by HCRG for the region, providing contraception, testing and vasectomies.
- The Stop Smoking service for South Tees offering nicotine replacement and Swap to Stop support.
- Welfare rights and some Citizens Advice support.

2.1.4 The centre also includes:

- A state-of-the-art gym delivering specialist GP referral programmes
- A large training kitchen area allowing teaching of cookery, weight management, nutrition, budgeting, and planning.
- Conference and meeting facilities

2.1.5 The Live Well Centre is also pleased to announce the launch of a dedicated multi-use hub within the new building. Its primary aim is to support those with dementia and sensory issue, and older people in the town. This is currently under consultation and more details will be announced shortly.

2.2 CQC Inspection of Adult Social Care

2.2.1 Between 29th and 31st of October the Care Quality Commission (CQC) were on-site in Middlesbrough as part of the Local Authority Assessment of our delivery of duties under Part 1. Of the Care Act 2014. The on-site phase was a combination of interviews and focus groups conducted with staff members; partner organisations and users of our services. We anticipate that we will receive a draft outcome early in December with the likely publication of the inspection report on the CQC website in January 2025.

2.3 Safeguarding Adults Week

2.3.1 Safeguarding Adults Week took place between the 18th and 22nd of November. Safeguarding Adults Week is a time for us and our partners to join force to raise awareness of key safeguarding issues, start important conversations about safeguarding, learn how to recognise signs of abuse and neglect and develop confidence in recording and reporting safeguarding themes. A schedule of activities took place based on a range of themes focussed on adult safeguarding.

3. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

3.1 Auto-enrolment of Free School Meals and Maximising Pupil Premium Funding Pilot

3.1.1 In June 2024, the pilot for the auto-enrolment of free school meals commenced, with the aim of increasing the number of children registered for free school meals and capture eligible children whose families have not submitted applications, maximise the amount of Pupil Premium funding to Middlesbrough schools thus increasing school funding to increase educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The pilot has been a collaboration between various Council departments including Public Health, Resident and Business Support, Data Protection, Legal, Data and Analytics and Marketing and Communication.

- 3.1.2 Consultation took place with Middlesbrough schools, with 100% of schools participating in the pilot. The pilot utilised existing household data on Council Tax Reduction to identify potentially eligible children. The families identified were written to, giving them the option to opt out of having their data processed. Two opt outs were received. In total, 799 pupils were checked, with 630 entitled to free school meals. Those not passing the eligibility checker continue to be checked (this is due to working and fluctuating wages on Universal Credit).
- 3.1.3 Subject to the pupils being entered on to the October School Census, it is forecasted that the Pupil Premium funding generated from the pilot programme will be approximately £800,000. The savings generated for Middlesbrough families is approximately £252,000 per child per year. The increase in children entitled to free school meals, will also result in more children being eligible to participate in the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). Furthermore, more families have been accessing the Household Support Fund administered by Resident and Business Support.
- 3.1.4 A follow up report will be brought to the Executive in February 2025, which will outline the outcomes of the pilot programme, consultation with schools, along with recommendations and options of how the auto-enrolment of free school meals can be continued.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Children's Services

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 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.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Appointment as Executive Member for Children's Services

1. I was thrilled when the Mayor asked me to serve in his Executive as the Executive Member for Children's Services earlier this month. I want to thank my predecessor, Cllr Uddin, for everything he did to support the young people of Middlesbrough. I'm grateful for the support and advice he has given me since I was appointed on 4 November.
2. Keeping the young people in our care safe and ensuring they have the best possible start in life are two of the most important duties we have as a Council. Children's Services received a damning judgement from Ofsted in late 2019. Since then, the improvement journey that the service has embarked upon has been tough but impressive. There is much we need to do to continue to improve and modernise – amplifying the voice of care experienced young people, making sure our care is high quality and consistent, strengthening our offer to foster carers and delivering efficiencies that mean we can target our resources better. I am committed to working with our staff, partner agencies and most of all our young people to make sure we lock in the improvement we've seen so far going forward.

SHiFT

3. I had an introductory meeting with Dr Amy Ludlow, the Chief Executive of SHiFT, who are partnering with Middlesbrough Council to work on intensive support for 27 of our most vulnerable young people. The three-year project is in its first six months, with the focus on building relationships with the young people. This partnership is a real opportunity to change the lives of those most at risk of falling into worsening cycles of behaviour. It is also an opportunity for us to learn and innovate, and to use money more effectively – the intensive intervention undertaken can save £8 for every £1 spent over five years.

Fostering

4. Our team is working to increase our offer to foster carers. This has seen us increase our payments, meaning we are now one of the more competitively priced local authorities in the region. However, the support our foster carers need is more than just financial.

That's why we offer training and support and officers are working on a carer of the month initiative from January to increase recognition of the work foster carers do.

Early Help via the Stronger Families Service

5. The Stronger Families Service remains stable and is performing well, reviewing the feedback from the direct work session highlighted the importance of learning opportunities for staff. To maintain the continuous improvement, in January the service is hosting a development session 'Back to Basics'. The session will be interactive, providing staff the opportunity to lead on delivery to ensure continuous growth for staff and ownership of our practice.
6. We are expecting to achieve successful outcomes for 663 families in 2024/25. In December 2024 the National Supporting Families Delivery Officer will be visiting Middlesbrough with a focus on our progress against the Early Help Systems Guide (EHSG) and sharing of good practice.

Young People Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)

7. 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.
8. I'm proud to say we are performing well against all key national measures and Middlesbrough has been identified by the Department for Education as a top performer regarding the participation of young people in education, training, and employment opportunities. The team have recently completed the September Guarantee - a guarantee of an offer, made by the end of September, of an appropriate place in post-16 education or training for every young person completing compulsory education. The team exceed their target of 96.7% - achieving 96.8%.
9. The team are currently engaged in the Annual Activity Survey to establish young people's destinations, on 1 November, in the year they completed compulsory education.

Cared for Children

10. The service has continued with a few changes in staffing over the past month. A more stable service is delivering results with drift and delay being reduced - although legacy issues are still being found at times and addressed. The numbers of children allocated to individual social workers remains at a good level, assisting the staff to engage effectively with children and complete relevant tasks. However, we expect an increase in the numbers of children allocated to workers as we are currently seeing increased numbers of children coming through from Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams.
11. The Service Manager and teams have maintained their progress around data and have 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 the teams use stop the clock days, service development sessions and training. Work is currently being undertaken around the collation of data due to system changes being required.

Supporting our Young People Moving into Adulthood

12. Planned changes to the service to support young people's transition are bedding in. As per the plan for the service, another manager has been added. We have three Pathways teams, one supporting 16–18-year-old young people and two for 18–25-year-olds.

Measures implemented since May 2024 to integrate support for housing and links with Adult Social Care are in place.

13. We are developing a care leaver offer through the Council's decision-making process. This will give those who are care experienced the right start to adult life in Middlesbrough.
14. As well as the care leaver offer, next steps are to continue training sessions around quality of practice and a bespoke training for Personal Advisors is being developed. Ensuring the quality of the support we give is consistent for all our young people is an area of focus for our staff. 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.

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

15. The MACH is our front door – the first point of contact for concerns about a young person. The social work staff team within the MACH are permanent workers and are very effective in the day-to-day screening and signposting to appropriate services to the children of Middlesbrough and their families.
16. A key part of the way MACH works is its partnership approach with services like CAMHS, Cleveland Police, health and education. Staff are continuing our work with these partners to strengthen our Multi Agency Partnerships, holding bi-monthly Strategic and Operational Boards.
17. Professional development, learning and reflection are vital to this service. The team continue to facilitate weekly audits looking at different presenting issues, effectiveness and timeliness of screening as well as informing further learning and development sessions for the Team. Our staff also facilitate Multi Agency Audits on a monthly basis with key partners to ensure we know ourselves well in terms of strengths and areas to improve. Practice and positivity weeks also occur every 3 months which support development and celebrated areas of good practice.
18. The Assessment Service has had a period of change due to a review of how it was structured. That said, work has been undertaken to roll out development sessions that ensure we are completing good assessments for our children and ensure that signposting to the most appropriate service is timely and appropriate to meet needs.
19. The Team have continued to be a relatively stable staff team with. There remain some agency workers in place within the assessment service, however, the workers we have within the service have remained there for a period of time and we are regularly having discussion with them about converting to permanent which two of the workers have already done. This is a real vote of confidence for us as an authority and the improvement we have seen. We continue to have adverts for out for recruitment.

Safeguarding & Care Planning, Children with Disabilities, Aspire and Pre-birth Team

20. Recruiting a permanent workforce remains a priority in order to achieve consistent standards of practice and continuity for families, this remains a challenge as it is for the sector across the country. Despite a higher than desired need for agency social workers we are reassured that those in post are committed to Middlesbrough and contribute to a relatively stable workforce currently. Hard work from staff is continuing to mean that working directly for the Council is a desirable option.
21. The numbers of children allocated to social workers in the SCP teams is an area of scrutiny at this time, although they are manageable, they have started to increase. We are exploring options to ensure the impact of this is mitigated for the workforce and children allocated to enable effective service delivery.

22. We have seen a rise in Children subject to Child Protection plans over the summer. Staff are analysing this to understand the reasons behind this rise - initial analysis highlights large sibling groups, rather than an overall significant rise in the number of family units. Understanding this is important and staff will complete a deep dive around this to understand what is happening for families in Middlesbrough and their children to give assurance around decision making and threshold.
23. We are working on reviewing our Short Break offer for families, initially through understanding current need and use of services available. This will allow us to ensure we provide the right services for the right children who have diverse and individual needs and challenges.
24. In Family Justice we have begun our process of meeting with CAFCASS prior to the first court hearing, as part of a National Pilot project. The aim is to allow conversations and planning to take place prior to court hearing to enable a more seamless process and constructive use of court time and therefore more timely decision making for children. 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 child 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, meaning decisions to issue care proceedings will be subject to a new process that involves a meeting between the social worker, allocated Children's Guardian from CAFCASS and their legal representatives to discuss the Local Authority plan and rationale.

Residential and Supported Accommodation

25. Providing support for our young people within the borough is not only often best for the young person but also more cost-effective to the Council. We need to make sure that the accommodation we provide is of the best standards. Middlesbrough has six residential homes for children: Rosecroft, Holly Lodge, Futures for Families, Willow, Firtree and Gleneagles. Currently, three are judged by Ofsted to be good, one is rated inadequate and two are rated as requires improvement. A new service manager is in place who is driving forward the improvements in the homes and two recent monitoring visits from Ofsted for Futures for families and Firtree (both RI) have shown that work is paying off, with the visits demonstrated improvements. We will continue to review the way we provide residential accommodation with a view to driving up standards and using resources as effectively as possible.
26. New rules mean that our supported accommodation – accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who require support to enable them to live semi-independently – needs to be registered with Ofsted. Staff have been preparing for the interviews that are needed to achieve Ofsted registration, which will take place on the 20 November 2024. Daniel Court remains at 100% occupancy with 4 young people turning 18 over the next 2 months. At Fulbeck Road, one of the flats is unoccupied while an issue with mould is put right and the flat is refurbished.
27. Supported lodging is provided by hosts in a similar way to foster care. The support providers give to young people can be life-changing and increasing the number of hosts is a priority. We have recently lost one provider, however gained another with two current queries for potential hosts. Plans are in place to explore a new offer in supported accommodation.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Development

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 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.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Maximising economic growth, employment, and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally-sustainable way.

2. UPDATE:

STACK

- 2.1 Middlesbrough's very own STACK, food and entertainment venue is preparing to open for the run up to Christmas. The facility will transform space under the A66 as a novel use of space, hosting five street food vendors, two bars, music and entertainment. STACK is anticipated to be a huge draw to Middlesbrough's nightlife and a welcome addition to Middlesbrough's rail station gateway and the Historic Quarter.

LiveWell

- 2.2 Middlesbrough residents can enjoy access to new and expanded health and wellbeing services as the LiveWell centre opens in its new Cleveland Centre headquarters. The completed facility will be handed over in Mid-December and is anticipated to be fully operational by the new year. The project represents a win / win as we aim to transform the oversupply of retail space in the town with alternative uses, whilst improving resident access to health and wellbeing services.

Employment Hub

- 2.3 The new Skills and Employment Hub planned for the Cleveland Centre has met its first major development milestone. The planning application or a change of use at the site means that work will commence in the new year on a dedicated centre to give Middlesbrough residents new skills and qualifications, along with access to the latest employment opportunities and support. The construction contract will be delivered throughout 2025 with opening in early 2026.

Captain Cook Cinema

- 2.4 Works have commenced on the latest phase of the transformation of Captain Cook Square into a major leisure destination. Contractors are on site to convert units to a three-screen boutique cinema. Works will run through early 2025 with the cinema planned to open in summer 2025. A tenant operator has been contractually secured and are excited to bring new films, classic screenings and major TV events, in style and comfort.

Coco and Rum

- 2.5 Is the latest addition to Middlesbrough's nightlife. Coco And Rum have opened a Thai-fusion restaurant and Bistro in the former Bar TS1 unit on Linthorpe / Southfield Road. A beautiful setting has been created with an extensive food and cocktail menu, to give the people of Middlesbrough a new culinary treat.

Southlands Community Facility

- 2.6 The Secretary of State has given the green light to planning permission for the new Southlands Community and Sports facility. At the Executive meeting of 13 November 2024, the lease of the completed facility has been agreed with Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation to bring high-level sports to the site and scope to expand provision in the future. The centre will be a real boost to East Middlesbrough and can serve as the focal point for sport and community initiatives for the local residents. Construction tenders were submitted on 18th November 2024. Contractors will be appointed shortly and the construction phase is anticipate to run between January and November 2025.

Autumn Budget

- 2.7 Business Support Officers are assessing the opportunities arising from the recent Autumn Budget Statement. Of note are the changes to:
1. Business Rates reliefs – Retail Hospitality and Leisure relief extended to 25/26 with a 40% rates relief.
 2. Employer National Insurance – Enhanced contribution rates and raised thresholds for small businesses.
 3. Indications that existing funding programmes will be reshaped, abandoned or extended, with more details anticipated in the March 2025 Budget Statement.

Businesses will be supported with the latest information, advice and guidance to navigate any changes and maximise access to the new and emerging business support and funding landscape.

Executive Decisions

Southlands Centre (Approved)

- 2.8 This report was approved by the Executive for Middlesbrough Council to partner with Middlesbrough FC Foundation and provide them with a 25-year lease to manage the new proposed Southlands Community Facility and Sporting Hub.

Review of alternative operating models for the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum (CCBM) (Approved)

- 2.9 This report was approved by the Executive for continuing the operation of the existing CCBM through the securing revenue support from an external partner, whilst working with the said partner to develop a new museum facility to replace the existing building.

Corporate Asset Management Plan 2024/25 - 2027/28 (Approved)

- 2.10 The size, shape and location of our land and property portfolio is vitally important to enabling the success of the Council's ambitions. It provides assets for the delivery of our public services; it helps create jobs and economic growth; as well as income to invest in our services. The strategic management of this valuable resource is important to the Council and to the communities we serve. To achieve this Executive approved the Corporate Asset Management Plan (CAMP) as the strategic plan which sets out how the property portfolio will support the Council Plan, Transformation Programme and provide direction for the ongoing management of the portfolio over the next three years to 2027-28.

Christmas in the Town Centre 2024

- 2.11 This year's Christmas programme is fast approaching, aiming to attract families and increased numbers into the Town Centre to enjoy many of the festive favourite events and attractions taking place.
- 2.12 To start things off this year's Christmas Light's Switch On will take place at Centre Square, on Thursday 28th November including the usual build up of music and performance, before the big switch on. To coincide with this year's event a number of the town's Food and Beverage businesses have partnered with Middlesbrough Council to provide a selection of family offers, helping to showcase many of the fantastic restaurants, bars and cafes on offer. There is also free after 3pm parking on the day of the event.
- 2.13 The Town Centre will also see the return of the hugely popular Snowmen on the w/c 25th November, until early January. The snowmen, each of which depicts one of the 12 Days of Christmas will be on show at locations across the town centre, with limited number of maps available to compliment the trail.
- 2.14 Additionally the last weekend before Christmas, will see the return of the Orange Pip Market Festive Edition. Taking place in the Town Hall the Christmas Pip will include more of the region's artisan food trucks, festive treats and music.

Middlesbrough in the National News

- 2.15 Middlesbrough is the fastest growing tech hub in the UK! Whilst London areas still hit the top 5 spots in terms of salary expectations Middlesbrough has hit the number 6 spot as the fastest growing tech industry in the UK. With only 165 tech companies, it has a growth rate of 13.79% and an average hourly wage of £15.13 and is being hailed as 'one to watch' for new graduates, career starters, and to make a mark in the industry.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 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.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

I continue work on policy proposals for the short, medium, and long-term in partnership with local communities to protect our green spaces and ensure roads and open spaces are well-designed, clean, and safe.

Since the last full council meeting on 16 October 2024, in addition to my regular meetings with the Director of ECS I have:

- Undertaken a site visit to Hall Drive, TS5 regarding traffic flow.
- Met with Boro Doughnut, a local community and environmental network group, to hear representations and discuss their work.
- Attended a meeting of the Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group.

2. WORKS UPDATE

2.1. Traffic signal, junction and crossing upgrades:

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Rd / Brentnall Street – Due February 2025
- Junction upgrade to Marton Rd JCUH – Due Jan 2025
- Junction upgrade to Newport Rd / Marsh Street – To be replaced by Linthorpe Road/Park Road South
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Rd / The Avenue of Trees - Complete
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Rd / Urray Grove - Complete
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Rd / Linthorpe Rd – Due February 2025

2.2. Highways:

Verge replacement and footway improvement work programmes have been developed and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2024/25.

Verge works complete so far are 9 of the planned 15 schemes.

Footway Works complete so far are 14 of the planned 27 schemes.

2.3. Transporter Bridge:

Digital monitoring of the movement of the bridge continues and will feed into the design/repairs going forward. Discussion around options for the future operating model of the structure are ongoing and funding streams need to be resolved to progress the project further.

2.4. A66 Column 20B – Station Viaduct:

All the planned works for 2024-25 are completed and the contractor has vacated the site. The Stack development is now under construction.

2.5. Newport Bridge:

Stockton Borough Council led on the major works to Newport Bridge. The bridge was reopened at the beginning of September, with some additional alterations regarding the locking pins continuing under lane closures. These are due to be completed by mid-November. Further works are required to the bearings which will be programmed for Summer 2025.

2.6. Principal and General Bridge Inspections:

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.

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.

2.7. A66:

Concrete testing at Hartington Interchange has taken place. Specifications are 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.

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.

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 took place in mid-October to facilitate the inspection process.

2.8. Borough Road Flyover:

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 later in 2024. Concrete testing works and report are due to start. This work is ongoing.

2.9. A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge:

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.

2.10. Linby and Belle Vue Footbridges:

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.

2.11. A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges:

Work 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 is taking place as part of the principal inspection due for completion within the next month. See note under A66.

2.12. Newport Bridge Approach Structures:

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 was temporarily closed to allow repairs and was expected to be completed in October 2024.

2.13. Bridges Small Schemes:

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

Spencer Beck Footbridge had its missing parapet replaced in October 2024.

Emergency repairs to the block-set revetment at Broomhead Footbridge in Coulby Newham following vandalism and anti-social behaviour were undertaken in October 2024.

2.14. Principal and General Bridge Inspections:

The general inspections of 169 structures are near completion with the last block of inspections being carried out. Checking of reports ongoing. We are expecting delivery of a large bulk of the reports in November. Some of the principal inspections on structures over rail lines are awaiting the agreed access with Network Rail. The details from the reports are being used to update the backlog of works and delivery programme.

2.15. Longlands Road overbridge:

The bridge is the subject of a full structural and principal inspection which is due to take place on 8th December 2024, with the report due in early 2025. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design, principal designer, AIP, and technical approval phase will follow in 2025-26. The major works are likely to be programmed for 2026/27 subject to the necessary funding being in place.

2.16. A66 Structures:

Hartington Interchange - Scope of works for repairs to the concrete piers are ongoing and awaiting results of the ground investigation report prior to completion. Design works, Principal Designer, the Approval in Principle, the temporary Works design, and technical approval will start in financial year 2025/26, with the jacking of the bridges and start of the concrete repairs due to start in the 2025/26 season. Works are planned to be completed in year 2026-27.

Specification for concrete repairs to Newport Interchange is ongoing.

Principal inspections continue on a number of the A66 structures with condition reports due on a number of structures. The A66 footbridges and sign gantry close to the A19 went ahead.

2.17. Borough Road Flyover:

Concrete testing works and report due to be undertaken. Works on the design, Approval in Principle, Principal Designer and technical approval for replacement of the bridge joints, bearings, and carrying out localised hydro demolition and concrete repairs, will likely take place in year 2026-27 based on current budget projections.

2.18. Marsh Road Bridge:

The principal inspection has highlighted concerns regarding the bridge deck. We will be carrying out further site investigation in 2024-25.

2.19. Carriageways:

The 2024-25 resurfacing programme has started. Work started in the Central ward with resurfacing on The Leeway and The Halyard Roundabout outside the football stadium, and North Road between Lloyd St and Stockton St completed. Works are due to be completed between Sainsburys Entrance and Hartington Road in the centre of the town by 11 November. The contractors are expected to move out to Low Lane in Kader and to Newham Way and Dalby Way in Coulby Newham from 11 November; then onto some of the smaller unclassified roads while the Christmas Embargo is in place to ensure minimum disruption to the travelling public during the festive season.

A full dated programme has been agreed with the contractor with the resurfacing works are due to be completed before the end of the financial year. The weekly road works report regularly being updated and can be viewed on the Middlesbrough Council website.

A small number of schemes involving surface dressing and micro asphalt thin surfacing will be tendered shortly to be undertaken in May-June due to the materials requiring dry good weather conditions to be laid to standards and ensure a good longevity of the surface.

3. FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Work continues on the clearance of the gullies in line with the adopted risk-based approach in prioritising gully cleansing. This work commenced in April 2024 and currently we approximately 5,000 gullies have been cleaned.

We continue proactively engaging with the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water Limited on flood risk management to increase our knowledge of the network and improve the long-term planning for reducing flood risk in Middlesbrough.

4. WASTE AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

In October 2024, a total of 509 service requests were recorded and investigated. These requests were comprised of 366 waste related requests, 94 vehicle related requests and 49 dog related requests (27 of which were reports of strays). In comparison to the same period for 2023, the total number of service requests represents an overall decrease in service requests.

Actions taken:

- 17 stray dogs recovered from the 27 reports with 9 returned to owners and 3 dogs made eligible for rehoming.
- 4 legal microchipping notices served.
- 29 vehicles seized for being either untaxed or abandoned.
- 1 fixed penalty notice issued for duty of care offence.
- 17 commercial duty of care inspections undertaken and notices served for businesses to provide waste transfer note.
- 2 case files prepared and are now listed for the magistrate's courts on 10/12/2024.
- 2 court prosecutions in October for [fly tipping offence](#) and [breach of dog microchipping notice](#) (see below).

5. MONTHLY COMMUNITY SKIP DRIVE

The Monthly community skip drive is organised by the Environmental team through Safer Streets funding. These community action days are an opportunity for residents to make use of free skip provided to dispose of excess household waste. Neighbourhood Safety Officers and partner agencies including Cleveland Fire Brigade, Cleveland Police and Thirteen attend these days of actions to engage with residents in the area and listen to any concerns they may have. This month it was located on Castle way, Grove Hill.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Finance

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 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.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

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:

I continue to have weekly briefings with the Director relevant to my portfolio as well as frequent additional meetings and contact with them and other officers as appropriate.

2. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Members may recall that at the last council meeting, although some voted against the motion, the majority of councillors supported a motion which resolved 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”.

On 28 October 2024 I presented a report to the Executive which agreed the following support for pensioners who will no longer be entitled to the Winter Fuel Payment:

- Pensioners aged 80 and over in receipt of Council Tax Reduction, but not eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, will be entitled to receive £200.
- Pensioners aged between 66 and 79 and meeting the same criteria will be entitled to receive £150.
- Pensioners in receipt of Attendance Allowance will be entitled to £100 upon application.
- Pensioners not on benefits with incomes of less than £20,000 for a single person, or £26,000 for a couple will also be able to apply for a payment of £100.

This means that we have been able to prioritise our efforts to help pensioners of Middlesbrough on low incomes who will just miss out on getting the Winter Fuel Payment this winter. This includes those on low incomes may have worked hard all their lives but just miss out on benefits due to for example, having a small works pension.

We however will still be providing support for vulnerable families and people under pension age and will include:

- Households with children who meet the free school meals eligibility criteria will get a voucher for £60 per child, these will be sent automatically, based on schools' records.
- Families not eligible for free school meals, but who are receiving Council Tax Reduction, Universal Credit or Housing Benefit can apply for £60 per child.
- Households on benefits without children can apply for £35 for single people, £45 for couples.
- Residents not in receipt of Council Tax Reduction or benefits can apply based on their income with £35 for single people, £45 for couples or instead £60 per child for households with children.

Further detail is available on the council website by following this link - [Household Support Fund | Middlesbrough Council](#).

Due to the timescales involved, this has all been pulled together in a very short period of time and I would like to thank officers concerned for all their work on this.

3. PENSION CREDIT DROP-IN ADVICE SESSIONS

As well as officers writing to over 700 people across Middlesbrough who, based on council records, it is thought may be eligible for Pension Credit and as a result of that to also receive the Winter Fuel Payment, drop-in sessions were held this month in the following venues in Middlesbrough:

- Hemlington Community Hub and Library.
- Thorntree Community Hub and Library.
- Live Well Centre, Dundas Arcade
- North Ormesby Community Hub and Library
- Grove Hill Community Hub and Library

As mentioned in my last report to Council, 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.

For those unsure as to eligibility, there is also an online Pension Credit Calculator Pension Credit calculator accessible via this link - [Pension Credit calculator - GOV.UK](#).

4. 2025/26 COUNCIL BUDGET

Much of my time has been involved with intensive work with the Mayor, the Executive and council officers on the 2025/26 Draft Revenue Budget and 2025/26-2028/29 Medium Term Financial Plan.

At the time of writing this report the report due to go to the Executive on 04 December has not been published so it would be inappropriate for me to provide further detail at this stage.

However, I have requested an all-member briefing on the budget be arranged and this will take place on Thursday 21 November at 5.30pm. Councillors are welcome to attend

either in person at the Collaboration Event Space, Ground Floor, Fountain Court or via Teams. The briefing will provide an update to members on the budget position and an outline of budget proposals. The Chief Executive will also give an update on the progress of transformation and other key developments.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Budget Report laid before the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 30 October 2024 expressed the government's commitment to returning local government to sustainability through a comprehensive set of measures to support local authorities in England.

This includes for 2025/26, £1.3 billion of new grant funding nationally, including at least £600 million new grant funding for social care. There will be a targeted approach to allocating additional funding in 2025-26, in advance of reforms to the distribution of funding in 2026-27. It is hoped that this will mean additional funding is targeted towards councils such as Middlesbrough with higher levels of deprivation and low Council Tax raising powers.

There will be a one-year financial settlement for 2025/26. This will allow time for a Spending Review to be concluded in the Spring of 2025 followed by a three-year settlement for local government implemented in 2026/27.

Although a local government finance policy statement is expected to be issued by the end of November on local government funding for 2025-26, councils will need to await further detail on levels of allocations for individual authorities which will not be received until the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) is published on 19 December 2024.

Therefore, the full implications of the budget announcements cannot be included in the budget report that will be presented to the Executive on 04 December or all member briefing of 21 November 2024, but will be factored into the final budget report to be agreed by the Executive and presented to Council for consideration and approval in February 2025.

6. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET – FORECAST YEAR-END OUTTURN POSITION AT QUARTER TWO 2024/25

Following the budget challenge sessions which took place in October 2024, a revised forecast for the year end position will be in a report that I will present to the Executive on 04 December 2024.

Whilst this report has not yet been published, I can say at this stage that it represents an improvement on the position reported at the end of Quarter One, although there is a need to take further action over the remaining two quarters in order to control expenditure within the approved budget.

7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE

On 13 November 2024 I presented a report to the Executive which outlined arrangements for improving the effectiveness of capital programme governance, monitoring, and reporting including the terms of reference for the Strategic Capital Board made up of executive members and Corporate Capital Board comprising of officers. The key areas of improvement will be in the council's ability to:

- Develop a prioritised and affordable medium to long term capital investment plan that is clearly linked to the delivery of the Council's objectives –
- Deliver projects to agreed timescales and approved budgets and funding streams.
- Produce more informative financial reports and forecasts.

The role of the Strategic Capital Board is to provide strategic oversight of the Governance and Control Framework established to manage the Capital Programme and is made up of myself as chair and two other executive members. It will report into the Executive and Executive Sub Committee for Property where appropriate.

The Board will also oversee the delivery of the actions and recommendations set out in plans relating to capital. The Board represents the interests of the residents of Middlesbrough and for ensuring that the Capital Programme delivers the outcomes of the Council Plan.

Sitting below this, and reporting into the Strategic Board, there will be the Corporate Capital Board which is the Officer Board, chaired by the Section 151 Officer.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING 27 November 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.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

TOWN – WIDE INFORMATION

Neighbourhoods

Community Safety

- 2.1 The team have been working hard to recruit to the vacant posts within this service in order to ensure we have Neighbourhood Safety Wardens on our estates. The team is now back up to 28 the quota is 30.
- 2.2 Community Safety Service Requests (October 2024 – September 2024). Service requests received by the Neighbourhood safety officers (NSO), street wardens, and Enviro wardens combined in the period increased from 1644 in September 2024 to 2223 reports in October – an increase of 35.22% (Breakdown below).

Service Requests (NSO, Enviro & Street Wardens)									
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	2			22	4		9	37	31
Ayresome	1			17	2		7	27	-9
Berwick Hills & Pallister	20	2		42	7	2	229	302	125
Brambles & Thorntree	14	11		26	3	1	154	209	149
Central	83	8	11	61	24	3	192	382	0
Coulby Newham	2	2		16			49	69	4
Hemlington	15	4		17	6		111	153	67
Kader	2	2		3	4		7	18	1
Ladgate	3	4		7	7	1	3	25	1
Linthorpe	3	1		20	5		5	34	-12
Longlands & Beechwood	15	7		34	5		2	63	-35
Marion East	1	1		3	9		30	44	32
Marion West				4	3		27	34	17
Newport	16	3		65	20		49	153	-50
North Ormesby	5	2		16	6	1	137	167	84
Nunthorpe	2			4			37	43	26
Park	8	2		27	7	1	29	74	-17
Park End & Beckfield	14	5		33	6	3	239	300	155
Stainton & Thornton				2	1		43	46	18
Trimdon	2			1	1		19	23	-8
Total	208	54	11	420	120	12	1378	2203	579

Hubs and Libraries

Central Library Refurbishment

- 2.3 Work continues on the refurbishment of Central Library. Work will start on the new stairs and light fittings in the coming month. The ceiling areas have been decorated in the Reference library, with colours changed to reflect the era the library was built.
- 2.4 As part of the social value element of the project, the contractor Aptus, with the architects Mosedale Gillat have hosted 30 students from Middlesbrough College on site. The students had the opportunity to see architectural conservation in progress with an insight into the operations on a live construction site. Further visits are planned for local school children.



Cinderella Pantomime

- 2.5 The Newport Hub will be showcasing the pantomime 'Cinderella' on Monday 23rd December 2024 at 6.00pm. The performance is by Beverly Artistes LTD. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are £1.00 each and children under one are free.



Give A Coat A Home

- 2.6 This event took place on the 6th November at Newport hub. The aim was to provide warm outer wear to those who are in need. One resident provided a large bag of hats that she had knitted. Over 80 people attended the event from various communities.

Ukrainian Twinning Programme

- 2.7 The service successfully applied to be part of a national Libraries Connected programme to twin with a library in Ukraine.
- 2.8 Middlesbrough were successful in their application and are now twinned with a children's library in Dnipropetrovsk. The aim of the project is to learn from and support both our services, with the potential for online events.

Cohesion and Resilience (Town Wide)

- 2.9 Hate Crime Awareness Week took place between 14 and 20 October. Several activities across the town including engagement with Teesside University, school children and community groups.
- 2.10 The children were very engaged and talked to us about the reasons why people leave their own country and reasons why they would come to the UK.
- 2.11 A stall in the Hill Street Shopping Centre together with Cleveland Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Safer Communities on Thursday the 17th. The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner also agreed to fund 200 “Show Racism the Red Card” wristbands, which a lot of people agree to wear. We were able to have conversations with 48 different individuals.

Localmotion Community Voices

- 2.12 The Neighbourhood team have taken part in the first session of Localmotion’s new Community Voices projects, together with other professionals and members of the community. What was clear from the event is that people truly care about supporting their community and building a Middlesbrough that everybody can be proud of.



- 2.13 Julie Easley wrote three poems, one of which was created by asking people one-word answers to the questions “what was the best part of today?” and “describe Middlesbrough in one word”. The poem goes like this:

This Town by Julie Easley

This town is awesome and wonderful, we
Welcome with open arms, reflect who are
With an inspirational spirit, blended all
The richness of our history, this town of immigrants.

This town is the people, a place we
Can come and rejoice our roots, to remember we are
A community who all call Boro home.
Our kindness is remarkable, we
look back so we can plan forward, we are
the best place in the world. In Boro

we have something of everything, we
are our iconic infrastructure, our strengths are
seen in our friendliness and how we all
grow together. In this town we are all immigrants.

North

Myplace

- 2.14 Myplace have hosted four Dementia cafes welcoming Middlesbrough care home residents to our café for an afternoon tea and live music.
- 2.15 They also hosted a Halloween party for looked after children as well as our own Halloween party for our youth club members who also performed a Halloween themed concert for their families and friends.



Town Centre ASB

- 2.16 The Safer Streets Officer has continued to engage with local businesses and partners in the Town Centre to investigate and resolve Anti-social behaviour.
- 2.17 Over the last month an application for a Criminal Behaviour Order was made and granted in relation to an individual responsible for persistent begging and anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre. This has been breached twice and submitted to court.

Street Audit

- 2.18 Due to issues with rough sleeping, begging and other related activities, a street audit has been completed which involved talking to those that are found engaging in such behaviours. This took place during daytime and nighttime hours, to gather information and to try and understand why this happens. This will help us to have a better understanding of the issues and identify where more help and support is needed. The Audit took place over a week from Monday 7th October and involved partners from across the Neighbourhood.

East

North Ormesby

- 2.19 Whilst on patrol in North Ormesby, Wardens came across a very strong smell of gas. After investigating they identified a gas leak coming from a property in Derwent Street. Emergency Services and Gas Board were contacted immediately and the Wardens helped the Fire Service to put a cordon around the area. The Fire Chief stated that the main gas pipe leading to the boiler had been severely damaged which could have led to a catastrophic incident. The landlord was contacted and the property was made safe.

Berwick Hills and Pallister

- 2.20 An individual who was witnessed causing a disturbance outside of the Live Well Building was quickly identified by the Neighbourhood Team. A community protection warning was issued to the male.
- 2.21 Action was taken against a male for riding an off-road bike in an anti-social manner, information has also been shared with Thirteen and the Police regarding this incident.

- 2.22 In addition, joint work with our Neighbourhood Police teams has resulted in the seizure of three off road bikes in Berwick Hills & Pallister Park
- 2.23 Wardens have engaged with businesses and carried out an additional letter drop at Norfolk shops to encourage the reporting of incidents to support enforcement action being taken. In addition, our wardens have carried out 3 letter drops in and around the estates close to this location.



Park End and Beckfield

- 2.24 The Neighbourhood Team observed a suspicious vehicle being driven in the Netherfields area. They linked in with Thirteen Housing and the Police regarding suspected drug dealing taking place. Four people were subsequently arrested for offences, including Possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply.
- 2.25 The Neighbourhood team arranged a multi-agency community meeting at Park End Community Hub to update residents following the house explosion on Kirkland Walk earlier in the year and to give them the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have.
- 2.26 Following complaints from local businesses about a young person using a bicycle lock to smash windows at Vaughan Centre shops. The Neighbourhood Team worked with partners resulting in a referral to the Youth Justice Service.

Brambles Farm and Thorntree

- 2.27 Wardens have carried out school parking enforcement patrols in East Middlesbrough and during these patrols given out advice to parents whilst assisting the crossing patrol operative.
- 2.28 Proactive patrols on Bamboo Way have resulted in the arrest of 2 males who we have been reporting for suspected drug driving.
- 2.29 Our team have identified a male for a few offences including 2 Criminal Behaviour Order breaches in East Middlesbrough. In addition, the same

male was wanted for violent disorder during the recent riots and after working with colleagues, the male was arrested by Police.

- 2.30 The team have worked and supported Police with the identification of two males who have been seen breaking into cars and properties within the community.

Community Hubs & Libraries

- 2.31 A community hub officer has been successful in obtaining a grant which will launch a new stay and play session within North Ormesby Hub. The group aims to support families and children.
- 2.32 On the back of a hugely successful first term and summer holiday of Kids Kabin, the Neighbourhood Development Officer has been working to secure additional grant funding for the group to support them in continuing and expanding the sessions.

South

Crime and ASB

Hemlington

- 2.33 The Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO completed a letter drop around Edgeworth Court, Elmhurst Gardens and Boscombe Gardens following reports of criminal damage, fire setting and youths throwing fireworks. A youth identified by Police as being involved in an incident in this area has been issued with an acceptable behaviour contract breach letter.
- 2.34 Initial warning was given to a youth who had been identified throwing fireworks at the Viewley Shopping Centre.
- 2.35 The Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO also attended a Habinteg residents meeting to discuss any concerns regarding anti-social behaviour on their estate and wider area.
- 2.36 There have been 5 motorbike / quad seizures over the past 2 months following intelligence received from the local community.
- 2.37 Big thanks to Cleveland Fire Service and Thirteen Housing who provided 3 skips across the ward to rid the area of excess waste prior to Bonfire Night. Over 3 tonnes of waste was removed.



Coulby Newham

- 2.38 2 youths were identified causing anti-social behaviour around The Holt & The Coppice area, visits were completed with PCSO and verbal warnings given.
- 2.39 The Neighbourhood Officer, Thirteen Housing, Cllr Branson and the PCSO attended an ASB drop in arranged for residents of Lingfield Ash following concerns around ASB.

Marton

- 2.40 There have been issues around Marton shops, Marton Community Centre and the surrounding area with youths causing anti-social behaviour, throwing missiles, and letting off fireworks. A rapid deployment CCTV camera has been erected outside Marton shops to support the police and Local Authority to identify those responsible for the nuisance. Four youths have been identified and the PCSO has carried out home visits and initial warning letters have been issued by the Council's Neighbourhood Team.

Environmental Update

- 2.41 On Earls Court Road, we seized a vehicle for being untaxed. It was parked on the grass verge and is now impounded. Tax and release fees will apply to anyone claiming the vehicle.



- 2.42 Following several complaints, we have removed illegally dumped bags and toys from the walkway between Mardale and Coverdale in Hemlington and arranged for the clearance of windfall trees and branches found obstructing the path.



Community Hubs and Libraries

Hemlington

- 2.43 During the Feast of Fun event, 276 Paper Angels made. Councillors Tom Mohan and Nicky Walker both attended and took part in making angels.
- 2.44 Halloween activities took place in Hemlington and Marton Community Hub & Libraries



West

Longlands and Beechwood

- 2.45 Multi agency work took place around Collin Avenue/Forber Road. Several complaints have been received around gang nuisance, motorbike nuisance and suspected drug dealing around the area in Saltersgill. The Neighbourhood team have worked with partners to take appropriate action including;
- Police completed a drone operation in the area, gathering evidence on a number of properties allegedly involved in the nuisance.
 - Increased patrols on the estate from local PCSO and Neighbourhood Wardens.
 - Two Thirteen properties being used by a local gang have been secured and shuttered.
- 2.46 All agencies will continue to monitor this area and take further action should any more complaints be received.
- 2.47 The Neighbourhood Team attended a drop in session at The Genesis Project, along with Thirteen Housing. This drop in runs every month and is a good opportunity for residents to speak with staff about any issues or concerns they have.
- 2.48 Whilst carrying out visits on the Saltersgill estate, our Neighbourhood Officer came across an empty property on Forber Road which had been vandalised with paint. After carrying out some checks, we now know that this is a Thirteen property which became void in August 2024. Thirteen's Void Team have been made aware and this property will be cleared of the paint as part of the voids process.



2.49 Rear Of Thorndyke - Grove Hill.

Work has been carried out in partnership with MBC, Thirteen Community Resilience team and Community Pay Back to clear the Thorndyke area of Grove Hill. The area is a hot spot for fly tipping and fire setting with residents asking for a gate to be put in place to combat this.

2.50 Work clearing the space has now commenced see pictures below and we are waiting on a date for the gate which will be funded by Thirteen housing.



Trimdon

2.51 The Neighbourhood team visited Acorn Drive to speak with residents regarding incidents of ASB in the play area. After listening to resident's views, we are exploring options such as removing the roof from a piece of equipment where youths congregate and installing lighting to improve CCT images particularly during darkness hours.

Kader

2.52 Our Neighbourhood Safety Wardens have been out in the Shoreswood Walk area issuing Park Smart notices on vehicles that are parking on grassed areas.

Acklam Community Hub & Library

2.53 We have launched our own LEGO AWARDS. We have a very busy LEGO club on a Saturday morning, so thought it would be good to reward them for all their building. If successful, we hope to expand it to the other LEGO Clubs in the hubs.

2.54 Steve Thompson from the Rekindle Project launched Digital Visits, a rich tapestry of Middlesbrough social history.

Grove Hill Community Hub and Library

- 2.55 Linx and the Junction youth services continue to hold weekly sessions. The sessions are well attended, and the youth worker continues to build strong relationships with the young people and MBC staff.
- 2.56 Skills For People held two employment and training sessions from the community hub. The sessions were by invite only and were attended by Middlesbrough residents with a guaranteed interview with the TESCO Warehouse if the training is completed.
- 2.57 Thirteen housing are holding drop in sessions on the third Wednesday of each month. This continues to be well received by residents giving them access to their local Housing Officer.

Easterside Community Hub and Library

- 2.58 Youth council sessions recommenced in September. These sessions are run by MBC children in care staff and support children who may be leaving care. The sessions take place Tuesday each week 4-6pm.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN THAT HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE CALL IN PERIOD

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor				
13 Nov 2024	Executive	Target Operating Model	To inform Executive about the emerging Target Operating Model and the proposed transformation to the Council's future ways of working	No
Executive Member - Development				
13 Nov 2024	Executive	Corporate Asset Management Plan	Decision is required by Executive	Yes
13 Nov 2024	Executive	Middlesbrough Museums Options Appraisal	Options appraisal requested by Executive to inform a decision about the future of the museum service related to required cost savings.	Yes
13 Nov 2024	Executive	PART EXEMPT: Southlands Facility Contract Delivery	To seek Executive approval to commence the contractor procurement process and delivery of the Southlands Facility.	Yes

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
Executive Member - Environment and Sustainability				
31 Oct 2024	Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability	Bracken Grange Footpath Connection	Approval for the proposed scheme to progress to implementation during the 2024/25 financial year.	No
Executive Member - Finance				
28 Oct 2024	Executive	Household Support Fund (HSF)	The report sought approval of the Household Support Fund Scheme (HSF) for the second half of 2024/25 and sought delegated authority be provided to the Director of Finance to make any modifications or minor revisions to the scheme and make decisions in respect of any remaining funds to ensure they are distributed in line with the guidance and within the defined timescales. Any revisions or modifications would be made in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Governance.	Yes
13 Nov 2024	Executive	Improving Capital Governance, Reporting and Management Arrangements	This report outlines new arrangements for managing the Capital Programme. This is a key part of the council's budget processes and will do this via the creation of two new capital boards which will monitor current capital schemes, progress and financing.	No



**SECTION 3 – THERE ARE NO DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BETWEEN DISPATCH OF BOOKLET UP
UNTIL THE COUNCIL MEETING**

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SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Corporate Performance Q2 2024/25	This report advises the Executive of corporate performance at Quarter 2, and 2024/2025 Year End, providing the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its performance management responsibilities and where appropriate, seeks approval of any changes or amendments, where these lie within the authority of the Executive.	No
16 Dec 2024	Mayor and Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Public Health	Surveillance policy	annual approval sought in line with statutory guidance that the policy should be reviewed annually by elected Members	No
16 Dec 2024	Mayor and Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Public Health	Business Continuity Policy	The Business Continuity Policy sets out how the Council will comply with The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 placed a statutory duty on the council as a designated Category 1 responder to ensure that it can; respond to an emergency, continue to support emergency response partners and continue to provide critical services to the public.	No
16 Dec 2024	The Mayor	Partnership Governance Policy	Approve the refreshed policy	No

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DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member - Education and Culture				
8 Jan 2025	Executive	SHiFT Progress Report	The report is going to Executive to give an update on the progress of the SHiFT programme	No
Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Public Health				
8 Jan 2025	Executive	EXEMPT: Options for Utilisation of Levick Court Residential Care Home	As part of the budget savings the re-provisioning of Levick Court Residential Care Home was identified and within that included the option to provide alternative residential care for the current service users and seek opportunities to maximise the utilisation of the property working with partner organisations. Approval is therefore required on the recommended option and the potential to consult with staff in terms of potential redundancies. Approval is being sought on the recommended option for the utilisation of Levick Court Residential Care Home	Yes
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Auto-enrolment of Free School Meals and maximising Pupil Premium Funding Pilot across Middlesbrough	A follow up report on the Auto-enrolment of Free School Meals and maximising Pupil Premium Funding Pilot in Middlesbrough	Yes
Executive Member - Development				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Housing Supply	To seek Executive approval to utilise capital resources from the Towns Fund and Levelling Up Partnership to reduce expenditure on temporary accommodation.	Yes
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Cemetery Provision	Setting out the future plan for cemetery provision.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Management and Maintenance of Development Land / Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation	The report seeks Executive approval of the resources required to maintain land held prior to disposal / development and the management of land held fallow as part of the Nutrient Neutrality mitigation measures. Report seeks management resources to be capitalised as an abnormal cost to disposal receipts.	Yes
5 Mar 2025	Executive	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town Hall Roofs	Any matters relating to bids for funding, which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the financial and policy framework.	Yes
Executive Member - Environment and Sustainability				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Play Parks – Colmore Avenue New Play Area and General Play Area Replacement Programme	The decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £250,000	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Highway Infrastructure Delivery Plan update	To identify the highway improvements that the Council proposes to implement to better manage its network	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Linthorpe Road Cycleway		Yes
Executive Member - Finance				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	2024/25 Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Forecast Outturn	The report advises the Executive of the Council's forecast year-end financial outturn as at Quarter Two 2024/25, and seeks approval of budget virements within the revenue budget and revisions to the capital programme in relation to activity in Quarter Two.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2025/26	The Council has a legal obligation to calculate a council tax base each financial year. The calculation of the council tax base is a part of the Council's budget strategy which forms part of the Council's Policy Framework. This report is part of the process to set the council tax base for the financial year 2025/26 by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2025.	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25: Mid-Year Review	The TMS is an important element of the Council's overall budget strategy and financial governance processes. The strategy is an important element of managing the risk on borrowing, investments and cashflow. Reporting to Executive on the mid-year position allows the Council to comply with the CIPFA treasury management code of practice and exemplar performance in this area	No
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Empty Properties Strategy - Domestic	That Executive approves the Empty Property Strategy – Domestic. That Executive approve delegation to make any future minor revisions/modifications to the Director of Finance and the Director of Regeneration following consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Executive Member for Regeneration. The purpose of which is to maintain effective service delivery and reflect revisions brought about by regulatory and/or statutory guidance changes.	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	2025/26 Budget and MTFP	The report provides an update to the Executive on the budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) development process for 2025/26 to 2028/29 that will conclude with consideration and approval of the budget by Council in February 2025. The recommendations in this report are for formal noting and endorsing by Executive of a range of budget proposals aimed to balance the budget to go out to public consultation	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Customer Transformation Programme	To set out and seek approval of the proposed Customer Transformation programme which forms part of the Council's Recover, Reset, Deliver Transformation Portfolio	Yes
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Council Tax Reduction scheme 2025/2026	The Council needs to agree a Council Tax Reduction scheme annually to help those who are struggling to pay the full Council Tax charge due to their financial situation. The scheme needs to be agreed by full Council therefore the report is submitted to Executive prior to being presented to Council for consideration	Yes

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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
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	27 November 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 23 October 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

- a) Executive Member Update – Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
- b) Final Report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel – Waste Management
- c) Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25 – People Scrutiny Panel
- d) Executive Forward Work Programme
- e) Scrutiny Chairs' Updates

4.3 Members received a presentation from the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture, in relation to her portfolio. The Executive Member highlighted the current challenges and opportunities within both Culture and Education portfolios and also set out her priorities for both, with key focus on ensuring the build of Outwood Riverside and extending the use of the Town Hall for commercial opportunities and community groups.

4.4 The Board considered the Final Report of the former Environment Scrutiny Panel on Waste Management. The review focussed on waste management practices and explored how recycling could be increased whilst reducing residual waste levels. The Board endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained within the report to be referred to the Executive for consideration.

4.5 Members also formally approved the Work Programme for the People Scrutiny Panel and considered the Executive Forward Work Programme - requesting further information in relation to the item on future cemetery provision.

4.6 The Board's next meeting is scheduled for 20 November 2024.

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 The People Scrutiny Panel met on 14 October 2024 and 11 November 2024.

At the 14 October 2024 meeting, the panel continued its investigation into Children Missing from Education (CME) by discussing and determining the Terms of Reference. In addition, the Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration was in attendance to provide an update position regarding the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of Middlesbrough Council.

At the 11 November 2024 meeting, a representative of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP) was in attendance to present the Partnership's annual report.

Regarding the topic of CME, the Head of Achievement was present at the meeting and provided the panel with information regarding Ethnic Minority Children missing education.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 December 2024; the panel will continue its investigation into CME with a presentation from the Head of SEN and Vulnerable Learners. The panel will also receive an overview in relation to the next topic of investigation: Homelessness. In addition, the Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) will be in attendance to present their annual report.

5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel

5.5 At the meeting of 7 October 2024 the Panel received a presentation from the Ethical Housing Company detailing the work they are undertaking to address empty properties in Middlesbrough. The Panel also received a presentation from the Integrated Transport Unit Manager which provided details on the Home to School Transport Policy in Middlesbrough.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 December 2024 the Panel will continue the investigation into Home and School Transport. In addition, a representative from Thirteen Group will be in attendance to provide an overview in relation to the work being carried out by Thirteen to address the issues with empty properties in Middlesbrough. The Panel will also discuss the Terms of Reference for the Empty Property Review.

6. Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

6.1 A meeting of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee was held at Hartlepool Civic Centre on 7 November 2024. The Committee considered several items, including: The Winter Plan Update; Opioid Prescribing and Dependency Across the Tees Valley; The Tees Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan; and Health Inequalities in the Tees Valley.

7. Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

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

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

8.1 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.

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

Topic	Impact						
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications because of this decision.						
Legal	The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.						
Risk	<p>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.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Risk No</th> <th>Risk Description</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>O8-054</td> <td>Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.</td> <td>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.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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.
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.					
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	No protected groups are affected by the decision.						
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable.						
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable.						
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

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27 NOVEMBER 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.27

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO	QUESTION
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?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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**COUNCIL MEETING – 27 November 2024
NOTICE OF MOTIONS 171 AND 172**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
171	Cllr Morrish		The Council will write to the relevant Government department to ask them to consider amending current legislation to allow for all local Councillors to be eligible for enhanced DBS checks.
172	Cllr Banks	Cllr Henman	<p>Motion in support of #EqualPlay</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council celebrates the incredible achievements of Team GB in the Olympic Games and Team GB in the Paralympic Games held in Paris during Summer 2024.</p> <p>The world witnessed excellent sportspeople represent Great Britain and inspire generations at home and abroad. We recognise and welcome the role our national athletes play in inspiring non-disabled and disabled children in Middlesbrough. We pay tribute to the record-breaking success of Team GB in the Paralympics this year, who secured 49 gold medals, 44 silver medals, and 31 bronze medals.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this success starkly contrasts with the inequality between non-disabled and disabled children when it comes to sports and physical education (PE) opportunities in UK schools. According to ParalympicsGB, 75% of disabled children in the UK say they do not take part in regular sport and exercise in school. This has to change.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council supports the #EqualPlay campaign and commits to providing equal play opportunities for children where possible and resolves to write to schools in the Borough of Middlesbrough encouraging them to support this campaign.</p>

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



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

Submitted to: Council

Date: 27 November 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

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 16 October 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 control outlined in the report at 6.1 to extend the date of CT1.09, *Undertake first annual review of strategy, assessing delivery and impact on measures of success, reporting findings to Leadership Management Team, Audit Committee and full Council*, from 30/11/2024 to 30/04/2025 to reflect the annual review should be complete 12 months after launch i.e. April 2025.

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 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 five%
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 07/01/2024			
	% On-track	% Off-track	% Delivered	Overall % on track or delivered
Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	7% (7/95)	1% (1/95)	92% (86/95)	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 98% of activity in relation to the Section 24 delivery plan has been delivered, with one activity remaining which will be complete at this Council meeting if the nominee for the post of Chief Executive is approved and the appointment process for the Director of Finance and Transformation is completed as expected.

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. The action is outlined below:

- A milestone in relation to the *Monitoring of Appraisal completions - 95% of staff in work to have had an appraisal*. Detailed lists have been sent to Directorates highlighting areas of non-compliance that require immediate action to achieve the 95% target. No change request has been submitted for this milestone.
- A further milestone in relation to: *Undertake first annual review of strategy, assessing delivery and impact on measures of success, reporting findings to Leadership Management Team, Audit Committee and full Council*, is approaching its due date. A

change request has been submitted to extend the due date from 30/11/2024 to 30/04/2025. This should have been processed previously when a previous milestone for the launch of the strategy was amended – the change control merely reflects that the review will need to occur 12 months after launch.

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:
 - A definition change was made to an audit Measure of Success to reflect reporting language changes made by Internal Audit recently to move from reporting actions as priorities to ‘Critical, significant, moderate and opportunity’. Since last reporting, an audit with two critical actions has been completed, this is reflected in scoring.
 - The number of agency staff being used by the Council has reduced in both Business as Usual and transformation roles. This is mainly due to a reduction in agency workers within Children’s Services.
 - The number of complaints received by the Council and the % that are upheld have both reduced, demonstrating an improvement.
 - The % of appraisal processes completed has improved again but remains below target.

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	Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	Formal approval of Workforce Plan by Leadership Management Team Implementation of workforce plan

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. CT1.09, *Undertake first annual review of strategy, assessing delivery and impact on measures of success, reporting findings to Leadership Management Team, Audit Committee and full Council*, from 30/11/2024 to 30/04/2025 to reflect the annual review should be complete 12 months after launch i.e. April 2025.

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	Improved	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Development / implementation of Member Development Strategy and Programme	Green	Green	No change	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Development / implementation of a corporate governance training programme	Complete	Complete	Mixed	Yes	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	Green	Green	Improved	No	C Heaphy / C Benjamin	Mayor Cooke
Development / implementation of improved focus on employee performance and accountability	Red	Green	Improved	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	n/a	n/a	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker
Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management	Green	Green	n/a	Complete	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker

8. Independent Improvement Advisory Board

8.1 The Board has not met formally since the last report to Council on 16 October. The Board will meet twice in December and the outcome of those meetings will be reported in due course.

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. If this meeting agrees the recommendations of the Chief Office Appointments Committee and the recruitment process of the Director of Finance and Transformation is completed as expected following recent interviews, all actions in this plan will then have been completed.

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	Improved	No
3. Conclusion of Constitution review and provision of officer / member training ensuring changes are understood and implemented.	Complete	Complete	Three out of five Complete, two worse	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	Mixed
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	Complete	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

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.

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

10.1 Not applicable.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Legal	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	<p>If the Council fails to respond effectively to the improvement plan, this will have a negative impact on the following strategic risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Not applicable.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable.
Data Protection	Not applicable.

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

11.8 Not applicable.

Appendices

1	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success
2	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

Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	16 October 2024
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Contact:

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Appendix 1 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	Current performance period	Previous performance data	Previous performance period
Cultural Transformation	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	Worse	No change	0	Below target	every 2 months	1 in 2024/25	April 2024 - March 2025	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	Worse	Improved	80% or higher	Near target	Quarterly	89%	Oct-24	100%	Mar-24
	Improved relationships between officers and members	Staff and Member surveys to assess health of relationships	No change	Improved	50% of staff and 80% of councillors or higher	Below target	Ad hoc	38.65%	May-24	35.60%	August 2023 Survey
	Improved retention of staff	Staff turnover rates – Number of leavers	No change	Improved	5%	Above target	Quarterly	2.85%	Q1 2024-25	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	May-24	5.9	August 2023 Survey
	Reduced need to use agency staff	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Total	Improved	Worse	75	Below target	Monthly	203	Oct-24	241	Sep-24
		Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Transformation	Improved	No change	No target set	No target set	Monthly	8	Oct-24	10	Sep-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	Worse	3	Below target	Monthly	6	Oct-24	6	Sep-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	Improved	Improved	Less than 150	Above target	Monthly	93	Oct-24	104	Sep-24
		% of complaints upheld or partially upheld by the central team	Improved	Improved	Less than 40%	Below target	Monthly	63%	Oct-24	78%	Sep-24
	Members have a Member development programme that meets their needs and is well used	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	n/a baseline	100%	Above target	Annual	94.5%	Oct-24	100%	Oct-23
		Percentage of Members attending wider skills	Complete	n/a baseline	95%	Above target	Annual	76.1%	Oct-24	98%	Oct-23
		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	Oct-23	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7	Oct-22
	Performance is effectively managed within the organisation	Completion of appraisal process	Improved	Improved	95%	Below target	Annual	86%	Oct-24	85%	Sep-24
	Improved Member behaviour	Number of member on member complaints received	No change	no change	2 or fewer per quarter	Below target	Quarterly	4	Q1 2024-25	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%	Nov-23	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%	Nov-23	n/a	Not previously asked	

	Outcome	Measure of Success	Current Performance	Previous Performance	Target	Status Against Target	Current performance data:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
Financial Recovery and Resilience	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		89.08%	Jul-24
	Corporate finance training programme established	Quarterly programme of finance training established	Complete	n/a baseline	One training session delivered per quarter	Complete	100%	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	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 due from April 2024 onwards	n/a	n/a
	2024/25 net expenditure is delivered within the approved budget	Forecast outturn is within the agreed budget	No change	n/a	Compliant / within budget	Below target	£3.742m	n/a	n/a
	The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain GF balance ain line with approved reserves policy - 7.5% of the net revenue busget which would be £11.1m at 31/3/25		n/a	£11.1m	On target	£11.1m	£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		n/a	£8m	Below target	£6.57m	£8m	Apr-24
	2025/6 budget is set and balanced	Balanced Budget for 2025/6 set	n/a	n/a	Balanced budget set	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	n/a	n/a	Balanced MTFP set	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Appendix 3 Measures of success – Section 24 Report

Recommendation	Measure of Success	Current performance	Target	Status against target	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	9 out of 10 workstreams activity on target or complete	Nov-24	10 out of 10	Oct-24
2	Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	3	Below target	6	Oct-24	6	Sep-24
2	Number of Transformation roles that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	Improved	No target set	No target set - baseline	8	Oct-24	10	Sep-24
3	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance in 2024/25	Worse	0	At target	1	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	Near target	80% or higher	near target	89%	Oct-24	100%	Jun-24
3	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	100%	Complete	94.5%	Oct-24	100%	Oct-23
3	Percentage of Members attending wider skills	Complete	95%	Above target	76.1%	Oct-24	98%	Oct-23
3	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	Complete	90%	Below target	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	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	90% once launched	n/a		
6	Maintain expenditure in line with agreed budgets in 2024/5	No change	Compliant / within budget	Below target	£3.742m	Q1	n/a	n/a
6	Maintain GF balance at £11.1m at 31/3/25	No change	11.1m	At target	£11.1m	Q1	£11.1m	Apr-24
6	Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25.	No change	Between 8m and 10m	Below target	£6.57m	Q1	£8m	Apr-24

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	The Mayor
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	27 November 2024
Title:	Executive Scheme of Delegation
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	All
Key decision:	No
Why:	Report is for information only
Subject to call in?:	Not applicable
Why:	Report is for information only

Executive summary

The Mayor is required to report any changes to his Executive Scheme of Delegation to Council.

The report on the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation is to be noted.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report sets out to Members, as required by the Constitution, details of the revised Executive Scheme of Delegation (Appendix A) for inclusion in the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council

notes the Mayor's revised Executive Scheme of Delegation.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The Constitution requires that Council be informed by the Elected Mayor about the composition and constitution of the Executive, and the names of Councillors they have chosen to be members of the Executive including the Deputy Mayor.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 The Mayor is responsible for determining his Scheme of Delegation and this covers the following areas of delegated powers: the Executive collectively, individual Executive Members, officers and joint arrangements. When he considers it appropriate however, the Mayor may still take any decision regardless of whether it has been delegated within his Scheme. The general responsibilities of the Mayor and Executive Members including their revised portfolios are detailed at Appendix A. The membership of the Mayor's Executive is detailed at Appendix B.

- 4.2 The revised composition of the Executive is as follows:

- The Mayor
- Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Education
- Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.
- Executive Member for Children's Services
- Executive Member for Development
- Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability
- Executive Member for Finance
- Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

The Executive collectively

- 4.3 The Executive (the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Executive portfolio holders) will be responsible collectively for determining the following matters in respect of all or any functions which fall within the Executive terms of reference:

- a) To take Executive decisions when there are public meetings of the Executive, convened in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- b) Key Decisions, not delegated by the Mayor to an Executive Committee, an Executive Member, an Officer or a Joint Arrangement.
- c) Strategic and significant decisions arising from Service reviews.
- d) Proposals, which will be submitted to the Council as part of the annual Budget and Policy Framework, together with in-year departures from the Budget and Policy Framework.

- e) Save for matters reserved for Full Council, new policies and procedures and changes to existing policies and procedures likely to have a significant impact on Service provision or the organisation of the Council.
- f) Allocation of funding within the budgetary framework, together with proposals and overall expenditure levels, for projects with significant corporate implications, including those for which it is proposed to let a contract, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule D.
- g) Council-wide strategic performance and financial management / monitoring together with associated action.
- h) Significant Council-wide matters which are not Key Decisions.
- i) All reports referred to the Executive by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and its Scrutiny Panels.
- j) Ownership of risk management and regular review of the strategic risk register.

Individual Executive Members

4.4 Individual portfolio holders will normally be responsible for the following matters in relation to the functions and service areas within the scope of their own portfolio.

- a) Minor variations to existing policies and procedures.
- b) Oversight of departmental service plans, having regard to the Budget and Policy Framework.
- c) Monitoring of Service performance information.
- d) Oversight of Executive Portfolio Service reviews, including, improvement plans, external inspection, reviews and non-strategic corporate matters.
- e) Oversight of plans and strategies, which are not part of the Budget and Policy Framework.
- f) Decisions which are within the Executive Portfolio Holder's remit.
- g) Matters relating to bids for funding which do not have major financial or strategic significance, or which have either been approved in principle by the Executive or as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

Deputy Mayor – Delegated Authority

4.5 The Deputy Mayor has delegated powers:

- a. To appoint to outside bodies, made by the Executive or jointly with Council.

- b. To appoint to Executive Advisory Bodies (Excluding membership to the Full Executive)

Executive Sub-Committee for Property

- 4.6 When not referred to the Mayor, Executive or Executive Member to determine, the Executive Sub-Committee for Property is delegated the following powers:
- a) To determine the Council's corporate property priorities.
 - b) To approve the allocation of resources from the Small Scheme Allocation budget.
 - c) To be consulted upon the capital programme.
 - d) To determine 'in year' changes to the new start investment programme and small scheme allocation projects should it become necessary.
 - e) To consider and determine the acquisition and disposal of assets (including land and buildings), other than equipment, plant and machinery for resale, in accordance with the requirements of Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders.
 - f) To be consulted upon planning brief proposals.
 - g) To establish effective communication channels to cascade the Council's corporate property priorities.

- 4.7 The Membership of the Executive Sub-Committee for Property is as follows:

- All Members of the Executive

Decision Making by Joint Bodies

- 4.8 The following body will exercise executive functions in accordance with the terms of the agreement currently in operation:

Joint Archives Committee

Officer delegated authority

Decisions by officers

- 4.9 Officers have the power to undertake without reference to Council, the Executive, or to any of the Council's committees, matters of day-to-day management and associated activities. Subject to the provisions within the Mayor's scheme of delegation above, officers can take executive non-key decisions. Unless specifically delegated by the Mayor and his Executive, officers do not have the delegated powers to take key decisions.

Decision Making by Chief Executive

4.10 The Chief Executive of the Council, or any officer nominated by the Chief Executive as his Deputy in this regard, in consultation with the Mayor, will have delegated authority to make Executive decisions of a policy, financial and operational nature in response to an emergency.

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

5.1 Do nothing. This is not an option as the Constitution requires that the Mayor notifies full Council of the composition of his Executive and any subsequent changes to his Scheme of Delegation.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.
Legal	Under s.9E of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended), the Elected Mayor (as “the senior executive member”) determines how and by whom executive functions are exercised.
Risk	
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	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.
Climate Change / Environmental	
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Note the report and make and appropriate changes to the	Democratic Services	30 November 2024

Council's Committee Management system		
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Appendices

1	Executive Scheme of Delegation
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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

Executive Scheme of Delegation

Under s.9E of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended), the Elected Mayor (as “the senior executive member”) determines how and by whom executive functions are exercised. The Elected Mayor may either exercise any or all of the executive functions personally or may delegate the power to one or more of the following:

- the Executive (the Elected Mayor & Executive) collectively,
- an Executive member individually,
- an Executive committee,
- an area committee (N.B. there are no area committees currently in Middlesbrough),
- an officer (or officers) of the Authority,
- under joint arrangements with one or more other authorities *or*
- another local authority.

Executive Scheme of Delegation

The Executive (the Mayor and their Executive Members) will be collectively responsible for determining matters in respect of all or any functions which fall within the Executive terms of reference (below).

The Executive collectively, and individually, will drive the Council strategically relying on relevant senior officers to deliver those priorities through any strategy, plan or policy within their relevant service portfolio.

The Executive Terms of Reference (collectively)

The Executive (the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Executive portfolio holders) will be responsible collectively for determining the following matters in respect of all or any functions which fall within the Executive terms of reference:

- a) To take Executive decisions when there are public meetings of the Executive, convened in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- b) Key Decisions, not delegated by the Mayor to an Executive Committee, an Executive Member, an Officer or a Joint Arrangement.
- c) Strategic and significant decisions arising from Service reviews.
- d) Proposals, which will be submitted to the Council as part of the annual Budget and Policy Framework, together with in-year departures from the Budget and Policy Framework.
- e) Save for matters reserved for Full Council, new policies and procedures and changes to existing policies and procedures likely to have a significant impact on Service provision or the organisation of the Council.
- f) Allocation of funding within the budgetary framework, together with proposals and overall expenditure levels, for projects with significant corporate implications, including those for which it is proposed to let a contract, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule D.

- g) Council-wide strategic performance and financial management / monitoring together with associated action.
- h) Significant Council-wide matters which are not Key Decisions.
- i) All reports referred to the Executive by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and its Scrutiny Panels.
- j) Ownership of risk management and regular review of the strategic risk register.

Executive Terms of Reference (Individual Executive Members)

Individual portfolio holders will normally be responsible for the following matters in relation to the functions and service areas within the scope of their own portfolio.

- a) Minor variations to existing policies and procedures.
- b) Oversight of departmental service plans, having regard to the Budget and Policy Framework.
- c) Monitoring of Service performance information.
- d) Oversight of Executive Portfolio Service reviews, including, improvement plans, external inspection, reviews and non-strategic corporate matters.
- e) Oversight of plans and strategies, which are not part of the Budget and Policy Framework.
- f) Decisions which are within the Executive Portfolio Holder's remit.
- g) Matters relating to bids for funding which do not have major financial or strategic significance, or which have either been approved in principle by the Executive or as part of the Budget and Policy Framework.

Decision Making by Joint Bodies

The following body will exercise executive functions in accordance with the terms of the agreement currently in operation:

Joint Archives Committee

THE MAYOR

*DIRECTOR: CHIEF EXECUTIVE/ FINANCE
LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES*



CHRIS COOKE

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c/o Democratic Services
Town Hall
Middlesbrough
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Relevant Service Areas

- Human Resources
- Legal Services
- Marketing and Communications
- Policy, Governance, and Information
- Strategy Business and Customer
- ICT
- Democratic Services

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Mayor has overall responsibility for delivering the Mayor’s Priorities and associated initiatives. The Mayor will also be the lead Member on the Council’s Transformation journey.

The Mayor has overall responsibility for executive functions together with those general responsibilities detailed above. Service responsibilities have been delegated to the Executive Members.

The Mayor is the first citizen of the town and will promote the town as a whole and act as a focal point for the community. He will also take precedence with regard to any civic duties, but these may be delegated to the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Council.

As the town’s First Citizen, the Mayor promotes Middlesbrough in the sub-region, region and nationally.

Duties and responsibilities of the Mayor include: -

- Providing strong and visible leadership in relation to the Council, citizens, stakeholders and partners of the Council.
- Leading on partnerships and strategic matters of significance to Middlesbrough on a local, sub-regional, regional and national basis.

- Promoting, wherever possible, public engagement in the work of the Council.
- Leading in promoting the core values and objectives of the Council.
- Leading on the development of the budget.
- Leading on promoting of relevant proposals in relation to the Policy Framework.
- Leading on the delivery of continuous improvement in Council services.
- Promoting the highest standards of conduct and ethics within the Council.
- Making appointments to the Executive, determining portfolios and chairing the Executive.
- Delivering Best Value for the Council.
- Determining the Executive Scheme of Delegation.
- Responsibility for the Armed Forces Covenant.
- The Mayor (or whoever he decides to nominate) to exercise the Council’s rights as a shareholder in BCCP Limited on behalf of the Teesside Pension Fund

As part of the Legal and Governance element of their portfolio the Mayor will take the lead on ensuring the Council operates efficiently, openly and fairly.

Transformation Theme: Target Operation Model

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan (Overview) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transformation ➤ Corporate Governance Improvement Plan ➤ Corporate Equality and Diversity Policies ➤ People Strategy ➤ Digital Strategy ➤ Strategic Risk Register ➤ Corporate Business Continuity Plan ➤ Member Development Strategy ➤ Information Strategy ➤ ICT Strategy ➤ Estates Strategy ➤ Pay Policy Statement ➤ Surveillance Policy ➤ Risk and Opportunity Management Policy

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

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TS1 9FX

peter_gavigan@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Relevant Service Areas

- Area Care and Arboriculture Services.
- Fleet Services
- Highways
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Waste Services
- Winter Maintenance

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability has responsibility for ensuring a safer environment for Middlesbrough – ensuring Middlesbrough is cleaner and more resilient to a changing climate.

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Environment and Waste Policies and Strategies • One Planet Living and Assisted Energy Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environment Service Plan (where relevant to the portfolio) ➤ Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation (CRACA) Plan ➤ Waste Management Plan ➤ Environment Service Plan (where relevant to portfolio) ➤ Public rights of way ➤ Surface water management

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

*DIRECTOR: ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION/
JOINT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH*



COUNCILLOR JAN RYLES

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E: jan_ryles@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Relevant Service Areas

- Access and Safeguarding
- Public Health (South Tees)
- Prevention, Provider and Support
- Specialist and Lifelong Services

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health leads on the delivery of ensuring vulnerable adults are protected and ensuring Middlesbrough is a healthier place to live.

Transformation Theme: Adult Social Care

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think Local Act Personal, The Direction for Social Care Services • Health and Social Care Reform. • LiveWell South Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2024-2030) • Public Health South Tees Strategy (2023-26) • NHS Commissioning and Delivery Plans – Local, Regional and National • UK Health Security Agency and the NHS Office for Health Improvement and Disparities plans – local, regional and national • Social Value Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting People Strategy ➤ Better Care, Higher Standards ➤ National Health Service Long Term Plan ➤ NENC Integrated Care Board strategy – “Better health and wellbeing for all” ➤ Older Peoples’ Strategy ➤ Physical Disabilities Strategy ➤ Social Services’ Equalities Plan ➤ Social Services’ Care Service Plan ➤ Mental Health Strategy ➤ Mental Health Champion ➤ Learning Disabilities Strategy ➤ No Secrets, Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse ➤ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ➤ Homelessness Strategy

DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR: REGENERATION



COUNCILLOR THEO FURNESS

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Town Hall
Middlesbrough
TS1 9FX

theo_furness@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Relevant Service Areas

- Community Learning and Employability
- Growth
- Planning
- Property
- Transport

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Executive Member for Regeneration will have responsibility for delivering the Mayor’s Priorities with regard to ensuring a fair access to high-quality homes, fair access to secure, well-paid jobs and meaningful training, strengthening and diversifying our local economy, and strengthening our transport links.

Transformation Theme: Property

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Plan • Local Transport Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investment Prospectus ➤ Regeneration service plan ➤ Policies and strategies for housing activity ➤ Development briefs and master plans ➤ Town Centre Plan ➤ Housing Strategy

DEPUTY MAYOR AND EDUCATION & CULTURE

DIRECTOR: EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIPS



COUNCILLOR PHILIPPA STOREY

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TS1 9FX

philippa_storey@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Relevant Service Areas

- Culture
- Community Learning
- SEND and Vulnerable Learners
- Access to Education and Alternative Provision
- Achievement
- Partnerships (including Youth Justice, Missing and South Tees Safeguarding Partnership)

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture will Chair meetings of the Executive and act in place of the Mayor, if for some reason the Mayor is unable to act.

As part of the Education element of their portfolio the Executive Member for Education and Culture has responsibility to ensure that all children are provided with the opportunity to realise their educational attainment potential.

The Executive Member will also oversee the provision of educational statutory services to address the needs of all children and young people and adults who need services (including youth justice). As part of the Culture element of their portfolio, the Executive Member for Education and Culture also has responsibility for strengthening the town’s cultural sector.

Policy Framework - Education	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Curriculum • Relevant Frameworks and Parliamentary Acts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Children & Families Act 2014 (relevant to portfolio e.g. SEND) ➢ School Finance Regulations 2013 ➢ Education Act 2011 ➢ Academies Act 2010 ➢ Education and Skills Act 2008 ➢ Education and Inspection Act 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Children and Young People’s Plan ➢ Education and Priorities Strategy ➢ School Effectiveness Strategy ➢ Vulnerable Learners Strategy ➢ Children’s Services Improvement Plan ➢ Capital Strategy & Asset Management Plan (Schools) ➢ Scheme for Financing Schools ➢ Youth Employment Strategy ➢

Policy Framework – Education Cont.	Other Plans and Strategies Cont.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children Act 2004 (relevant to portfolio) ➤ Education Act 2002 ➤ School Standards & Framework Act 1998 as amended ➤ Education Act 1996 as amended ➤ Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage ➤ Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 ➤ Early Years Foundation Statutory framework ➤ Crime and Disorder Act 1998 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms ➤ School Improvement Strategy ➤ Healthy Child Programme (5 – 19) (including School Nursing service) ➤ School Improvement Strategy ➤ SEND Strategy ➤ Inclusion Strategy ➤ Anti-Poverty
Policy Framework – Culture	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Strategy 	

NEIGHBOURHOODS

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON

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 c/o Democratic Services
 Town Hall
 Middlesbrough
 TS1 9FX
 janet_thompson@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Relevant Service Areas

- Public Protection
- Neighbourhoods
- North East Migration Partnership

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities will be responsible for creating safer communities, in accordance with the Mayor’s Priorities. They will also have responsibility for community safety and development as well as empowering communities and individuals to access opportunities.

Transformation Theme: Place Based Services

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Sector • Strategic Approach to Addressing Poverty • Community Safety including Law and Order Issues • Community Development • Community Hub Development • Civil Contingencies Act 2004 • Crime and Policing Act 2014 • Human Rights Act • Licensing Authority Policy Statement 2003 Act • Statement of Principle Gambling (2005 Act) • Environmental Health and Trading Standards • Trading Standards (including Metrology) • Licensing (Inc. Taxi Licensing) • Selective Landlord Licensing 	

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DIRECTOR: CHILDREN'S SERVICES/CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE



COUNCILLOR LUKE HENMAN

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Relevant Service Areas

- Children's Care
- Residential Services
- Prevention
- MACH Assessment and Pre-Birth Services
- Corporate Parenting
- SCP/ CWD

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Executive Member for Children's Services will be the Lead Member for Children's Social Care, ensuring that our children are protected, to safeguard their welfare and wherever possible, seek to enable or provide a safe environment that reduces dependency on services, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable and their families and carers.

Transformation Theme: Children

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services • General principles of UN convention on the rights of the child • Children Act 1989 • Section 19 of the Children Act 2004 • National Standards for Youth Justice Services • Children Act 2004 • Ofsted policy Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children's Services Improvement Plan ➤ Corporate Parenting Strategy ➤ Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan ➤ Looked After Children Strategy ➤ MSCB Business Plan ➤ Children and Young People's Plan ➤ Children's Services Partnership ➤ Youth Employment Strategy ➤ Youth Justice Plan

FINANCE

DIRECTOR: FINANCE (s151 Officer)



COUNCILLOR NICKY WALKER

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E: nicky_walker@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Relevant Service Areas

- Financial Planning and Support
- Strategic Commissioning and Procurement
- Resident and Business Support
- Finance and Investment

PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

The Executive Member for Finance has the responsibility of ensuring that the Council is financially sustainable, delivers value for money and operates openly and fairly in these respects. The Executive Member for Finance has oversight of all financial and budget management and monitoring. The Executive Member for Finance is also the Member Champion for Councillor Communications.

Transformation Theme: Customer

Policy Framework	Other Plans and Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Teesside PF Pensions Administration Strategy & Charging Policy • 2021 Teesside PF Risk Management Policy • 2021 Teesside PF Training Policy • Funding Strategy Statement 30-March-2023 • Investment-strategy-statement-04-April-2021 • Counter Fraud Strategy 2024-25 • Anti Money-Laundering Policy • Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure • Anti Fraud Bribery and Corruption Policy • Capital Strategy 2024-25 • Treasury Management Strategy 2024 - 2025 • Supplier No PO No Pay Policy • Equality & Diversity in Procurement Policy • Flight Booking Policy • Commissioning & Consultant Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Counter Fraud Strategy 2024-25 ➢ Anti Money-Laundering Policy ➢ Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure ➢ Anti Fraud Bribery and Corruption Policy ➢ Capital Strategy 2024-25 ➢ Treasury Management Strategy 2024 - 2025 ➢ Supplier No PO No Pay Policy ➢ Equality & Diversity in Procurement Policy ➢ Flight Booking Policy ➢ Commissioning & Consultant Policy ➢ Purchasing Card Policy ➢ Corporate Procurement Strategy ➢ Business Welfare Strategy ➢ Corporate Crisis Policy 2022 ➢ Corporate Food Poverty Policy

Policy Framework Cont	Other Plans and Strategies Cont
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing Card Policy • Corporate Procurement Strategy • Business Welfare Strategy • Corporate Crisis Policy 2022 • Corporate Food Poverty Policy • Welfare Strategy • Empty Homes Strategy (Not on FWP - currently in design). • Problem Property Action Plan • Corporate Credit Note Policy • Debt Management Policy • Corporate Debt Write Off Policy • S13a Policy • Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan • Vulnerability Policy • ASC Non-Residential Charging Policy • ASC Residential Charging Policy • Discretionary Rate Relief • Residential Charging Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welfare Strategy ➤ Empty Homes Strategy ➤ Problem Property Action Plan ➤ Corporate Credit Note Policy ➤ Debt Management Policy ➤ Corporate Debt Write Off Policy ➤ S13a Policy ➤ Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan ➤ Vulnerability Policy ➤ ASC Non-Residential Charging Policy ➤ ASC Residential Charging Policy ➤ Discretionary Rate Relief ➤ Residential Charging Policy ➤ Customer Strategy

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin - Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Councillor Nicky Walker Executive Member for Finance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	27 November 2024
Title:	Appointment of Honorary Recorder of Middlesbrough
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	A successful and ambitious town
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Choose an item.
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	

Proposed decision(s)

Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-

The appointment of His Honour Francis Laird KC as Honorary Recorder of Middlesbrough, with immediate effect and for the duration of his tenure of the post of Senior Circuit Judge at Teesside Combined Court Centre.

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to seek a decision in regards to the appointment of an Honorary Recorder in Middlesbrough.

An Honorary Recorder is an unpaid, ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community.

There has been a succession of Honorary Recorders in Middlesbrough since 2002 and this further appointment will formalise the relationship between the judiciary and the Council.

The power to appoint an Honorary Recorder is given to full Council by way of Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971.

1. Purpose

1.1 To seek a decision in regards to the appointment of an Honorary Recorder of Middlesbrough.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council

- Approves the appointment of His Honour Judge Francis Laird KC as Honorary Recorder of Middlesbrough, with immediate effect and for the duration of his tenure of the post of Senior Circuit Judge at Teesside Combined Court Centre

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 To appoint an Honorary Recorder for Middlesbrough to formalise the relationship between the judiciary and the Council.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 The power to appoint an Honorary Recorder is given to full Council by way of Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971.

4.2 An Honorary Recorder is an unpaid, ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community. The functions of Honorary Recorder include attending ceremonial and civic functions and inviting Members of the Council to attend judicial events. The Lord Chief Justice is keen for Councils to use the power available to them to make such an appointment.

4.3 The role of Honorary Recorder is normally reserved to Senior Circuit Judges or Resident Judges. The usual approach is for the position to be attached to a specific judge, continuing for as long as they remain the Senior Circuit or Resident Judge for the area.

4.4 HHJ Peter J Fox QC held the role of Honorary Recorder of Middlesbrough between 2002 and 2012, followed by HHJ Simon N Bourne-Arton QC until September 2019, and subsequently HHJ Paul Watson KC until his retirement in February 2024.

4.5 On the 15th July 2024 the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill appointed His Honour Judge

Francis Laird KC to be a Senior Circuit Judge, Resident Judge based at Teesside Combined Court.

4.6 The appointment of Honorary Recorders is in the sole gift of local authorities, however, the Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders requests that Councils consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales prior to making an appointment.

4.7 The Head of Legal Services (People) wrote to the Senior Presiding Judge's office on behalf of the Council and support was confirmed for the proposal to appoint HHJ Laird KC to the role of Honorary Recorder for Middlesbrough.

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

5.1 The Council could decide not to appoint an Honorary Recorder, however, the town would not benefit from the positive outcomes detailed in the body of the report.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	The role of Honorary Recorder is an unpaid position, therefore there are no financial implications associated with making an appointment.
Legal	Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 gives the Council power to appoint an Honorary Recorder for Middlesbrough. The appointment does not require the approval of the Lord Chancellor or Lord Chief Justice
Risk	There are no risks associated with appointing an Honorary Recorder. Making an appointment provides as opportunity for strengthening the relationship between the judiciary and the Council.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	None.
Climate Change / Environmental	None.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	None.
Data Protection	None.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
None		

Appendices

1	None
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
None		

Contact: Ann-Marie Wilson - Head of Legal Services (People)

Email: annmarie_wilson@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	27 November 2024
Title:	Localism Act 2011 – General Dispensation
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That the Council:
Grant a general dispensation to Councillor T Mohan of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.

Executive summary

This report recommends that a general dispensation be granted to those members who have applied for a dispensation in respect of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate. Councillor T Mohan has applied for the general dispensation having been elected on 24 October 2024. All other Councillors have already been granted a general dispensation.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report recommends that a general dispensation be granted to those members who have applied for a dispensation in respect of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.
- 1.2 Any requests for dispensations may only be granted by the Standards Committee or full Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council

Grant a general dispensation to Councillor T Mohan in respect of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 If the majority of members of the decision-making body have a disclosable pecuniary interest that the political balance would be affected, it could impact on the outcome of a decision.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 As part of the standards arrangements, the Localism Act 2011 and Regulations made thereunder, introduced the concept of disclosable pecuniary interests and also new rules in respect of dispensations.
- 4.2 Councillor T Mohan was elected on 24 October 2024 and has applied for a dispensation. All other Councillors have been granted the general dispensation since May 2023.
- 4.3 It is a criminal offence for a member to fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest or to speak and/or vote where they have disclosable pecuniary interest unless they have obtained a dispensation. Under the old standards regime, the Code of Conduct specifically stated that members would not have a prejudicial interest in circumstances that potentially affected the majority of Councillors, such as members' allowances. There are no similar provisions under the new rules and members are therefore at risk of committing a criminal offence if they participate in matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest and no dispensation has been granted. If the majority of members had an interest in these matters then it would impede the business of the Council.
- 4.4 In order to protect members, the new regime does include provision for the granting of dispensations. However, the legislation specifically states that before a dispensation can be granted, a member must apply in writing to the Monitoring Officer seeking a dispensation. It is therefore recommended that a general dispensation is granted to all of those members who have applied in writing for a dispensation to

allow them to speak and vote where they would otherwise have had a disclosable pecuniary interest. This would be on the grounds that it is in the public interest and appropriate to grant a dispensation to those members to participate fully in the following matters:-

- a) Housing; where the member (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council as long as the matter does not relate to the member's particular tenancy or lease;
- b) Housing Benefit; where the member (or spouse or partner) receives Housing Benefit;
- c) Statutory sick pay; if a Councillor receives this or is entitled to receive it;
- d) An allowance, travelling expense, payment or indemnity for Councillors;
- e) Any ceremonial honour given to members.

5. Dispensations can be granted in the following circumstances:

- a) Where so many members of the decision making body have a disclosable pecuniary interest that the political balance would be affected;
- b) It is in the interests of the inhabitants that a dispensation be granted, or;
- c) It is appropriate to grant a dispensation.

6. It is also recommended that the general dispensation applies for the maximum period 4 years from the date of this decision.

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

7.1 No other decisions have been recommended.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications because of this decision.
Legal	It is a criminal offence for a member to fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest or to speak and/or vote where they have disclosable pecuniary interest unless they have obtained a dispensation.
Risk	If the majority of members had an interest in certain matters such as those outlined at paragraph 4.2, then it would impede the business of the Council if they were not allowed to take part in the decision-making process.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	No protected groups are affected by the decision.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable.
Children and Young People Cared for by	Not applicable.

the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Grant the Dispensations	Charlotte Benjamin – Monitoring Officer	On approval

Appendices

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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Councillor T Mohan	Application for a Dispensation	

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin – Monitoring Officer
Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	27 November 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 outside bodies due to vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations,

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees/outside bodies, 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:

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

1 vacancy

Staff Appeals Committee

1 vacancy for Chair

1 nomination: Councillor Blades

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL:

River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy

JOINT COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE:

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

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.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications because of this decision.
Legal	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Council is under a duty to:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p>
Risk	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty	No protected groups are affected by the decision.

and Community Cohesion	
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable.
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	30 November 2024

Appendices

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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Council	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025	16 October 2024

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

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	27 November 2024
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Title:	Update on Urgent Decisions
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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Proposed decision(s)

No decision is required. Council is asked to note the decisions that have been taken under urgency rules.

Executive summary

The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides details of decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council
Notes the decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS

A special urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision cannot be given (i.e. it is not possible to give the five days public notice). A decision is defined as urgent where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the interests of the Council or the public. In terms of the Scrutiny call-in procedure, agreement that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant Scrutiny Panel. Once this agreement is obtained, a copy of the notice is placed on the Council website. The decision taker must sign a form recording the decision and a record of that decision is then published. The information is available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website. There have been no special urgent decisions since the last report to Council on 11 September 2024.

4.2 URGENT DECISIONS

An urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision can be given but due to urgent deadlines for implementing those decisions, the Scrutiny call-in procedure do not apply. Agreement is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or relevant Scrutiny Panel to exempt the proposed decision from the call-in process. The decision then becomes a public record. The information is also available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website. There has been one urgent decision taken since the last report to Council on 11 September 2024.

Date:	28 October 2024
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Household Support Fund 2024/2025
Reason for Urgency	<p>Under paragraph 7.25.2 of the constitution, provision is made, under exceptional circumstances, for an urgent decision to be implemented immediately upon a decision being taken and a call in is therefore not possible. As the Household Support Funding was not confirmed by the Department for Work and Pensions until 24 September 2024, with formally agreed plans needing to be returned to the Department for Work and Pensions by 1 November 2024, this did not allow sufficient time for a call in period following Executive Committee on the 28 October 2024 to apply given the strict deadlines set for return. It is also not possible to defer the report to the next Executive meeting for this reason. It is therefore requested that an urgent decision is made to implement the agreed actions once Executive approval is given.</p> <p>The report was unable to comply with the legal requirement to be published on the forward work plan for at least 28 days as set out in paragraph 6.32 of</p>

	<p>the constitution due to the funding allocations only being provided to the Council on 24 September 2024.</p> <p>As a result of not being able to meet the normal and legal requirements above, and having to be implemented by 1 November 2024, the report was considered under the General Exception rules as detailed under paragraph 6.35 of the constitution.</p>
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5. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

5.1 Do Nothing: That an update on urgent decisions is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for details of any urgent decisions that have been taken and the reasons for urgency, to be reported to full Council.

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 Constitution requires regular updates on urgent decisions that have been taken to be submitted to full Council.

5.4 *Risk*

Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.

If updates on urgent decisions were not provided to Council, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

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
Report is for noting only.		

Appendices

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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive	Household Support Fund 2024/2025	28 October 2024

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