

## THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 7 January 2025

Dear Member

### COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY, 2025

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 15th January, 2025** 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 - 27 November 2024

3 – 10

5. Announcements/Communications

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

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

7. Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Update

8. Mayor's Statement and Report

9. Executive Member reports

11 – 68

10. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

69 – 74

11. Urgent Items

To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought

before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any).

12. Members' Question Time
13. Notice of Motions (if any)
14. Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)
15. Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24  
Action Plan Progress Report 75 - 88
16. Vacancies on Committees 2024/2025 89 – 92



Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED  
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

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

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

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**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 27 November 2024.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Ewan (Vice-Chair), J Banks, I Blades, D Branson, E Clynch, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, J Cooke, C Cooper, D Coupe, T Furness, P Gavigan, L Henman, B Hubbard, N Hussain, D Jackson, J Kabuye, L Lewis, L Mason, M McClintock, I Morrish, J Nicholson, M Nugent, S Platt, A Romaine, J Ryles, M Smiles, S Tranter, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson, J Young and L Young

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, S Bonner, A Davis, C Heaphy, S Lightwing, E Scollay and K Whitmore

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors J Rostron (Chair), D Davison, TA Grainge, S Hill, L Hurst, D Jones, T Livingstone, D McCabe, J McConnell, J McTigue, J Platt, M Saunders, P Storey and J Thompson

24/65 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

24/66 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

24/67 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 16 OCTOBER 2024**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 October 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

24/68 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

On behalf of Middlesbrough Council, the Vice Chair welcomed newly elected Councillor – Councillor Tom Mohan (Hemlington Ward) to his first meeting.

24/69 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

The Vice Chair read out Question 1/24 submitted by Steven James, who was not in attendance.

The Mayor responded stating that he had not pledged to freeze council tax. The expectation was that in future years there would be a multi-year settlement from the Government which would provide more clarity on funding. In this first year of the new Labour Government it was anticipated that there would be an immediate fix for those Councils most in distress, which would hopefully include Middlesbrough. The Mayor was confident that next year's proposed Council budget would deliver what residents wanted, and included a ten percent increase in area care and more for culture and events. Whilst a Council Tax increase was proposed, there would also be increased investment in front line services.

24/70 **TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY (TVCA) - UPDATE**

The Mayor provided an update on the Tees Valley Combined Authority. There had been no movement on the transfer of assets. However the Council had been discussing individual projects with the TVCA and Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC). If there was a business case for an individual asset to be transferred or sold for value, decisions would be made on a case by case basis. Councillor Furness had attended the latest MDC meeting as substitute for the Mayor. The proposed hotel which would be built on land at Gresham was discussed and it was anticipated the project would move forward once land ownership issues were resolved. The next TVCA Cabinet meeting would take place in December and the Mayor would bring a further update in January 2025.

The Chair requested that Members note the Mayor's update on the TVCA.

**ORDERED** that the Mayor's TVCA updated was noted.

24/71

## **MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

The Budget consultation process would start on 4 December 2024. This would be the start of the reset for the Council. The proposed figure for Adults and Children's services would be 79% of the budget rather than the previous 83%. This would allow the Council to reset priorities and invest funding into front line services including area care and youth provision. The Mayor was hoping for cross party support for the budget and invited any Member or Group who wished to do so, to meet with him to discuss the proposals.

The Mayor thanked all Members who had been involved in the recent appointments of the new Chief Executive and Director of Finance and acknowledged the time and effort that had gone into the process. The Mayor also thanked Councillor Jackson for standing in for the Chair of the Chief Officer Appointments Committee to present the report later in the agenda and hoped that all Members would support the recommendations. Good wishes were sent to Councillor Thompson for her recuperation.

Councillor McClintock raised an issue in relation to Linthorpe Community Centre which was currently facing closure. The Mayor agreed that the situation with Linthorpe Community Centre needed to be reviewed and the Deputy Mayor was currently investigating. The Mayor invited Councillor McClintock to meet with him, the Deputy Mayor and the Ward Councillor for Linthorpe to discuss the matter further. The Mayor also commented that it was timely to reassess and take stock of what the Council should be delivering to enable communities and ensure that lease terms on property were fair and equitable for all parties.

Councillor Smiles expressed her disappointment that the Eton College project had been paused by the Education Secretary and asked the Mayor for his thoughts on the current situation. The Mayor stated that if the project was to be paused he hoped that Middlesbrough would still receive the funding and produce a bid to rival the Eton College project. Middlesbrough College had already expressed interest in proposals to upskill students and offer equally good levels of education without having that resource drain or losing staff to other areas. The Mayor commented that when he took up his current role he contacted the Department for Education in relation to the promised new secondary school in Middlesbrough that had still not been built. This was the priority for Middlesbrough and the secondary school was required as a matter of urgency. The Mayor further commented that he did not believe the Eton College project had been at the point of being able to deliver, for several reasons, when it was paused.

Councillor Kabuye welcomed additional funding for youth provision and asked the Mayor if this would continue.

Subject to approval of the Budget, the Mayor stated that there would be additional funding of £100,000 for the Universal Youth Contract and confirmed that this funding would be ongoing. In addition, in the current year, £150,000 had been re-allocated from funding received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help with community cohesion and specifically target young people and projects in schools.

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

**ORDERED** that the Mayor's statement was noted.

24/72

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS**

The Vice Chair informed Council that although the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture had submitted apologies for tonight's meeting, Cllr Storey had asked her to share the fantastic news that Year 5 pupils at Kader Academy had won 1st and 2nd place in the National Times Table Rockstar Competition. This information was received after the agenda publication for this meeting therefore it was not included in the Executive Member's report. On behalf of Council, the Vice Chair expressed congratulations to all involved at Kader Academy on this brilliant achievement.

*Questions in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability.*

Councillor Clynych in relation to progress on flood prevention.

The Executive Member stated that despite the significant number of storm events in the last few years there had actually been a reduction in flooding occurring in many areas including Hall Drive, Newport Road and Mount Pleasant Way. Recent additions to the Council's fleet would help mitigate future flood risks and included two gulley suckers and two new compact sweepers. Further investment in tree maintenance, hedge and shrub maintenance and an increased area care budget would also contribute to the prevention of flooding.

Councillor Hubbard in relation to policy proposals to protect green spaces.

The Executive Member agreed to liaise with the Director of Environment to ensure the issues raised in relation to uncollected bins and bonfire debris were addressed as quickly as possible.

24/73 **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.

24/74 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

24/75 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The Chair invited Councillor Mason to ask his question as set out at Agenda Item 12 in relation to "The Wired Lobby" entering administration.

The Executive Member for Development provided the following responses:

1. There was a fixed legal charge of the assets of the Company.
2. The legal charge, whilst not registered with Companies House, was enforceable.
3. No other legal (and equitable) charges over the assets of the company were filed at Companies House.
4. Gaming Adventures Limited, incorporated on 2 September 2021, owned "The Wired Lobby."
5. It was typical for capital contributions to be awarded as a grant when property conversions were undertaken to create a fundamental shift in the local market. The loan was provided for start up and some grant for fixture and fittings. There was a mechanism for clawback as the business progressed.
6. A business case was considered and robustly scrutinised.
7. Liabilities were determined by the appointed liquidator. The fixtures and fittings were owned by Middlesbrough Council.
8. No other businesses whose total assets were less than the loans/ grants given where these loans/grants remained outstanding, had been provided with loans by Middlesbrough Council.

The Executive Member added that he was unable to comment on decisions made by previous Executives.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**Motion No. 171

Consideration was given to Motion No. 171 moved by Councillor Morrish and seconded by Councillor Wilson of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

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.

Councillor Morrish spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Wilson spoke in support of the motion.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillors Walker, Blades and the Mayor spoke in support of the motion.

During the debate it was suggested that the possibility of adding DBS certificate numbers to Members' identification badges should be explored by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Morrish welcomed the comments made and thanked Members for supporting the motion.

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

Motion No 172

Consideration was given to Motion No. 172 moved by Councillor Banks and seconded by Councillor Henman of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Motion in support of #EqualPlay

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.

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.

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.

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.

Councillor Banks spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Clynych reserved his right to speak to the motion.

The Chair invited members to speak to the motion.

Councillors Coupe, Branson and Clynych spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Banks welcomed the comments made and thanked Members for supporting the motion.

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

24/77 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

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

24/78 **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 that set out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, since last reported to Council on 16 October 2024.

Council was requested to note the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan and agree the change control outlined in the report at 6.1. This change control would be 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 that the annual review should be completed 12 months after launch.

On a vote being taken it was **ORDERED** as follows that Council:

1. Noted the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan.
2. Approved the change control outlined in the report at paragraph 6.1 to extend the date of CT1.09 to 30 April 2025.

24/79 **EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

The Mayor presented a report to inform Members of changes to his Executive Scheme of Delegation.

As required by the Constitution, details of the revised Executive Scheme of Delegation were attached at Appendix A to the submitted report for inclusion in the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

The Mayor wished to place on record his thanks to Councillor Uddin for his contribution to Children's Services during his time as Executive Member.

**ORDERED** that the amendments to the Executive Scheme of Delegation were noted.

24/80 **CHIEF OFFICERS APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

The Vice Chair of the Chief Officer Appointments Committee (COAC) presented a report informing Council that the COAC had selected a proposed candidate for the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service). The COAC recommended to Council that Erik Scollay was appointed to the post and authority was delegated to the Monitoring Officer to issue notice on the contract with CIPFA for the provision of the Interim Chief Executive.

Council was also asked to consider the designation of the section 151 officer to the revised role of Director of Finance and Transformation.

Council was further asked to note the appointment of Andrew Humble to the Director of Finance and Transformation post and delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to issue notice with the agency to end the engagement of Debbie Middleton as Director of Finance.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor wished to place on record thanks to Clive Heaphy and Debbie Middleton for their work and contribution to Middlesbrough Council.

Responding to a query, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that information on Chief Officers' salaries was provided in the annual Pay Policy Statement.

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** as follows that Council approved the:

1. Appointment of Erik Scollay to the post of Chief Executive.
2. Delegation of authority to the Monitoring Officer to issue notice on the contract with CIPFA for the services of the interim Chief Executive.
3. Designation of the Section 151 Officer role to the Director of Finance and Transformation
4. Delegation of authority to the Monitoring Officer to issue notice on the agency engagement of the interim Director of Finance.

24/81

#### **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER OF MIDDLESBROUGH**

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services was presented to seek a decision in regards to the appointment of an Honorary Recorder in Middlesbrough.

An Honorary Recorder was 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.

Council was asked to approve 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.

Contact with the Honorary Recorder could be made via Democratic Services.

On a vote being taken it was **ORDERED** that 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 was approved.

24/82

#### **LOCALISM ACT 2011 - GENERAL DISPENSATION**

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer was presented, the purpose of which was to enable a general dispensation to be granted to those Elected Members who had applied for a dispensation in respect of matters that might affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.

Councillor T Mohan had requested a dispensation. The dispensation would allow Councillor Mohan to participate fully in a meeting whenever the following matters were discussed:

- 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.

On a vote being taken it was **ORDERED** that:

1. Council granted a general dispensation to Councillor Mohan in respect of matters that might affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.
2. The general dispensation be applied for the maximum permitted period of 4 years from the date of this decision.



24/83

**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:**Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

1 vacancy – no nominations

Staff Appeals Committee

1 vacancy for Chair – Councillor Jackson appointed.

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

## JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL:

River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy – no nominations

## JOINT COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE:

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

1 vacancy – no nominations

24/84

**UPDATE ON URGENT DECISIONS**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report which provided an update with regard to one urgent decision that had been taken under the urgency rules since last reported to Council on 11 September 2024.

**ORDERED** that the report be noted.

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

**Council Meeting: 15 January 2025**

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### COUNCIL MEETING: 15 January 2025

#### CONTENTS

#### SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Councillor Philippa Storey</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health <i>Councillor Jan Ryles</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Children’s Services <i>Councillor Luke Henman</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Development <i>Councillor Theo Furness</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability <i>Councillor Peter Gavigan</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Finance <i>Councillor Nicky Walker</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Member for Neighbourhoods <i>Councillor Janet Thompson</i></li> </ul>

**SECTION 2** – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 19 November 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 Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **15 January 2025**.

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

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

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

### **Contact details:**

Susan Lightwing Interim Democratic Services Manager - (01642) 729712

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 January 2025

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

#### **Strategic Priorities**

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

#### **Education and Partnerships:**

- 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.
- Improve Youth Justice System.

#### **Culture:**

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

### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Education and Partnerships**

#### **2.1 Reparation Activity with young people and partners:**

The Youth Justice Service delivers reparation activity with young people, In recent months this has included:

#### **2.2 Work with Cleveland Fire Service**

Youth Justice Service (YJS) delivered an intervention with the Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service to challenge the young people and raise awareness of the work of the Fire and Rescue Service.

This activity involved the young person being engaged in an awareness session on the impact of fire in Guisborough Woods and the session also included details of a rescue of a parent and child trapped in a burning car. As part of an activity to repair the harm caused by his behaviour the young person also assisted in the cleaning of a fire tender and this offered the opportunity for fire and rescue staff to explain to the young person what the various working parts did and their importance in rescue situations. The young person engaged well with this activity and there have been no further incidences of ASB.

The activity has also provided an opportunity for further work between the YJS and the Fire and Rescue Service

### **2.3 In and Out of the Cold**

The YJS once again played an active role in 'In and Out of the Cold' project to engage and support homeless people. Young people were engaged in the sorting of clothing and other items and assisted with the delivery of items.

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) has been involved in this programme for many years and it assists the service to raise awareness of issues of deprivation, homelessness and other issues with young people.

### **2.4 Work with young people in Police Custody**

As part of the work of the Custody Navigators, the YJS has engaged with Middlesbrough Library Service and the National Literacy Trust to secure, books, activities and other resources that can be used with young people in the Custody Suite.

These resources promote reading with young people who would otherwise not consider this activity and enable the young people to take books home. This activity helps promote the child friendly culture we have promoted in the custody suite with Cleveland Police alongside the work of the Custody Navigators.

### **2.5 Youth Justice Service Open Day**

On 22 November 2024 Youth Justice held an YJS Open Day an annual event to promote the work of the service to stakeholders and partner agencies. This year's event was attended by 49 people, in an online environment, and the event provided the opportunity to showcase the work in Restorative Justice, the Voice of the Child, Positive Activities with Young People, work with Young People in Custody and Prevention activity.

Feedback from the event has been wholly positive and comments from partners include:

'So much fantastic work going on, well done all'

'More examples of positive work..'

'could there be some shadowing opportunities on some of the different projects?'

### **2.6 SHiFT Middlesbrough**

SHiFT Middlesbrough has been operating since May 2024 and works in partnership with Children's Services, Youth Justice Service and the Community and Safety Team. Work has commenced with all children open to the SHiFT Practice after the nomination process in July 2024. The SHiFT Practice in Middlesbrough works intensively with each child for 18 months, using the Breaking Cycles Model through a systemic approach. SHiFT Guides work with six children each, and they meet the child where they are at, whether they are living locally or away. They work flexibly and meet children and families on evenings and weekends where support is needed. SHiFT Guides are halfway through completing the systemic training and are using this approach to engage children.

The SHiFT outcomes consist of four elements which are Loved and Cared for, Safe and Stable, Healthy and Happy and have a sense of Purpose and Power. SHiFT's work is tailored to the needs of each child.

**Some of the outcomes SHiFT have been able to achieve so far are:**

- Children have been stepped down from Children Services Teams with appropriate planning and support for families provided by SHiFT.
- SHiFT have worked with children who have had a pattern of being missing from home and have reduced these episodes.
- SHiFT have supported children to secure education and training who were previously falling into the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) category.
- SHiFT have supported young people to access mental health services and GP appointments where in the past children and families have struggled to access these services due to stigma.
- There has been a reduction in the number of children who have committed proven offences since working with SHiFT compared to the year prior to SHiFT involvement.

## **2.7 Early Years and Family Hub team**

The team continue to work hard to support parents providing interventions for parenting and home learning environment.

Start for life evaluation: Middlesbrough has been invited to participate in evaluations of the Start for life programme, using case studies to focus particularly on the 1001 days and infant feeding, peri-natal mental health strands of the Family Hubs transformation. This will start to take place this year.

Following a successful bid to what was the Department of Housing and Levelling Up (DHLUC), work will get underway to upgrade facilities at West Middlesbrough, Park End and Thorntree Family Hubs. This work includes installing improved kitchen facilities aimed at encouraging community cooking opportunities.

Upgrades are taking place to West Middlesbrough, Park End and Thorntree Family Hubs. Work is on track to commence in January 2025 and will provide opportunity to widen the current offer, further helping our communities.

During the Christmas break, North Ormesby provided Holiday Activity (HAF) and supported families with a range of enrichment activities.

The childcare expansion and wraparound grants have been issued to all schools and PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent) who have returned their signed grant funding agreements.

## **2.8 Literacy**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of literacy has begun with a focus on Science. Last year saw geography and history colleagues across the Primary and Secondary phase working collaboratively to evaluate writing in these areas, across the curriculum. Continuing on that success, colleagues are invited to join the first science workshop in January.

In collaboration with the National Literacy Trust (NLT), four schools Christmas hampers were donated to schools giving away 500 hundred books for pupils. In addition, gifting also supported local organisations helping the wider community. Thank you to Public Health/Seniors Connected/Libraries who alone donated 120 books (Sherlock Holmes, Jane Eyre, James Patterson, Roy of Rovers etc) for attendees of the Christmas Day dinner for the lonely, to select and take away.

Our Middlesbrough Literacy lead presented to CEO Publishers/Trustees in London - video testimonial from Beech Grove evidencing the impact of book gifting to pupils who have limited access to books at home. This not only highlighted the importance of book gifting, but also the need for local access to free books. This is Something my colleague the Exec Member for Neighbourhoods acknowledges and has agreed to support me with.

## **2.9 Inclusion and Specialist Support Services**

The rate of referrals for education, health and care plan [EHCP] assessment has slowed gradually over the year, but the levels of children requiring assessment and receiving an education, health and care plan or place in a special school continues to be high.

Key areas include:

- the 20-week completion rate for statutory assessment in Middlesbrough remains higher than national levels, currently at 97% which is one of the highest in the country.
- A new inclusion model has been introduced in the early years and staff at the Cleveland Unit nursery have welcomed their first cohort of children in assessment places to support early identification of need.
- The new Discovery Secondary Academy opened in Autumn Term, offering secondary age places for children with severe learning difficulties.

We know that the SEND system is broken and we look forward to working with National Government to make sure a new system works best for the children and their families and puts their needs first.

Permanent exclusion and suspension in Middlesbrough remain above national levels. There is a strong commitment from leaders and staff across the local area to tackle this issue with many examples of innovative and emerging good practice in place. There is a slowing of the growth rate, and the in-year data is positive regarding the number of days lost to suspension which are reducing for children with additional vulnerabilities compared to the previous academic year.

Key areas include:

- Staff from across inclusion and specialist support services have completed training to become a trauma aware and attachment informed service.
- A new early assessment provision has been commissioned at Acklam Grange School to support the prevention of exclusions.
- The Hospital School provision delivered by River Tees Multi-Academy Trust, has moved to a new site at Sandringham House with support from high needs capital funding. This will allow development of local provision for children who are not able to attend their mainstream school as a result of physical or mental ill health.

I have a further meeting with the Minister for State Stephen Morgan MP on Outwood Riverside in January.

There have also been a number of Ofsted inspections in November/December and I would like to congratulate schools on their positive outcomes. Especially Trinity Catholic College who achieved a 'Good' overall rating.

I'd also like to congratulate Middlesbrough Learning for their 'Very Strong Good with Outstanding' in their inspection.

I'd like to thank all our council Education and Partnership teams for their dedication, commitment and steadfast belief that our children and young people in Middlesbrough deserve the best we can do. Especially Caroline Cannon, Trevor Dunn, Karen Smith, Allison Potter, Kay Dargue and Joe Tynan. Thank you for all your work over 2024.

## Culture

### 2.10 Middlesbrough Theatre

Middlesbrough Theatre, under the stewardship of David Lindsey, continued its Christmas celebration with the amazing Snow White Pantomime. The Panto exceeded its sales target, with a number of sold-out shows during December. Another big thank you to David and the team at Middlesbrough Theatre. and the Town Hall.

DATE	PRODUCTION	PERFS	ATTEND	INCOME	CUMULATIVES	
Friday 1st November 2024	Tommy Cannon and Friends	1	94	1656.00	94	1,656.00
Saturday 2nd November 2024	ABC - An Intimate Evening With Martin Fry	1	220	7826.80	314	9,482.80
Tues 12th to Sat 16th November 2024	Les Miserables - School Edition (MYT)	5	1,904	28693.50	2,218	38,176.30
Tues 19th to Thurs 21st November 2024	A Christmas Carol	5	1,589	19547.00	3,807	57,723.30
Friday 22nd November 2024	The Nutcracker	1	157	2607.00	3,964	60,330.30
Saturday 23rd November 2024	The World Famous Elvis Show	1	205	5529.00	4,169	65,859.30
Wed 27th to Thurs 28th November 2024	Nativity! (Conyers School)	4	1,195	0.00	5,364	65,859.30
Fri 6th December 2024 - Sat 4 Jan 2025	Snow White Pantomime	45	16,255	307905.20	21,619	373,764.50
		63	21,619	373764.50		

## **2.11 Museums**

The festive programme at the Dorman Museum saw family events and activities running from the end of November to 22 December.

As part of its festive programme, the Dorman hosted Holly and Ivy's Festive Book Club with the National Literacy Club on Saturday 21 December and Sunday 22 December. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to enter a world of wonder and embark on a literary journey together, reading a Christmas story whilst enjoying a delicious hot chocolate, before decorating Christmas biscuits and creating a Christmas craft. Big thank you to Allison Potter and the Museum Team.

The Dorman's latest exhibition 'Spellbound' opened on Saturday 7 December. 'Spellbound' has been co-curated with Middlesbrough Circle of Magicians and tells the history of group, its members (including some very famous household names) and explores more about the tricks themselves. It is not to be missed!

JR Bowes, Museums Manager, attended a reception at the British Museum (BM) to celebrate the museum's national Partnerships on Monday 2 December. This continues the good relationship between Middlesbrough Museums and the BM which started through the award-winning British Museum in Your Classroom project.

## **2.12 Town Hall**

Highlights from the Autumn season at Middlesbrough Town Hall include Big Country, From The Jam, The Three Degrees, Kenton Cool, Matt Forde, The Vaccines, Scouting For Girls, a Paranormal Halloween Investigation, Lennox Lewis, Milton Jones, Mo Gilligan, Paddy McGuinness and Russell Kane.

Our new classical season launched in October with the Royal Northern Sinfonia & Craig Ogden, with two concerts taking place in December with The Hungarian Radio Orchestra performing Beethoven's Symphony No.7 & the Royal Northern Sinfonia performing RNS Handel's Messiah. We were also delighted to have added in the return of Royal Northern Sinfonia's Viennese New Years concert on 2nd January to start off the New Year & Spring season at the Town Hall. We are currently in discussions with The Glasshouse regarding future plans for the BBC Proms, and how the Town Hall may be able to become a part of this programme.

In November we hosted Teesside University's 25th Animex Festival, which has been running for a number of years within the Town Hall & was a great success. We also hosted the BBC Premiere of Smoggie Queens at the end of November, which was filmed in Teesside earlier this year, ahead of its on-screen debut on BBC Three the following evening.

The delivery of December shows and events, included shows with Cattle & Cane, Christmas By Candlelight, Schools Big Gig Rockin' Christmas, Family Big Gig, PP Arnold, Rob Lamberti, The Southmartins & Orange Pip Christmas.

In the New Year we have some new shows & some returning favourites, Al Murray makes a return in March after his sell out tour show in 2024, An Evening with Jimmy White, Ken Doherty & John Virgo, Teesside Musical Theatre Company will perform for the first time at Middlesbrough Town Hall with a week-long run of Disney's Beauty & The Beast, Chris McCausland returns with a sold- out show

following his recent run on Strictly Come Dancing, Matt Goss will take to the Main Hall stage in March & we are partnering with Middlesbrough Theatre to bring the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of The Tempest in February, rounding off the Spring season with our annual Shine Festival & Shine Schools Festival presented by Musinc.

### **2.13 Musinc**

The Musinc team have enjoyed a very busy period in the run up to Christmas including delivering the following events:

- Schools Big Gig Rockin' Christmas – 900 attendees from 15 local schools and home ed families
- Family Big Gig Rockin Christmas – 120 attendees (up from 60 last year)
- Amplify showcase – 100 audience members across Amplify and the Juniors event. The event featured performances from our own participants as well as young musicians from across the Tees Valley.
- MTH Performing Arts performed 'The North Pole's Got Talent' (written by their tutor team) for an audience of 60 family and friends.

Musinc have also been doing work behind the scenes on their branding and website. Check it out here: [Homepage - Musinc](#)

## **Creative Sector Update**

### **2.14 Seven Stories**

On 12 December, we hosted a visit to Middlesbrough from the CEO and Creative Director of Seven Stories. This followed an earlier visit from a small group of council colleagues from Culture, Education, Libraries and Public Health to Seven Stories in Newcastle in October. Seven Stories are looking at ways to increase their engagement within the Tees Valley and both visits have been opportunities to discuss what this might look like, including everything from working with partners in Middlesbrough to co-deliver programmes of activity, even the possibility of having pop-ups or a satellite of Seven Stories here in Middlesbrough. There is a great deal of enthusiasm on both sides to work closely together in an ambitious way to engage more children and young people with the joy of books and storytelling. Watch this space!

### **2.15 Creative Factory**

Creative Factory is the new charitable company set up by Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership which is delivering against a £2m grant from the government's from the then, Levelling Up Partnerships programme to provide more permanent and accessible space for artists and creatives across Middlesbrough. Thanks to the funding, Creative Factory has already acquired a former retail unit in the town centre and is looking at residential live/work space in Gresham. Work on a business plan and fundraising strategy is ongoing to develop Creative Factory as a voice and strategic lead for the cultural sector locally.

**2.16** I'd like to thank JR, Tracy and the Museums team as well Richard Horniman, Gaye Kirby, Adam Henry, the Town Centre team, Michelle McPhee, Lisa Templeman, Sam Gilmore and Thomas Rhind, Kesia Bruce, JR Bowes, Tracy Roulston, David Lindsey, Middlesbrough Town Hall Team, Middlesbrough Theatre

Team, Museums Team and Teesside Archives Teams for all their hard work during 2024.

- 2.17** I had meeting with various people about events over the upcoming two years. I would like to thank Councillor Morrish and Mr Rathmell and the Middlesbrough Branch of The Royal British Legion for their positive input and ideas into the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day this year.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member Adult Social Care and Public Health

**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 January 2025

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

Reducing inequalities in health

### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

**Update:**

#### 2.1 Public Health Staff Awards Event

Public Health celebrated staff achievements over the last 12 months at an event held on 11 December. Categories included Innovative Practice Award, Improving Lives Award and Community Empowerment Award amongst others. Some achievements celebrated at the event include:

- Public Health's collaborative work with Resident Services to implement a Free School meal auto-enrolment pilot resulting in approximately 800 extra children receiving a free school meal, saving families on average of £400 per year per child and a further £1m in Pupil Premium to the town's schools;
- Middlesbrough's Holiday Activity and Food Programme being in the top 10 nationwide for reaching eligible children and young people;
- the coordinated partnership approach to respond to a measles outbreak in the town resulting in an increase in MMR uptake, reinforcing immunity and reducing future vulnerabilities;
- Established a Lung Health Clinic for drug users at increased risk of respiratory conditions including substance misuse and stop smoking advice and support and a structured physical activity programme. Over 240 clients accessing over the last 12 months, including a 46 year old who had the lung function of a 76 year old. The new service helped him to bring that 18 years closer to his actual age, and
- the successful transfer of the addiction support clinical prescribing service to an in-house model, ensuring a seamless transition that maintained high-quality care for service users.

#### 2.2 Christmas Day Lunch with Age UK

Emma McInnes is working in partnership with Age UK Teesside to provide a Christmas Day lunch for lonely older people in the town who may otherwise spend Christmas Day alone.

### 2.3 Relocation of Live Well Centre

The Live Well Centre has successfully relocated to the Cleveland Centre. A variety of health and wellbeing services can be accessed from Albert Road including stop smoking support, physical activity services and screening services. The new centre will be open from early January.

### 2.4 North Ormesby Resource Centre

Work has now been completed on the refurbishment of the North Ormesby Resource Centre. As a result, two groups from Cumberland Resource Centre relocated on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to become part of a multi-disciplinary provision at North Ormesby, providing day care facilities for elderly people and adults with a learning disability. This is an exciting new venture to promote integration opportunities for individuals requiring day care support.

### 2.5 Cumberland Resource Centre

Cumberland Resource Centre will now become a provision for the development of day care services for adults with autism /learning disabilities. This will open up more opportunities and placements for individuals and help generate some increased income for the council. Work will be ongoing to work closely with partners and professionals to create a centre of excellence.

### 2.6 The Orchard

The Orchard alongside TEWV NHS Foundation Trust continues to support increased demand for individuals with more complex health and social care needs. The partnership works well to deliver excellent services. It has recently purchased a digital interactive platform to enhance learning and development for individuals. Financially the service has generated over £800k income through its creative and personalised care package work.

### 2.7 Middlesbrough Handypersons Service

On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 the Middlesbrough Handyperson Service has been honoured with the prestigious 'Handypersons Team of the Year' award at the National Healthy Housing Awards.

This recognition celebrates their exceptional contributions to the community, including:

- **Supporting Independence:** Providing over 4,300 minor home adaptations and repairs, ensuring residents can live safely and independently.
- **Hospital to Home Transitions:** Facilitating 236 smooth transitions from hospital to home, reducing the risk of falls and readmissions.
- **Assistive Technology:** Installing telecare systems and other devices to enhance safety and peace of mind.
- **Domestic Violence Support:** Implementing security solutions for victims, allowing them to remain safely in their homes.

The team's dedication to innovation, resilience, and inclusivity has significantly improved the well-being of Middlesbrough's residents, aligning with the council's broader objectives of health, safety, and community support.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 January 2025

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 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.

##### KEY FIGURES

- **Number of families accessing early help via Middlesbrough Council:** 658
- **Number of foster carers with Middlesbrough Council:** 80 foster carers, 56 connected carers, looking after a total of 178 children.
- **Number of children in our care:** 505
- **Percentage of children in our care in Education, employment or training:** 88.3% of all children aged five to 18. (96.7% of five to 15 years-olds and 64.5% for 16+.)

#### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

##### Update

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

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.

Staff are continuing our work with multi agency partners to strengthen of our multi agency partnerships, holding bi-monthly Strategic and Operational boards. As outlined previously, professional development, learning and reflection are vital to this service.

This takes place through weekly MACH audits looking at different presenting issues effectiveness and reflecting on practice. The team also facilitates multi agency audits monthly with key partners. The service holds practice and positivity weeks every three months which support our development and celebrated areas of good practice. The most recent Practice and Positivity week took place from Monday 9 December

2024. This was a positive week with direct observations of practice such as triage, strategy meetings and screening discussions with families, across the MACH service, learning and development sessions as well as audits completed by the Head of Service and Service Manager.

The Assessment Service determine what interventions are required after the MACH have dealt with the initial enquiry. The service continues to be a relatively stable staff team with some agency workers in place within the assessment service. There is a real focus on the consistency and quality of assessment, purposeful visits and direct work around the voice of the child and lived daily experience. Practice and Positivity weeks will continue to take place for this team too, to develop practice and celebrate good social work Practice. The next Practice and Positivity week for the assessment service takes place this week.

## **2.2 Early Help via the Stronger Families Service**

The Stronger Families service aims to support families early in order to stop the need for young people being taken into care. Working with families to keep children in a safe home is better for the young person's wellbeing and it is more cost effective.

The Stronger Families Service continues to be a stable service where early help support is provided to 658 families. We are expecting to achieve successful outcomes for 663 families in 2024/25. In line with our drive for continuous improvement, in January the service is hosting a development session 'Back to Basics'.

Middlesbrough received £1,302,900 funding allocation through the government's Supporting Families initiative for early help in 2024/25. Part of the funding is paid on a payment by results basis for achieving successful family outcomes with a minimum number of families. The maximum PBR grant was originally set at 663 successful family outcomes (£530,400). However, this has been reviewed and Middlesbrough has received an additional upfront funding of £73,600 reducing the PBR return grant to £456,800 (571 claims). The first 571 successful family outcomes we report will result in £800 payments per outcome. The subsequent 92 outcomes will not result in further payments as we have, in effect, received the equivalent funding at the start of the financial year. This funding change does not alter the expectations on achieving 663 successful family outcomes in 2024/25.

The National Supporting Families Delivery Officer was due to visit Middlesbrough in December with a focus on our progress against the Early Help Systems Guide (EHSG) and sharing of good practice. This has been postponed to February to allow changes to be in.

## **2.3 Fostering**

The Fostering Service is split into three teams focussing on recruitment, support to current approved carers and support to connected carers – carers within the young person's wider family or friendship circle. Foster carers provide stable and supportive homes for young people and the work they do is more effective in terms of outcomes and cost than residential placements.

We currently have 80 mainstream carers, who provide homes for 102 children. There are 56 temporary and fully approved connected carers, who provide homes for 76 children. Growing the number of foster carers is a priority for us and we have seen some promising results so far. Between April 2024 and December 2024, we recruited 14 new foster carers - this is two and a half times more than all other LAs in the northeast region.

I attended the We Matter Christmas party at MyPlace in December. The event was an excellently organised one, with food and music, a photo station, crafting area and Santa's grotto. Olaf from Frozen was also in attendance. I really enjoyed the opportunity to speak to both children and to foster carers who were honest and insightful about their views of how we can improve the support we offer foster carers.

Former foster carers with Middlesbrough Council Caroline and Gordon McGough have each been awarded an MBE for their work as foster carers. Over 29 years the Acklam couple have fostered more than 90 children and adopted two of them. They have supported young people and allowed them to thrive. Many are still in contact with them and many now have families of their own. Foster carers like the McGough's do incredible work and it's lovely to see their work recognised. I would like to add my congratulations to Gordon and Caroline for all they have done for young people in Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough Council is part of Foster with North East, a partnership of 12 local authorities aimed at increasing recruitment and support for foster carers.

Representatives met in December to discuss whether to continue the project for another two years and we await their proposals for what that would look like.

As part of the work we are doing to review our use of Care Orders (see paragraph 15) We are updating our Special Guardianship Order policy – this relates to a connected family member or family friend taking on caring responsibilities for a young person, short of a full Care Order being issued to bring the young person into local authority care.

As well as looking to discharge Care Orders, staff have reviewed the barriers for family members to caring for a young person. The main barriers are accessing appropriate financial support, services, training and help if situations change as children get older. As a result of this review, we are developing a transformation programme for fostering which will see a team in place to support the assessment of connected carers as well as post-Care Order support. We will also have a formal framework for review, a training package will be further developed to support carers, along with the extension of support groups for carers.

## **2.4 Cared for Children**

Within Middlesbrough there are currently 505 children who are cared for with a further 16 children exiting care. 88.3% of all children in our care aged five and over are in education, employment or training (broken down as 96.7% of five to 15 years-olds and 64.5% of 16+.)

Caseloads for workers remain at a reasonable level in order to support staff to develop relationships with the children and young people and complete work in a timely way. As outlined in the last report, we continue to see increased numbers of children coming through from Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams, which will increase the numbers of children allocated to workers, however managers have a clear oversight of this and allocations are discussed frequently between the services to support effective transitions. During December, we saw the three agency Team Managers convert into permanent Team Manager positions with the authority. In January, we plan to recruit a permanent Service Manager.

The shift in culture has continued within the service for staff at all levels to understand the importance of data alongside improving the quality of the work to children, young people and families. Much progress in ensuring that data accurately reflects the work

of the service has been made, however, some issues do remain. This is being followed up to seek a resolution, so that it is reported correctly. The Team Managers and Service Manager for cared for children continue to collate their data manually in the interim. Measures like assigning children with complex needs, two social workers is proving effective in providing consistency and support to young people.

Care Orders are the legal order by which a young person is taken into Local Authority care. However, sometimes circumstances change and the order can be discharged, or another order – such as a special guardianship order allowing the young person to be cared for by connected family member – might be more appropriate. We were successful in obtaining funding from the DfE to support a review of all children with a Care Order in order to look at whether the right arrangements are in place. This initially started just within CLA teams but has expanded into Safeguarding and Care Planning as well from December 2024. This process takes time and the DfE workers are progressing assessments and reviews. Allocated workers within the team not funded by the DfE continue to progress discharge of Care Orders as well, with a number being successfully discharged or changed to other Orders such as Special Guardianship Orders (SGO).

## **2.5 Pathways team - supporting our young people moving into adulthood**

During November and December, we integrated our Pathways 1, which looks at the transition to adulthood, into CLA team 4. This means that the CLA teams will keep children open to them until they reach 18 years of age, instead of a change at 16 years and then again at 18 years. It was felt that this would be better for young people to have the same oversight, with less changes in Social Workers. This leaves two Pathways teams, now known as Pathways 1 and 2, who support young people aged 18-25.

The care leaver offer is continuing to be developed. This will give those who are care experienced the right start to adult life in Middlesbrough.

Training for Personal Advisors who are assigned to care leavers continues to be a priority to support their work with 18–25-year-olds. Supervisions are now taking place as per the requirements and staff feel supported. Data accuracy remains an issue but staff continue to improve the data we hold on care leavers.

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

The Safeguarding & Care Planning team support children on a Child in Need and Child Protection plans, as well as children that are looked after for up to six months. Our Aspire team sits within this team and focusses on supporting children who are vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking or falling into criminal activity. We continue to monitor closely the number of children allocated to social workers and have seen an increase as children require allocation swiftly from assessment within our Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams. These numbers are higher than we would like. That said the social workers continue to ensure children are seen in timescales required meaning their experiences are understood.

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 the high number of agency staff within the service, turnover of staff remains stable, and one agency worker has converted to permanent in December.

After rising between the summer and October, the numbers of children being subject to a child protection plan appears to have plateaued in the last couple of months. As mentioned in my report in November, a deep dive into the increase in child protection numbers took place and the results will be provided to the Executive Director for Children's Services and myself in due course. The use of panels to consider the circumstances of children subject to child protections for over a year remains effective is giving us assurance that children are not subject to plans for longer than needed and that interventions are effective, and children are supported in the right way across the threshold. At the same time, we continue to monitor children subject to plans for a second time, which is higher than we would aim, to understand if we are ending plans prematurely. Work around this will be undertaken in the New Year. We have seen a similar pattern at lower intervention levels.

We have received some significant and positive feedback from the courts across December, notably a recognition of our use of pre-proceedings before we issue care proceedings to enable quicker and proportionate use of the court to secure permanence for children. In the New Year we will provide briefings to all staff regarding new arrangements for ratifying and reviewing children involved in the Family Justice system, aimed at ensuring we are utilising the court only when necessary and with purpose, building on the progress the court has already noted.

Within Children with Disabilities, staff have worked to ensure we can be clear on performance in line with visiting expectations, and that family's circumstances and need for contact with their social worker is proportionate to need. There are no children who have not had their circumstances reviewed and assessed in over a year giving us a level of assurance that families are receiving support in line with need. We are now focusing on understand the outcomes for children we are trying to achieve with the support packages they have, across the Children with Disabilities service, including short breaks to ensure the resource we are providing has the maximum impact on children and their families. Numbers of children accessing the service remains steady and social workers have adapted well to slightly increased numbers of children allocated in line with the realignment of the structure.

## **2.7 Residential and Supported Accommodation**

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. The commissioned service recruited to manage Holly Lodge in September has been extended in December to the end of March 2025. This is due to a range of options being explored currently regarding the future of the home.

Long term sickness has been impacting on the service and staff have worked additional hours to ensure stability and continuity of care. Staff sickness has been reviewed with HR to ensure timely support is being offered in line with procedures. Vacant posts in other homes continue to be filled.

Our peer support from Islington Borough Council is working with us to focus on trauma-informed practice. For residential service colleague, this has been reflective sessions just for registered managers to support them in their leadership and management.

The service has been working with the safeguarding, care planning & children with disabilities team to strengthen operational delivery in targeted areas such as edge of care. This work is in an early stage of development and links to the transformation of service delivery. Work on the performance scorecard is underway to align residential, resources and supported lodgings performance with other areas of children's services. Whilst there were no external inspections this month, internal audits have continued. The registered managers monthly audits are now shared with the quality assurance team as part of the wider development, feedback and learning to improve consistency of practice.

## **2.8 Learning, Review and Development**

Improving the quality and consistency of practice is a priority for Children's Services as a whole. Our Quality Assurance team have developed and timetabled training and delivered one-to-one support to practitioners in relation to best practice. Upcoming training covers understanding the lived experience of children, voice of the child and recording direct work, analytical assessment training and risk analysis training. Audit training sessions are timetabled for January 2025 for all Childrens Social Care staff who complete audits.

The new cohort of Approach Social Work students (formally Frontline) who joined us in September have now settled in and are beginning to take on greater responsibilities in our work with our children, young people, and their families at a child in need level.

Work also continues in the development of a central SharePoint location, where practitioners will be able to locate and access best practice tools, such as one minute practice guides, direct work tools, guidance materials, practice standards and up to date policies and procedures.

The Independent Reviewing Officer service has completed recruitment for the vacant IRO post, with a new member of the team having joined this month. However, the team sadly experienced high levels of sickness in November.

Our Participation team continues to work with our cared for children and young people to hear from them how we better shape and improve services. They also continue to work within local schools canvassing the views of Middlesbrough children and young people. The Participation team has drafted a refreshed Participation Strategy, within which they are seeking to increase their reach across Middlesbrough's children and young people. In addition to this the team are preparing an annual forecast of events to support increased engagement through allowing people to free up diaries in advance.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

**DATE OF MEETING: 15 January 2025**

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

#### **Update**

##### **1.1 MDC**

The board has agreed to put in £7m into the Gresham development to get it started. MDC has teamed up with property developers iMpeC and Buccleuch Property to deliver a project to rejuvenate Gresham. The funding enables the project to move ahead with planning, detailed design, and construction procurement.

##### **1.2 LiveWell**

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 and is anticipated to be fully operational by the early this 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.

##### **1.3 Employment Hub**

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.

##### **1.4 Odeon Cinema returns to Middlesbrough**

The major cinema brand has secured a new agreement to take over the former Cineworld site and will invest and upgrade the site.

Once the Cineworld tenure on the site concludes in February next year, the refurb will get underway, with hopes to open the new ODEON to the public later in 2025.

## **1.5 Southlands Community Facility**

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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Contractors will be appointed shortly and the construction phase is anticipated to run between January and November 2025.

## **1.6 Local Plan**

A new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Government on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024. A number of significant changes have been made in finalising the NPPF which impact upon the ability to bring the Middlesbrough Publication Local Plan forward under transitional arrangements. These key changes are:

- The transitional period for bringing forward the Local Plan has been extended to 3 months, meaning Publication needs to be reached no later than 12th March 2025;
- The Local Housing Need (LHN) figure for Middlesbrough has been revised downwards from 589 to 522 dwellings per annum; and
- To enable the Local Plan to be taken forward under transitional arrangements it will be necessary for the Local Plan to identify a Housing Requirement of a minimum of 80% of the LHN.

To enable the Local Plan to progress under the transitional arrangements it is necessary to achieve the 80% mark. In order to do this, it will be necessary to lift the Local Plan housing requirement from 400 dwellings per annum proposed in the Draft Local Plan to 420 dwellings per annum. This equates to an additional 380 dwellings over the Plan period. Further work is required to identify how this can be met and delivered, although good recent delivery and the inclusion of a buffer in the Draft Local Plan will help limit the impact of this.

## **Executive Decisions**

### **1.7 Restoration of the Old Town Hall - Heritage Lottery Funding**

Announcement to follow.

### **1.8 Housing Supply (Approved)**

This report approved to allocate money from the Towns Fund (£4m) and Levelling Up Partnership (£2.141m), as set out in the Business Case, to acquire and refurbish properties to increase the supply of housing in order to reduce expenditure on the councils temporary accommodation.

As with all local authorities, Middlesbrough Council is spending increasing sums each year on placing people in expensive temporary accommodation solutions provided by the private sector, in order to comply with legislative duties in relation to homelessness. The rising cost of this temporary accommodation is leading to significant revenue overspends in both Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care. The potential to reduce the amount spent on temporary accommodation has

been identified within the Council's transformation programme, through a series of capital investments aimed at securing a supply of suitable properties within the Council's control. Funding has been identified to support this capital investment through the Towns Fund, and Levelling Up Partnership, that would allow costs to be reduced, and secure better outcomes for families, single people with complex needs, and young people leaving care. If implemented, the measures in the report should see a reduction in temporary homelessness costs and provision of external residential care for care leavers of £2.091m over a five year period.

**1.9 Southlands Centre (Approved)**

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 January 2025

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 27 November 2024, in addition to my regular meetings with the Director of ECS I have:

- Attended a meeting with Councillor Morrish to ensure that issues concerning motorcyclists are considered in highways policy.
- Attended a meeting with Deputy Mayor Councillor Storey and Boro Doughnut CIC to discuss the Council's waste management policy.
- Conducted a site visit to Nunthorpe ward with Councillor McClintock to hear representations on current traffic and parking issues in Nunthorpe and consider potential ways to address them.
- Attended a meeting to discuss local allotment policies.

### 2. WORKS UPDATE

#### 2.1. Traffic signal, junction and crossing upgrades

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Road / Brentnall Street – Due February 2025
- Junction upgrade to Marton Road JCUH – Due January 2025
- Junction upgrade to Newport Road / Marsh Street – To be replaced by Linthorpe Road / Park Road South
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Road / Linthorpe Road – Due February 2025.

#### 2.2 Highways

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

To date, 10 of the planned 15 verge works have been completed and 16 of the planned 27 footway projects have been completed.

### **2.3 Transporter Bridge**

Digital monitoring of the movement of the bridge continues and will feed into the design and repairs going forward. Discussions 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 Newport Bridge**

Further works are required to the bearings which will be programmed for Summer 2025.

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.

### **2.5 Newport Approach Road Bridge & Structures**

The main works are now completed. The vehicle restraint system will require a temporary barrier installing on both sides of the road, with alterations to the road layout to 3 running lanes. Design work for the barrier continues with traffic flow checks and a road safety audit being undertaken before installation takes place. Lane closures using traffic cones will continue to be in place until the temporary barriers are installed.

Street lighting and anti-graffiti coating to the underside of Ayresome Road / Cannon Street will be undertaken in January / February 2025. Emergency works to the parapet railings on the footway / cycle ramp were scheduled to be completed in the week ending 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and a landing plate on the cast iron steps has been finished.

Going forward, works to replace / rebuild the footways on the main part of the approach structures will be programmed over the next 2-3 years, subject to funding. This work will involve a full assessment of the footway structures, design works, listed building consent, and stakeholder consultation and agreement. An inspection of the underside of the footways over the rail lines took place overnight on 17 November 2024 where loose concrete was removed from the underneath of the footways; netting will be installed in April 2025 (rail closure date to be confirmed) as an additional precautionary measure until such time that the footways can be repaired.

### **2.6 Principal and General Bridge Inspections**

The general inspections of 169 structures are near completion with the last block of inspections being carried out. Many of the reports were received in November last year, and officers are currently undertaking a checking procedure on these. Some of the principal inspections on structures over rail lines are awaiting the agreed access from Network Rail. Evidence from the reports is being used to update the backlog of works and delivery programme.

## **2.7 Longlands Road overbridge**

The bridge is the subject of a full structural and principal inspection which was due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024, with the report due in early 2025, The inspection has been delayed due to Network Rail withdrawing their availability – a further inspection is being booked in for January 2025. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design, principal designer, Approval in Principle 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.

## **2.8 A66**

Assessment of the scope of works for repairs to the Hartington Interchange concrete piers is ongoing. The ground investigation has shown a slight void within the carriageway, which will need additional investigation prior to the design works taking place. 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 later in the 2025/26 season. Works are planned to be completed in year 2026-27.

## **2.9 Borough Road Flyover**

Concrete testing works and a report are due to be undertaken on the Borough Road Flyover. 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.

## **2.10 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge**

Work on the A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge will include replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. The contract has now been signed and a start-up meeting with the contractors is booked to take place in early January 2025. Following the design and parapet manufacturing phase, physical works are due to take place in the summer holidays 2025.

## **2.11 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges**

The following are all planned: painting; installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages; structural repairs to piers and decks; new bearings; concrete repairs; other repairs; and lighting installation. The design phase is due to end soon. The next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

## **2.12 A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges:**

Works to repair the waterproofing/ resurfacing and install new bridge joints was completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspection for any snagging issues of the works is taking place and we await the principal inspection report.

## **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.

## **2.14 Carriageways**

The 2024-25 resurfacing programme is ongoing.

The contractors have progressed on the smaller unclassified roads while the Christmas Embargo ensured minimum disruption to the travelling public during the festive season.

To date, 53% of the unclassified and 50% of the classified resurfacing schemes have been completed.

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 Council's website.

The 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.

## **2.15 Street Lighting**

The 2024/25 column replacement programme is still ongoing in various roads throughout the town; there has been a pause in the programme due to column supply issues. The programme is expected to resume at the end of January 2025.

Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 and TS3 with funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## **3. ADVERSE WEATHER RESPONSE**

Staff are continuing with our Winter Maintenance programme which includes cutting by hand and use of our own tractor side arm and one that has been hired. This will help us to cover any break downs, weather problems and staffing holidays.

During Storm Darragh, staff were on call for any potential tree problems in which they were called out a total of 18 times over the weekend of 7/12/24 and 8/12/24. Storm-related call outs included a tree that had fallen onto a car on the A172 Nunthorpe bypass, as well as one that had fallen onto a care home on Marton Road. The staff from the Home were relieved to see Council staff provide assistance.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member for Finance

**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 January 2025

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 of Finance and Transformation as well as frequent additional meetings and contact with them and other officers as appropriate.

### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Update:**

#### 2.1 Budget and Budget Consultation

On December 04 the 2025/26 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2028/29 report was considered by Executive and it was agreed that the budget proposals go forward for consultation. An all-member briefing was held on this subject on 21 November and slides were subsequently distributed to all members including those unable to attend.

I jointly led, with the Mayor on budget consultation sessions with the public which were held in December at three venues this year at Thorntree, Marton and Acklam. I'd like to thank all the residents who attended, staff at the hubs, our Comms Team for publicising the events, councillors who agreed to act as chair and officers who attended and supported the sessions.

The consultation events were publicised via our website, social media and featured on Teesside Live. In addition, emails were sent to those on the council's residents' database and over 13,000 people opened the email and saw the information via that method. Councillors were also invited to publicise in their own wards.

Despite this the numbers were significantly down on last year, perhaps because the proposals were less contentious and of course anyone can take part in the consultation online.

The online survey closes at midnight on Wednesday 08 January 2025.

The results of the consultation will be incorporated as part of the budget reports that will go firstly to Executive and then for approval by full Council on 19 February 2025.

[Budget 2025-2026 | Middlesbrough Council.](#)

## **2.2 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS)**

On December 18 2024, the Government announced the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS).

As is the case each year, this involves a lot of analysis by our officers before the position is clear. However members were advised by email of 19 December that on initial assessment, there is quite a lot of change in how funding is allocated when comparing 2025/26 with 2024/25, with several specific grants being 'rolled in' to the calculation of Revenue Support Grant.

As was expected, there are a number of new 'one off' grants announced for 2025/26, which provides some short-term relief for local authorities in financial distress, whilst the Government embark upon the 2025 Spending Review and implement reform of the funding allocation methodology that will determine ongoing funding levels that will apply for financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29.

A full assessment of the impact of the PLGFS upon Middlesbrough's Medium Term Financial Plan was being undertaken over the Christmas period and an all member briefing will be arranged for early in the New Year.

The level of revenue funding available for each local authority is measured by central government by Core Spending Power, which includes revenue grant funding, locally retained Business Rates and Council Tax (with an assumed 4.99% total increase in Council Tax).

The headline for Middlesbrough under the provisional settlement is an 8.8% increase in Core Spending Power compared to 2024/25, compared to a 6.0% average increase nationally.

This will be a one-year settlement for 2025/26, which as the Government says includes additional funding with targeted money towards areas with greater need and demand for services and less ability to raise income locally, which will be particularly welcome in areas such as Middlesbrough.

Members may recall that the new Labour Government has announced a spending review which will include long overdue reforms to council funding. An announcement is due in Spring 2025 with 3-year settlement expected for 2026/27 to 2028/29. Therefore, uncertainty remains at this stage at what this will mean for funding for Middlesbrough and other local authorities beyond 2025/26, until there is more clarity on financial reform and three-year settlements are announced.

### **2.3 Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter Two 2024/25**

Following on from the Quarter Two Budget Challenge sessions, on December 04 I presented a report to the Executive, which was also considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 18 December 2024 which provided the Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter Two or at 30 September 2024.

The forecast 2024/25 revenue outturn as at the end of Quarter Two is a projected year-end overspend of £1.382m, if no further actions are successful in reducing this further. This is an improvement from the £3.742m reported at Quarter One, but further actions are required to bring expenditure within the approved budget of £143.190m.

Financial Recovery Plan savings of £0.498m have currently been identified through the budget challenge process, which if fully delivered could reduce the forecast year-end overspend to £0.884m

Any underspend against the approved budget would reduce the Council's need to draw down Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) and avoid associated capital financing costs of borrowing.

The forecast year-end overspend of £1.382m currently includes £2.481m of net savings included in the 2024/25 budget, where there is a high risk that they will not be deliverable in 2024/25. These are currently offset by £1.099m of operational underspends. If these savings remain unachievable at year end, a proportion of the £3.5m Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) agreed in-principle for this purpose could be utilised to cover these unachieved savings up to a maximum of the total overspend at 31 March 2025. The cost of borrowing for this purpose is already factored into the MTFP. If there was an element of any overspend at 31 March 2025 which was not linked to savings delivery, this would fall to be met from revenue reserves, but this is currently not forecast to be the case.

However, it remains my aim that we return within budget by the end of the financial year.

### **2.4 Household Support Fund**

In my last report to Council I outlined how central government funding, provided by the extension of the Household Support Fund would be used to assist those pensioners on low incomes, or liable to higher heating bills due to disability, who would not be eligible to received the Winter Fuel Payment this year.

This includes:

- 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.

Councillors may wish to share the following information with pensioners in their ward.

Those who will be paid automatically.

The payments are made by bank transfer. Where the resident is in receipt of Council Tax Reduction and the council already hold the details of the resident's bank account no application will be required, and we will make the payments w/c 20th January. The council already holds bank details for 1,071 residents and they will receive the letter to advise them of the automatic award w/c 13 January 2025. (These will be people who applied and provided their details in the last scheme of the Household Support Fund.)

Those who will be invited to apply.

There are a further 952 residents who from records already held, such as for Council Tax Reduction, are believed to be eligible that the council will write to with a short application form on the back of the letter to ask for the necessary details to make the award.

Those who will need to apply themselves.

Anyone the council doesn't already hold details for will need to apply. There will be an online application form that anyone can use if they believe they fit any of the criteria for awards. Applications would be required from those in receipt of Attendance Allowance but not getting the Winter Fuel Payment and pensioners not on Council Tax Reduction as the council don't have any way to automate those payments or to know who would be eligible. These are the people who are likely to be the most difficult to reach and it would be very helpful if councillors would publicise the scheme in their wards.

Payments and application forms open w/c 20th January. For those who need to make an application, the forms will be processed and payments made within 21 days.

I will be liaising with the Communications Team regarding publicity on this.

Further details of the schemes for pensioners will be available on the council website by following this link which already gives details of assistance available for other households both in receipt of and not in receipt of benefits.

[Household Support Fund | Middlesbrough Council](#)

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS

**DATE OF MEETING: 15 January 2025**

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

##### Strategic Priority:

- Neighbourhoods
- Neighbourhood Safety
- Community Cohesion

##### Directorate Priorities:

- Further develop the Neighbourhood Model
- Reduce crime and ASB through partnership working
- Build Community Resilience and Cohesion across Middlesbrough

#### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAP's) have been introduced across Middlesbrough in the 4 areas i.e. North, East, South and West. These are multi-agency partnership forums aimed at giving elected members a voice in how services are delivered in Middlesbrough. In addition to the NAP's, we also have 4 locality hubs based in each of the areas. This is where multi-agency teams work together on a daily basis to tackle the issue that matter most to local residents and businesses.

This report highlights some of the initiatives and success the past month.

##### Town Wide

#### 2.2 Operational Community Safety

Community Safety Service Requests (November 2024 – October 2024)  
Service requests received by the Neighbourhood safety officers (NSO), street wardens, and Enviro wardens combined in the period decreased from 2226 in October 2024 to 1991 reports in November – a decrease of 10.5% (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	1						5	6	-31
Ayresome	6			27	6		12	51	25
Berwick Hills & Pallister	12	10		58	5	3	185	273	-30
Brambles & Thorntree	12	14		27	3	6	74	136	-69
Central	48	4	6	43	25	5	202	333	-51
Coulby Newham	5	2		29	2		81	119	48
Hemlington	5	4		28	11		81	129	-25
Kader	2	2		1	1		6	12	-6
Ladgate	4	5		21	3		13	46	21
Linthorpe	3			13	6		13	35	1
Longlands & Beechwood	13	12		31	9	1	34	100	34
Marton East	2	3		3	2	1	39	50	4
Marton West				3			15	18	-17
Newport	18	4		56	12		33	123	-30
North Ormesby	8	2		26	8		129	173	6
Nunthorpe		2		4			42	48	5
Park	8	1		55	13	1	28	106	32
Park End & Beckfield	5	6		49	8	3	88	159	-143
Stainton & Thornton				1	1		36	38	-8
Trimdon	2			1	2		18	23	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>-235</b>

## North

### 2.3 Working together to reduce food inequalities

Being a Neighbourhood Safety Warden isn't always about enforcement. Our Wardens are also on hand to help members of the public and refer to them to much needed support services when needed.

PCSO's from Cleveland Police Neighbourhood Team received 20 boxes of non-perishable food items from the "Feeding Families" charity. It was suggested the boxes be donated to Breckon Hill Community Centre who do a lot of work in the local community to address food poverty through their Eco Shop and Food Cycle events.

Getting the boxes of food to Breckon Hill was the difficult bit, but the Council's Neighbourhood Safety Warden Service came to the rescue and co-ordinated the distribution with the Wardens our staff and the PCSOs to get the parcels to Breckon Hill.

The manager at Breckon Hill was delighted with the boxes, which were used to add to hampers that were distributed to 70 families.

### 2.4 First Aid

Street Wardens also assisted an 87-year-old male who had fallen over in one of our Town Centre car parks. First aid was given after a full assessment was carried out. The male was taken to hospital as a safety precaution by his son.

## 2.5 My Place

Christmas started early with a visit to Brownlee care home, the youth club members supported by Grassroots Music performed Christmas carols for the elderly residents. They took part in an Intergenerational performance at Morrisons on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December where Care Home residents and members of My Place Choir performed.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December a Christmas performance and Party took place where everyone enjoyed Pizza, parmas and lots of sweet treats. As well as young people, their families also attended.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December they held an interactive Panto party which was well attended, and additional activity also took place between Christmas and New Year with Grassroots music delivering the HAF programme at Myplace.

## East

2.6 The multi-agency neighbourhood team identified people involved in ASB in and around Beresford shops in Thorntree. They carried out joint visits and issued warning letters, Thirteen tenants have also been served with tenancy breach warning letters. Since these actions have been carried out the ASB issues and concerns have reduced in this location.

## 2.7 Off Road Bike Located

Proactive patrols and listening to residents in the community has assisted us in locating this off-road motorbike in Pallister Park. The neighbourhood police team have recovered the bike which was stolen from out of area. This further enhances the value of collaborative working and the importance of community intelligence.



## 2.8 Community Protection Warnings

2 Community protection warnings have been issued to people who have caused ASB outside and in and around the Live Well East entrance after receiving reports from members of the public of anti-social behaviour.

## 2.9 Business welfare checks and foot patrols

Neighbourhood safety wardens have carried out regular business welfare checks and foot patrols across East Middlesbrough the result of which has been community engagement and attending events at various locations across East Middlesbrough.

### 2.10 House Closure – Dunsley Close

The neighbourhood team have collaborated with Thirteen and through proactive patrols and reports were able to gather enough evidence to start the process of a house closure for a problematic address that was having a negative effect within the locality.

### 2.11 North Ormesby

Hub staff have been supporting the victim of a serious house fire which occurred in North Ormesby. The property owner has been visited and offered lots of support. Big Local agreed to do an emergency fund to buy him winter clothes, food, toiletries, dog food, water and other items to give him. Our Area Care Team were a great help in clearing some of the waste away from the property. A collection was made from the multi-bank, which contained cleaning products to help the resident.

### 2.12 Clear Hold Build

A new initiative named Clear Hold Build Survey has been introduced in East Middlesbrough. The purpose of the survey is to identify how safe/unsafe residents feel and what their current concerns are.

The closing date for the online survey is the end of January 2025 and the link is below. <https://arcg.is/0aSPCX0>

We are also going to produce a paper version for those who may not be able to access the survey online. These will be printed and completed by Wardens, PCSOs, Thirteen Housing and the East Neighbourhood Team. Staff will be utilising Thirteen's mobile pop up vehicle in hot spot locations and shopping precincts as we hope to encourage lots of residents in East Middlesbrough to complete this survey.

## South

### 2.13 Hemlington

- A Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO attended a wooded area near Hemlington Lake after intelligence was received regarding potential stolen motorbikes. Both bikes were recovered, and owners informed, unfortunately one was beyond repair.





- The Neighbourhood team have been successful in applying for a youth anti-social behaviour injunction in Hemlington.
- Area Care Operatives, Mayor Chris Cooke and Cllr Nicky Walker planted six thorny bushes to try and deter ASB in a wooded area at Phoenix Park.



## **Christmas**

### **2.14 Marton Library**

A Christmas Felt Workshop and Christmas Wreath Making Workshop took place at Marton Library.

### **2.15 Hemlington Library and Community Hub**

An angel craft workshop took place that was well received by the local community and they made over 400 paper angels for the Angel Festival at Stainton with Hemlington Parish Church.



## Cohesion and Migration

### 2.16 Community Voices

The Neighbourhood team attended the third session of Community Voices, organised by LocalMotion, at the Methodist Asylum Project. This was an opportunity to speak about kindness – where we had demonstrated or exhibited it. Participants also worked together on developing a logo for Community Voices.

### 2.17 Neighbourhoods South Health and Wellbeing

The Neighbourhood team has organised a monthly health and wellbeing walk around Hemlington that includes a litterpick. It was a great opportunity to spend some time outdoors, away from screens, engage with members of the community, and help in making the area cleaner. The team also came across a message of kindness left by local residents.



## West

### 2.18 Longlands & Beechwood

After complaints were made to our Neighbourhood Officer, Neighbourhood Safety Wardens have been undertaking parking patrols around Beech Grove Primary School. It was reported that parents have been parking on the zigzag lines whilst dropping off and picking up their children from school. Patrols have been carried out in the Parking Enforcement Camera Vehicle and a number of parking tickets have been issued. Giving a clear message that we will take action against those ignoring the parking restrictions in place.



The Neighbourhood team attended a Crime Prevention and Awareness Event alongside partners at Grove Hill Community Hub. Advice and information was given to residents on how to report incidents of Crime and ASB and also how to access support services. Crime Prevention items were also given to residents including timer switches, window alarms and UV marker pens.



## 2.19 Easterside Library and Community Hub

The 'warm space' hosted by Easterside partnership has now become very popular with local residents. Each session has around 10 attending, providing a safe and secure warm space to meet on Thursdays 10-12pm.

A Middlesbrough Community Learning wreath making session was well attended with 10 residents enjoying a catch up and making some beautiful wreaths.

Easterside Community hub supported a local family that had tragically lost a small child unexpectedly. Staff supported the family to help provide a wake that children could attend after school. The family really appreciated the help at this sad time.

A Community pie and pea event took place in December with the session seeing 30 local residents taking part. The local residents look forward to getting together "we had pie and peas and a good old sing along. All looking forward to the next one".

Rhyme time finished the year with a lovely Christmas party for the children with a visit from Santa.



## 2.20 Grove Hill Library and Community Hub

Kids Kabin have now moved into Grove Hill hub to run weekly youth sessions on a Tuesday and Friday 3.30-5pm. The sessions are going well, and children are now getting to know the new location.

Zoni fit ran Feast of Fun sessions throughout the holidays, they were open to all to attend.



Grove Hill friends of baby and toddler group held their end of year Christmas party. All the children enjoyed meeting Santa and the families are looking forward to coming back in the new year.

Grove Hill continues to be well used by outside agencies for meetings and training sessions.

## 2.21 Acklam library and Community Hub

Warm Spaces and Friendly Faces started in November. The weekly session encourages people to socialise in a warm space, play games and take part in a quiz.



We had a visit from 2 local authors, Imagination Tails, who read their book 'Spooks Shadow' to the Tots Tales group.

The Friends of Acklam Library / Age UK Teesside Coffee Morning welcomed the Police Community Engagement Team on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, where they chatted to attendees about all sorts of issues.

## 2.22 Rhyme Time Christmas Party

We celebrated Christmas with a visit to Santa in his Grotto. 30 Families took part in Rhyme time, made a Christmas tree ornament, and had refreshments. It was then time to visit Santa in his grotto.



## 2.23 Acklam Community Hub & Library Annual Quiz

30 people attended the quiz. All had a great time and the Friends of Acklam Library announced the winner of their Christmas hamper prize draw.



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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				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Corporate Performance Q2 2024/25	<b>The Mayor submitted a report for Executive’s consideration. The purpose of the report was to advise Executive of corporate performance at the end of Quarter Two 2024/2025, and where appropriate sought approval of any changes, where those were within the authority of the Executive.</b>	No
17 Dec 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	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
17 Dec 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	Partnership Governance Policy	Approve the refreshed policy	No
17 Dec 2024	Executive	Surveillance Policy	annual approval sought in line with statutory guidance that the policy	No

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
	Member - The Mayor		should be reviewed annually by elected Members	
<b>Executive Member - Development</b>				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Housing Supply	The Executive Member for Development submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The report sought Executive approval to implement a cohesive and co-ordinated approach to providing a housing supply model that addressed the needs of residents at risk. This included those at risk of homelessness, particularly families, single people with complex needs and young care leavers within Middlesbrough. This would also help to reduce the significant financial costs to the Council of providing temporary accommodation.	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Environment and Sustainability</b>				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Highway Infrastructure Delivery Plan update	The Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability submitted a report for Executive's consideration the purpose of which was is to update the Highway Infrastructure Delivery Plan which had been aligned with updated traffic modelling, transport policy and government strategy.	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Linthorpe Road Cycleway	The Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability submitted a report for Executive's consideration.  Removal of the cycle lane was identified as a political priority for the Council. Tees Valley Combined Authority commissioned WSP Engineering Consultants to produce a design that fits political aspirations of returning the corridor back to a pre-cycle lane scheme.  Middlesbrough Council had reviewed the design and the commissioned Road Safety Audit.	Yes



DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
4 Dec 2024	Executive	2024/25 Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Forecast Outturn	The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report discharges the responsibilities of the Executive to manage and control the revenue budget, capital programme and overall balance sheet position of the Council.	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Empty Properties Strategy - Domestic	<p>The Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Development submitted a report for Executive's consideration.</p> <p>According to data extracted from council tax records for 7 October 2024, 2,695 homes were empty in Middlesbrough. Empty homes were monitored and tracked through a corporate dashboard which provided a comprehensive overview of the Council's current position.</p>	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25: Mid-Year Review	The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to provide an important update to Executive on performance relating to the Council's borrowing, investments, and cash-flow for the 2024/25 financial year to meet the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Local Government Act 2003.	No

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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
<b>Executive Member - Development</b>				
8 Jan 2025	Executive	EXEMPT Restoration of the Old Town Hall - Heritage Lottery Funding	Following Executive approval in July 2022 an application was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to restore and reopen the Old Town Hall (OTH) for commercial use. This report details the outcome of the two stage bid process.	Yes
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Publication Local Plan - update	This report is an update to the final Local Plan which is due for agreement in March 2025.	No
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Publication of the Local Plan - Update	To update Executive on the new National Planning Policy Framework and the impact it has had on the preparation of the Publication Local Plan.	No
<b>Executive Member - Neighbourhoods</b>				
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Community Recovery Fund	To examine the background and impact of the social unrest and identify projects that can build on social cohesion	Yes

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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				
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
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Corporate Performance Q2 2024/25	<b>The Mayor submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to advise Executive of corporate performance at the end of Quarter Two 2024/2025, and where appropriate sought approval of any changes, where those were within the authority of the Executive.</b>	No
17 Dec 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	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
17 Dec 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	Partnership Governance Policy	Approve the refreshed policy	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
17 Dec 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	Surveillance Policy	annual approval sought in line with statutory guidance that the policy should be reviewed annually by elected Members	No
5 Feb 2025	Executive	ICT: Roadmap to Transformation	The report summarises the need to procure a direct award to our current transformation partner to facilitate, coordinate and deliver the remainder of the ICT service maturity exercise and applications rationalisation work.	Yes
<b>Deputy Mayor and Executive Member - Education and Culture</b>				
5 Mar 2025	Executive	SHiFT Progress Report	The report is going to Executive to give an update on the progress of the SHiFT programme	No
<b>Executive Member - Adult Social Care and Public Health</b>				
5 Feb 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 Mar 2025	Executive	Director of Public Health Annual Report	Directors of Public Health have a statutory requirement to write an annual independent report on the health of their population. The report is to raise awareness and understanding of local health issues, highlight areas of specific concern, and make recommendations for	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			change	
5 Mar 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
<b>Executive Member - Children's Services</b>				
<b>Executive Member - Development</b>				
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
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Housing Supply	The Executive Member for Development submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The report sought Executive approval to implement a cohesive and co-ordinated approach to providing a housing supply model that addressed the needs of residents at risk. This included those at risk of homelessness, particularly families, single people with complex needs and young care leavers within Middlesbrough. This would also help to reduce the significant financial costs to the Council of providing temporary accommodation.	Yes
8 Mar 2025	Executive	Publication Local Plan	*Full Council*	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			<p>The decision to approve the Publication Local Plan is a non-executive function, and must be made the Full Council, in accordance The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and the Council's constitution.</p> <p>The Publication Local Plan will form the main part of the Statutory Development Plan for the borough (subject to Independent Examination) and, as such, will alter the Council's Policy Framework.</p>	
8 Jan 2025	Executive	EXEMPT Restoration of the Old Town Hall - Heritage Lottery Funding	Following Executive approval in July 2022 an application was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to restore and reopen the Old Town Hall (OTH) for commercial use. This report details the outcome of the two stage bid process.	Yes
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Publication Local Plan - update	This report is an update to the final Local Plan which is due for agreement in March 2025.	No
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Publication of the Local Plan - Update	To update Executive on the new National Planning Policy Framework and the impact it has had on the preparation of the Publication Local Plan.	No
5 Feb 2025	Executive Sub-Committee for Property	EXEMPT The Disposal of Land at Hemlington Grange South	This report seeks Executive approval for the disposal of Hemlington Grange South, following a competitive bidding process, to the preferred bidder for housing development	No
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Cemetery Provision	Setting out the future plan for cemetery provision.	Yes
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Review of the Statement of Community Involvement	To seek approval for revisions to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement	No



DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
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
<b>Executive Member - Environment and Sustainability</b>				
31 Oct 2024	6) 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
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Highway Infrastructure Delivery Plan update	The Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability submitted a report for Executive's consideration the purpose of which was is to update the Highway Infrastructure Delivery Plan which had been aligned with updated traffic modelling, transport policy and government strategy.	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Linthorpe Road Cycleway	<p>The Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability submitted a report for Executive's consideration.</p> <p>Removal of the cycle lane was identified as a political priority for the Council. Tees Valley Combined Authority commissioned WSP Engineering Consultants to produce a design that fits political aspirations of returning the corridor back to a pre-cycle lane scheme.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council had reviewed the design and the commissioned Road Safety Audit.</p>	Yes
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Linthorpe Road Cycleway	The report is being considered following Political decision to remove	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			the cycleway	
<b>Executive Member - Finance</b>				
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
4 Dec 2024	Executive	2024/25 Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Forecast Outturn	The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report discharges the responsibilities of the Executive to manage and control the revenue budget, capital programme and overall balance sheet position of the Council.	Yes
5 Nov 2024	Executive	2025/26 Budget and MTFP	The Mayor and the Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The report was a key stage in the budget development process for 2025/26 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the four-year period to 2028/29. It presented budget and council tax proposals that would achieve a legally balanced budget for 2025/26; a balanced position for 2026/27 with a remaining budget gap in 2027/28 and 2028/29.	Yes
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Capital and Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 – 2028/29	Description of why it's going to Exec: Key decision and major element of budget strategy approach for the Council for the next financial year.	Yes
5 Feb 2025	Executive	Calculation of Council Tax Base for 2025/26	The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The report was 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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Empty Properties Strategy - Domestic	<p>The Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Development submitted a report for Executive's consideration.</p> <p>According to data extracted from council tax records for 7 October 2024, 2,695 homes were empty in Middlesbrough. Empty homes were monitored and tracked through a corporate dashboard which provided a comprehensive overview of the Council's current position.</p>	Yes
4 Dec 2024	Executive	Treasury Management Strategy 2024-25: Mid-Year Review	The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report was to provide an important update to Executive on performance relating to the Council's borrowing, investments, and cash-flow for the 2024/25 financial year to meet the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Local Government Act 2003.	No
5 Mar 2025	Executive	Annual Procurement report 23/24	Annual report on procurement activity for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024	No
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
5 Feb 2025	Executive	2025/26 Budget and MTFP	The Mayor and the Executive Member for Finance will submit the 25/26 budget for Executive's consideration. The report is a key stage in the budget development process for 2025/26 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the four-year period to 2028/29. It will present budget and council tax proposals that would achieve a legally balanced budget for 2025/26; a balanced position for 2026/27 with a remaining budget gap in 2027/28 and 2028/29.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
5 Feb 2025	Executive	2024/25 Quarter 3 Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Forecast Outturn	The Executive Member for Finance submitted a report for Executive's consideration. The purpose of the report discharges the responsibilities of the Executive to manage and control the revenue budget, capital programme and overall balance sheet position of the Council.	Yes
5 Feb 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 Mar 2025	Executive	Tender Pipeline Report	Annual report to present the anticipated future tender pipeline activity for the Council for the next 18 months	Yes
5 Mar 2025	Executive	Corporate Crisis Policy	This Policy is being tabled as it is the 3 year review and we are seeking approval.	Yes
<b>Executive Member - Neighbourhoods</b>				
8 Jan 2025	Executive	Community Recovery Fund	To examine the background and impact of the social unrest and identify projects that can build on social cohesion	Yes

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	The Mayor
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	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 18 December 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

1. Corporate Performance: Quarter Two 2024/25
2. Executive Member Update – Finance
3. 2024/25 Quarter Two Revenue and Capital Monitoring and Forecast Outturn
4. 2025/26 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 and 2028/29 Executive Forward Work Programme
5. Forward Plan Information Updates
  - a. CAPEX – Municipal Buildings Roof Repair
6. Scrutiny Chairs' Updates

4.3 Members received a presentation from the Executive Member for Finance, in relation to her portfolio. The Executive Member highlighted the current challenges and opportunities within the Finance portfolio and set out her priorities with a key focus on ensuring the Council delivered within budget for the current financial year and achieved a balanced budget in 2025/26.

4.4 The Board also considered the draft 2025/26 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025/26 and 2028/29, as part of the budget consultation.

4.5 The Board's next meeting is scheduled for 22 January 2025.

## **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**

The People Scrutiny Panel met on 16 December 2024 and continued its review of Children Missing Education (CME) with a presentation from The Head of Inclusion around Permanent Exclusion. In addition, the Public Health Practitioner was in attendance and presented the Tees Suicide Prevention – Strategic Plan 2024-2029

and the Independent Chair of the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), was in attendance and presented the TSAB's Annual Report 2023-24.

The next meeting is scheduled for 20 January 2025; the Panel will continue its investigation into CME by inviting representatives from schools to this meeting, to seek their views on how CME affects their schools. Headteachers will also be given the opportunity to provide written commentary for the Panel to consider, should they not be able to attend the meeting. The Panel will also receive an overview in relation to the next topic of investigation; Homelessness.

#### **5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel**

5.5 The Place Scrutiny Panel met on 2 December 2024 and continued its review of Empty Properties. The Executive Director of Customer Services from Thirteen attended and gave a presentation in relation to the actions the Company is undertaking to address the issue of empty properties in Middlesbrough and bring them back into use.

5.6 The Panel agreed Terms of Reference for the review of Empty Properties which had been drafted by the Empty Properties Task and Finish Group.

5.7 The Home to School Transport Task and Finish Group provided an update on information collected from several schools in relation to home to school transport for inclusion as evidence for the scrutiny investigation.

5.8 At the meeting on 6 January 2025, the Panel received annual updates on Prevent and Channel and the Community Safety Partnership.

#### **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.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 January 2025 and will take place at Hartlepool Civic Centre. The Committee will consider several items, including: Clinical Services Strategy Update – Group Model; Improving Palliative and End of Life Care Across the Tees Valley; NEAS: Staff Safety and Performance Update; and Tees Respite Care/ Short Breaks Service Update.

#### **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)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Impact</b>						
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><b>Risk No</b></th> <th><b>Risk Description</b></th> <th><b>Impact</b></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>	<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>	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.
<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>					
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)**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>

**Appendices**



1	
2	
3	

**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

**Contact: Charlotte Benjamin**

**Email: [charlotte\\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
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<b>Relevant Executive Member</b>	Mayor, Chris Cooke
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2025
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<b>Title:</b>	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan - progress report
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Subject to call in?</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
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That Council:

- **AGREES** that the Section 24 Action plan is formally closed.
- **AGREES** the change control outlined in the report at 6.1 to close CT5.07 in the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, *Monitoring of Appraisal completions - 95% of staff in work to have had an appraisal.*
- **NOTES** the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.
- **NOTES** the Corporate Peer Challenge which is currently underway and will inform the Council's future continuous improvement activity.

## Executive summary

This report sets out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

It also sets out an update against the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors and a recommendation to close that plan following delivery of all actions and the outcome of the latest Value for Money judgement made by the Council's new External Auditors which contains no statutory recommendations.

## 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:

- **AGREES** that the Section 24 Action plan is formally closed.
- **AGREES** the change controls outlined in the report at 6.1 to close CT5.07 in the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, *Monitoring of Appraisal completions - 95% of staff in work to have had an appraisal.*
- **NOTES** the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan
- **NOTES** the Corporate Peer Challenge which is currently underway and will inform the Council's future continuous improvement activity.

## 3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The report demonstrates that the Council has responded effectively and at pace to deliver the improvements set out in both the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the Section 24 report.

## 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 set out that all activity in that plan is now complete, 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.

4.3 This report is being considered by Council on 15 January 2025. During this week the Council is taking part in an independent Corporate Peer Challenge, led by the Local

Government Association. The outcome of this process will be presented to Council in due course and inform future continuous improvement activity. It is expected that an update will be provided to Council at the March meeting.

**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:	
<b>BLUE - COMPLETE</b>	Activity delivered in full
<b>GREEN – ON TRACK</b>	Delivery plan activities are on track and / or a or above standard
<b>AMBER – OFF TRACK</b>	Delivery plan activities are < 5% below standard
<b>RED – OFF TRACK</b>	Delivery plan activities are > 5% below standard
<b>IMPACT - NO CHANGE</b>	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
<b>IMPACT MET – NO (AMBER)</b>	Performance measures for this workstream are within 5% of the target
<b>IMPACT MET – NO (RED)</b>	Performance measures for this workstream are below target by more than five%
<b>IMPACT TREND – MIXED CHANGES</b>	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
<b>Corporate Governance Improvement Plan</b>	5% (5/95)	0% (0/95)	95% (87/95)	100%
<b>Section 24 Action plan</b>	0% (0/47)	0% (0/47)	100% (47/47)	100% All activity now delivered

5.3 The above table shows that 100% of planned activity has either been delivered or is on-track for delivery in relation to the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan. 95% of this plan has now been delivered.

5.4 100% of activity in relation to the Section 24 delivery plan has been delivered.

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*. The action was timebound and the target was not fully met. However, the monitoring of appraisals will move into business as usual and appropriate measures will be one of the KPIs that is assessing the impact of the People Strategy reported quarterly to LMT. It is therefore proposed to close this action within the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

**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. Six measures within cultural transformation improved and one worsened slightly. There was one change to the finance outcome measures which was an improvement. Changes include:

- Reduction in predicted overspend at the end of March 2024 reduced from £3.743m to £1.382m at the end of Quarter Two.
- Reduced number of senior interim officers
- Further reductions in complaints volumes and a further reduction in the % upheld.

**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	Implementation and completion of recruitment plan / process for all interim appointments in a Leadership and Management position
Cultural Transformation	Development and implementation of an improved focus on employee performance and accountability	Quality assurance sample of objective setting and follow up guidance to Managers via HR BPs
Financial recovery and resilience	Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management, across the organisation	Completion of three rounds of planned training which will now move forward as business as usual training and development on use of Business World.

### 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 to close CT5.07, *Monitoring of Appraisal completions - 95% of staff in work to have had an appraisal*. The action was timebound and the target was not fully met. However, the monitoring of appraisals will move into business as usual and appropriate measures will be one of the KPIs that is assessing the impact of the People Strategy reported quarterly to LMT.

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	Improved	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	Green	Green	Mixed	No	E Scollay / C Benjamin	Mayor Cooke
Development / implementation of improved focus on employee performance and accountability	Complete	Red	No change	Yes	E Scollay	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	E Scollay	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	Improved	No	A Humble	Cllr N Walker
Setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27	Complete	Complete	n/a	n/a	A Humble	Cllr N Walker

Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management	Complete	Green	n/a	Complete	A Humble	Cllr N Walker
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**8. Independent Improvement Advisory Board**

8.1 The Board met twice in December. The first meeting was a single agenda item update on the preparation of the 2025/26 budget and delivery of actions to address the risk of overspend within the 2024/25 budget which is moving positively. The second meeting was the first with the Council’s new Chief Executive. This meeting focussed on the following items:

- An overview of the current position of the Transformation programmed development and timelines for next steps
- An overview of the current Transformation Programme content
- A further update on the 2025/26 budget development following the launch of consultation.

8.2 Key messages from the Board were around the need to increase clarity of thinking around transformation at pace and ensure we retain the necessary capacity to drive transformation.

**9. Section 24: progress update**

9.1 The table below sets out that all activity within the Section 24 report has now been completed.

9.2 All actions within the section 24 action plan have been delivered. This report recommends that following an updated Value for Money assessment from the Council’s incoming auditors that included no statutory recommendations, that this action plan is formally closed.

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.	Complete	Green	Complete	Complete
3. Conclusion of Constitution review and provision of officer / member training ensuring changes are understood and implemented.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete



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	Complete	Complete
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 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 are still relevant to be tracked they have been embedded within business as usual processes.

**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 completion of delivery of activity to respond to the recommendations of the Council’s former External Auditors under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
Risk	<p>It the Council failed to respond effectively to the improvement plan, this would have a negative impact on the following strategic risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to meet a balanced budget.</li> <li>• Risk of an unlawful decision by the Council.</li> <li>• Corporate governance is not fit for purpose</li> </ul>

Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The content of this report is not directly relevant to these areas of impact, however continued implementation of good governance will ensure that the Council's wider decision making processes have due regard to these topics.
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)

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
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	12 December 2024
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	27 November 2024

**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	No change	Worse	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	Improved	Worse	80% or higher	Above target	Quarterly	100%	Nov-24	89%	Oct-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	Worse	Improved	75	Below target	Monthly	217	Nov-24	203	Oct-24
		Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Transformation	No change	Improved	No target set	No target set	Monthly	8	Nov-24	8	Oct-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	Improved	No change	3	At target	Monthly	3	Nov-24	6	Oct-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	74	Nov-24	93	Oct-24
		% of complaints upheld or partially upheld by the central team	Improved	Improved	Less than 40%	Below target	Monthly	57%	Nov-24	63%	Oct-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	Complete	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	87%	Nov-24	86%	Oct-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	Frequency of data refresh	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data	Previous performance period:
Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules training delivered	LMT, WLMT, all Budget Holders trained by 31 December 2023	Complete	Improved	95% or higher	Complete	Monthly			89.08%	Jul-24
Corporate finance training programme established	Quarterly programme of finance training established	Complete	n/a baseline	One training session delivered per quarter	Complete	Quarterly	100%	Feb-24	n/a	n/a
Budget management and purchase to pay dashboards developed to improve management information and compliance	Budget management dashboard available to all budget holders from Business World through Power BI reporting tools by 30 November 2023. P2P Dashboards available by 31 March 2024	Complete	n/a	Dashboard in place	Complete	n/a one off measure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Budget management training rolled out to budget holders	All Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Holders Training delivered December 23 to March 24	Complete	n/a	95% or higher	n/a at this stage	n/a one off measure	n/a due from April 2024 onwards	n/a	n/a	n/a
2024/25 net expenditure is delivered within the approved budget	Forecast outturn is within the agreed budget	Improved	No change	Compliant / within budget	Below target	Quarterly	£1.362m	Q2	£3.742m	Q1
The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain GF balance in line with approved reserves policy - 7.5% of the net revenue budget which would be £11.1m at 31/3/25	No change	n/a	£11.1m	On target	Annually	£11.1m	Oct-24	£11.1m	Q1
The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain unrestricted usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25	No change	n/a	£8m	Below target	Annually	£6.57m	Oct-24	£6.57m	Q1
2025/6 budget is set and balanced	Balanced Budget for 2025/6 set	n/a	n/a	Balanced budget set	n/a	Annually	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	Annually	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Financial Recovery and Resilience

### Appendix 3 Measures of success – Section 24 Report

Recommendation	Measure of Success	Also in CGIP	Current performance	Target	Status against target	Frequency of data refresh	Source:	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
1	Delivery of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan activity		Above target	n/a	Above target	Monthly	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	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	Y	Improved	3	At target	Monthly	Procurement - Claire Walker	3	Nov-24	6	Oct-24
2	Number of Transformation roles that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	Y	No change	No target set	No target set - baseline	Monthly	Procurement - Claire Walker	8	Nov-24	8	Oct-24
3	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance in 2024/25	Y	Worse	0	At target	Quarterly	Internal audit progress reports to Audit Committee	1 in 2024/25	April 2024 - March 2025	2 out of 16 complete audits 2022 to 2024	2022-24
3	Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	Y	Worse	80% or higher	Near target	Annual	Internal Audit	100%	Nov-24	89%	Oct-24
3	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Y	Complete	100%	Complete	Annual	Member training data	94.5%	Oct-24	100%	Oct-23
3	Percentage of Members attending wider skills	Y	Complete	95%	Above target	Annual	Member training data	76.1%	Oct-24	98%	Oct-23
3	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	Y	Complete	90%	Below target	Annual	Member training data	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	Oct-23	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7	Oct-22
5	90% of projects within the programme, once launched are on track			n/a	n/a at this stage	Quarterly once live		90% once launched	n/a		
5	90% of benefits from projects realised in line with benefits realisation trackers			n/a	n/a at this stage	Quarterly once live		90% once launched	n/a		
6	Maintain expenditure in line with agreed budgets in 2024/5	Y	Improved	Compliant / within budget	Below target	Quarterly		£1.362m	Q2	£3.742m	Q1
6	Maintain GF balance at £11.1m at 31/3/25	Y	No change	11.1m	At target	Quarterly		£11.1m	Oct-24	£11.1m	Q1
6	Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25.	Y	No change	Between 8m and 10m	Below target	Quarterly		£6.57m	Oct-24	£6.57m	Q1

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**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2025
<b>Title:</b>	Vacancies on Committees 2024/2025
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Subject to call in?:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	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 – no nominations

##### Staff Appeals Committee

1 vacancy for Vice Chair

#### **Outside Bodies Vacancies:**

##### **JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL:**

##### River Tees Port Health Authority

1 vacancy – no nominations

##### **JOINT COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS BY EXECUTIVE:**

##### Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

1 vacancy – no nominations

## **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 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
Update Memberships of Committees	Democratic Services Officers	22 January 2025

**Appendices**

1	
2	
3	

**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date
Council	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025	27 November 2024

**Contact: Charlotte Benjamin**

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