

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 9 July 2024

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY, 2024

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 17th July, 2024 at 7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

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

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. Minutes - Council - 22 May 2024

5 – 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 – 70

10. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

71 – 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	
14.	Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)	
15.	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan Progress Report	75 - 94
16.	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025	95 – 100
17.	Committee Terms of Reference Changes	101 - 106

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

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

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

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

Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 22 May 2024.

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

OFFICERS: S Bonner, S Lightwing, C Heaphy, C Benjamin, K Whitmore, C Cunningham, M Nath and D Middleton

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors J Walker, J McTigue and M Storey

24/1 **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024-2025**

The Director of Legal and Governance Services invited nominations for the new Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024-2025.

Nominations were received and seconded in respect of Councillor J Rostron and Councillor Saunders. On a vote being taken, Councillor J Rostron received 23 votes and Councillor Saunders received 21 votes.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that Councillor J Rostron be elected as the Chair of the Council for the Borough of Middlesbrough to hold office for the Municipal Year 2024-2025 pro tem.

The Director of Legal and Governance Services invited the new Chair of the Council to take over the chairing of the meeting.

24/2 **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024-2025**

The Chair of the Council invited nominations for the new Vice-Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2024-2025.

A nomination was received and seconded in respect of Councillor J Ewan.

Moved, seconded and **ORDERED** that Councillor J Ewan be elected as the Vice-Chair of the Council for the Borough of Middlesbrough to hold office for the Municipal Year 2024-2025 pro tem.

24/3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

24/4 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 27 MARCH 2024 AND 24 APRIL 2024**

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 27 March and 24 April 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

24/5 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair paid tribute to Bernie Carr, Democratic and Registration Manager, who would retire from Middlesbrough Council on 31 May 2024 having completed 45 years' service.

On behalf of the Council, the Chair thanked Bernie for her service and wished her well for a long a healthy retirement. All present showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

24/6

POLITICAL BALANCE - ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES - 2024 - 2025

The Director of Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer presented a report in respect of Political Balance Allocation of Places 2024-2025, the purpose of which was to recommend the allocation of places on Committees and Sub-Committees for 2024-2025 in accordance with the political balance of the Council.

It was **ORDERED** as follows:

1. That the allocation of seats on committees that were subject to the rules relating to political balance be approved as follows:

Name of Group/Unallocated	No. of Seats
Conservative	13
Labour	78
Liberal Democrats	7
Marton Independent East Group	7
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	39
Unallocated/Vacancy	7
Total	151

2. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 4.13 of the report, and to make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace Members where directed by the relevant group or Member.

3. That any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Appendix 3, Table 3, attached to the report.

24/7

EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

As required by the Council's Constitution, a report was submitted setting out membership of the Executive appointed by the Mayor, included at Appendix B of the report. Details of the Executive Scheme of Delegation, were also included at Appendix A of the report, delegating responsibility for certain functions to the Executive, Individual Executive Members, Executive Sub-Committees, joint arrangements and, where appropriate, officers of the Council.

ORDERED that the report in respect of the Executive Scheme of Delegation, was noted.

24/8

COUNCIL COMMITTEES - ESTABLISHMENT - TERMS OF REFERENCE - ALLOCATION OF PLACES - MEMBERSHIPS - 2024 - 2025

Council received a report of the Monitoring Officer, regarding the establishment of committees, sub-committees, boards, panels and working groups for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year, or until amended by Council, (whichever was the latter)

Schedule A of the report submitted set out the Executive and Executive Sub-Committees and Advisory Bodies as agreed by the Mayor.

Schedules B and C identified the nominations received from the various groups and individual Councillors for places on the committees to be established by the Council in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Political Groups and Committees) Regulations 1990.

The report included a list of current vacancies on various committees and nominations were put forward at the meeting by the individual Members concerned.

The Monitoring Officer conducted a vote in respect of the role of Chair/Vice Chair and nominations for spare places, where applicable, in relation to the following committees:

Schedule C**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Chair: Councillor Ewan appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Hubbard appointed

CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Thompson appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Jackson appointed

CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Rostron and Vice-Chair: Councillor Ewan appointed

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING GROUP

Chair: Councillor Branson appointed

YOU MATTER TO US - CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Chair: Mayor C Cooke appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor P Storey appointed

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Lewis appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Hill appointed

LICENSING COMMITTEE

1 Vacancy: Councillor P Storey appointed

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Chair: Councillor Blades appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Kabuye appointed

PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor Clynch appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor J Walker appointed

PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

Chair: Councillor Branson appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Banks appointed

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Rostron appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Blades appointed

STAFF APPEALS COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Dean appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Jackson appointed

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Thompson appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Morrish appointed

TEESSIDE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Kabuye appointed

Vice Chair: Councillor Rostron appointed

WORKS COUNCIL

Chair is Deputy Mayor

Works Council

2 Vacancies:

1 Vacancy: – Councillor Kabuye appointed

ORDERED as follows:

1. That the terms of reference of committees, sub committees, boards panels and working groups, as detailed in the schedule to the report, were approved.
2. That subject to the receipt of nominations to vacancies or amendments to places

indicated in the schedule to the report, that the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors, were approved.

3. That the membership, size and terms of reference of the Executive and its sub-committees, approved by the Mayor for 2024 onwards, as set out in Schedule A, in the Appendix to the report, were noted.
4. That the vacancies, listed at Paragraph 2.2 of the report, be filled in accordance with political group and other Councillors' preferences.

24/9

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE TO JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES - 2024 - 2025

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report regarding the appointment of representatives to joint committees and outside bodies.

ORDERED as follows:

1. That appointments to the organisations shown in Appendix A (Council nominations), Appendix B (Council/Executive nominations) and Appendix C (Executive nominations) of the report submitted, for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year be approved, until amended by Council/Executive, (whichever was the latter).
2. That the following appointments for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year, nominated at the meeting, be approved and noted, until amended by Council/Executive (whichever was the latter).

Appendix A - Council Appointments

Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee

Councillor Coupe appointed

Appendix B – Council/Executive Appointments

Nunthorpe and Marton Playing Fields Association
2 representatives – usually Ward Members

Councillor McClintock appointed
Councillor Morrish appointed

24/10

THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

The Mayor stated that it had been a difficult year and Councillors had faced a number of different issues.

A new Member enquiry system was due to be implemented in July and the Council would also be updated by Government in relation to the best value notice issued in January 2023.

Whilst the budget overspend had been reduced, there was no complacency and the Council continued to do everything possible to remove the remaining £7 million deficit. A cross-party financial working group would be formed to work on next year's budget.

The Mayor thanked all Councillors for their ward work during the past year and especially for their support during the roll out of the brown bins.

ORDERED that the Mayor's addressed was noted.

24/11

MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES 2024-2025

The Director of Legal and Governance Services on behalf of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration presented a report to provide Members with the opportunity to consider the proposals of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration and adopt the

Scheme of Allowances.

Following its 2024 review of Members' allowances, the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration were outlined in the submitted report at Appendix 1. The Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration recommended an increase to the Basic Allowance from £7,608 to £8,000. The Panel also recommended freezing Special Responsibility Allowances at their current levels.

The Council was asked to consider the Panel's recommendations and either accept or reject them. If, after having due regard of the Panel's recommendations, the Council rejected the Panel's proposals it would need to create its own Scheme of Allowances.

On a vote being taken, it was unanimously **ORDERED** that the:

1. recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration in the report on Members' Scheme of Allowances were rejected.
2. current Scheme of Allowances would remain in place for 2024-2025 unless amended by Council.

24/12 STATUTORY OFFICER PROTOCOL

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services was presented, the purpose of which was seek approval from Council for the introduction of a Statutory Officer Protocol.

The External Audit Section 24 recommendations included the introduction of a Statutory Officer Protocol to provide clear guidance on roles and responsibilities and process to ensure continuity for Statutory Officer roles. Having a protocol in place was good practice in local government to ensure continuity in the statutory officer roles.

The purpose of the Statutory Officer Protocol was to set out:

- The definitions of the roles included.
- Restrictions on those posts.
- Appointment process.
- Terms and Conditions.
- Performance Management.
- Disciplinary procedures.
- Dismissal.
- Sickness Management.
- Interim appointments and exit processes.

The aim was always to have permanent appointments in place however there was a recognition that interims might be required at times. These appointments should be time-limited and have a plan in place towards permanence.

A copy of the Statutory Officer Protocol was attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report. **ORDERED** that the Statutory Officer Protocol was approved and adopted.

24/13 COUNCIL DIARY 2024-2025

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance and the Director of Legal and Governance Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to agree the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

The Director of Legal and Governance Services advised that the dates contained within the timetable were tentative and could be subject to change. It was noted that due to the Parliamentary Election on 4 July 2024, the next Council meeting, scheduled for 3 July 2024 would be re-arranged.

Following a vote, it was:

ORDERED as follows:

(i) That the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2024/2025, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

(ii) That, with the exception of the following, the dates for ordinary meetings of the Council be designated as meetings at which questions will be taken from members of the public:

- Budget/Council Tax Setting Meetings – 19 February and 5 March 2025.
- Wednesday 21 May 2025 (Annual Meeting).



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

Council Meeting: 17 July 2024

Page 11

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **17 July 2024**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact details:

Susan Lightwing Interim Democratic Services Manager - (01642) 729712

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THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 17 July 2024

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

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

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 19 March 2024.

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

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

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: MAYOR CHRIS COOKE

DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 2024

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priority: *We will work to address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable.*

Health on the high street

1. The Health on the high street model is progressing with significant involvement from agencies such as the NHS, Teesside University and Middlesbrough Community Learning. Middlesbrough Council has appointed Tom Willoughby, part of the Walter Thompson group, as the contractor and internal work to strip back the units to be fitted out has begun, after it was agreed that planning permission for the centre was not needed.
2. Accessed from Albert Road, opposite Middlesbrough Town Hall, the Live Well allows residents to drop-in and benefit from a wide range of services in a convenient and easily accessible facility.

Trading Standard Multi-Agency Approach

3. I recently joined trading standards on their visits in Middlesbrough using a multi-agency approach. The new approach aims to ensure that we obtain the best results possible by exploring all possible enforcement routes such as environmental to fire regulations. On this most recent visit we had a successful seizure but also identified a gas risk which posed a risk to the properties and the community.

Licensing Policy Consultation

4. The eight-week consultation runs from today (Monday, July 1) to Monday, August 26, and members of the public and businesses are being urged to make their views known.
5. Key stakeholders affected by the alcohol and regulated entertainment licensing regulations will also be consulted. We are also proposing to reintroduce two Cumulative Impact Areas covering Middlesbrough town centre and several ward areas across the town and have

produced a Cumulative Impact Assessment to provide evidence to support its implementation.

6. A Cumulative Impact Assessment is required to provide evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems, which are undermining the licensing objectives. Please encourage residents and businesses to get involved in this consultation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Free School Meals Autoenrollment

7. We are changing the way free school meals are managed in Middlesbrough which will see more children benefit and extra funding provided to schools.
8. At present families must apply, ensuring not all qualifying children receive the support. We use existing data to confirm eligibility.
9. Introducing auto-enrolment would mean more children would receive a free meal and also provide additional funding to schools.
10. Families would still be invited to apply but the auto-enrolment process would act as a safety net. Parents would still have the option to opt out.
11. This could save eligible families an average of £400 per year, when a similar scheme was rolled out in Sheffield, in 2016, it's estimated the policy has resulted in 5,000 children benefiting, with approximately £3.8m generated in pupil premium funding for schools.
12. Pupil premium funding is provided by government for children who meet the criteria and is used to support disadvantaged students of all abilities reach their full potential.
13. A small sample of Middlesbrough households revealed 1 in 6 eligible were not receiving the allocation.
14. Based on this sample alone, the town's schools are missing out on thousands of pounds in pupil premium funding. Funding for eligible primary school children is £1,400, with secondary schools receiving £1,100 for their students.

NAME: **Mayor Chris Cooke**

DATE: **17/07/2024**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: DEPUTY MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE – CLLR PHILIPPA STOREY

DATE OF MEETING 17 July 2024

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

Education:

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

Culture:

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Education

1. Education services are focussed on promoting literacy in acknowledgement that for children to succeed in life one the key building blocks in a sound understanding in all things related to literacy.
2. The following are just small sample of some of the fantastic things our children have been involved in recently.

3. **National Literacy Trust Middlesbrough (NLT Middlesbrough)** held their first ever interactive learning activity – **We're Going On a Bear Hunt** on the 8th July in Albert Park. It was exceptionally well attended for an inaugural event with over 200 children, their parents and carers in attendance. As well as receiving their own copy of the book, the children and their adults were able to take part in a multitude of workshops highlighting the creativity and imagination that come with reading. From bark rubbings to jumping in muddy puddles and snow wands, to the telling of the story around the park, the event was exceptional and something I will be further supporting going forward.
4. NLT Middlesbrough annual **Poetry Slam** was excellent with 20 teams from across Middlesbrough primary schools taking part in workshops with poets to create unique performances of their own written words. The main themes for this year were; friendships, respecting differences and individual stories. The performances were fantastic with children showing confidence, gymnastic skills and beautiful and thoughtful messaging. The poetry slam remains a unique and exceptional opportunity for Middlesbrough's children.
5. **Big Boro Book Bash** took place on Wednesday 10th July. Over 1000 Middlesbrough children took part, with authors and illustrators from across the North East and UK. Radio Tees were in attendance and participant medals for the Poetry Slam also given out as well.
6. The National Literacy Trust Middlesbrough remain one of the unsung heroes in our community.

Outwood Grange Academy Trust (OGAT)

Outwood Riverside

7. I will be contacting the new Secretary of State highlighting the ongoing issue and to ask for a meeting.

Outwood Ormesby

8. Teachers and staff at Outwood Ormesby have put in place an engagement plan for their students and families. This community based approach will change the way the school responds to issues and aims to boost engagement and breakdown barriers. This is a fantastic initiative and the school, teachers and staff should be commended for their work in this.

Ofsted inspection results

9. Ofsted inspections have continued to go well for our schools. 95% of our schools who have been inspected have been graded as Good or Outstanding. This is fantastic achievement given the financial challenges that schools and Trusts have faced.

Auto Enrolment of Free School Meals

10. I have been delighted to be part of the Mayors and the Finance Executives decision to pilot auto enrolment onto free school meals. This will have a huge impact on our most vulnerable children who are entitled to Free School meals but do not receive them. The decision has seen school and council services work together to ensure that from September up to 1 in 6 young people will now receive free school meals that otherwise would not have been identified. This means

more food in the stomachs of the children who really need it, financial relief for struggling families and more funding for schools and increased attainment as children who are hungry can not learn.

Youth Justice South Tees Youth Justice Board (STYJB)

The STYJB Plan is being presented to this full council.

11. We are statutorily obligated to bring this to full council each year for noting only.

- It sets out how Youth Justice is provided and funded
- How it will operate and function
- The Youth Justice priorities

12. It is a partnership and includes:

- MBC
- Redcar Council
- Cleveland Police
- Probation Service
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
- Consultation with young people (children's voice)

13. Approval is required by council both statutorily and for the grant terms and conditions.

14. Services can not work in isolation and in order to address issues a holistic approach is needed with co-ordinated strategies

15. Our STYJB priorities are:

1. Prevention and Diversion
2. Youth violence and exploitation
3. Preparation for inspection
4. Education, training and employment
5. Re-settlement
6. Restorative practice.

Youth Custody Suite

16. A first of its kind Youth Custody Suite has launched in Middlesbrough Police station to ensure no child will ever come into contact with an adult offender.

17. Every single young person who is arrested and brought into custody in Middlesbrough will be dealt with in the brand-new suite which is completely separate from the rest of custody.

18. The suite has its own entry point and reception area along with a small exercise area and is decorated with artwork which was based on designs created by young people.

19. It's hoped the trauma-informed custody suite will minimise a child's exposure to the custody environment while providing additional support to assist the young person.
20. The groundbreaking initiative was delivered and funded by Cleveland Police alongside the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Middlesbrough Council's South Tees Youth Justice Service and forms part of the ongoing work to divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

Culture

Events

21. Two Orange Pips (May & June) in Baker and Bedford Street, sponsored by Perco Foods have been delivered brilliantly-8i9i9ii.
22. We are looking to extend the reach of our marketing activity and collaborate with partners to bring other engagement opportunities to accompany the offer from the market traders.
23. In July, we'll be partnering with Tees Dance on their community dance project 'Home' which will takeover the stage as well as running creative workshops in advance of the big culmination of the project at this year's Mela.
24. Attendance figures from events across April/May/June are as follows:
- Bark in the Park – 500 attendees
 - Take That concert – 33,000 attendees
 - D-Day Service – 200 attendees
 - James Arthur concert – 22,000 attendees
 - Festival Teesside – 26,000 attendees
 - Ali Brownlee 5K – 700 attendees
25. The full line up of July events is as follows:
- Race for Life, Stewart Park – 5/7
 - Pretty Muddy, Stewart Park – 6/7
 - Jurassic Weekender, Captain Cook Square – 6/7 and 7/7
 - Seaside Weekender, Albert Park – 13/7 and 14/7
 - McDonald's Sports Event, Centre Square – 20/7
 - Orange Pip, Baker & Bedford Street – 27/7
26. Thanks to the funds raised through the generosity of our four Cultural Ambassadors
- Leonardo Hotels,
 - Holiday Inn Express,
 - Stagecoach North East and
 - Teesside University –
27. We were able to provide grant support to enable the following four festivals to take place this year:

- Middlesbrough Art Week
- Middlesbrough Mela
- Middlesbrough Pride
- Taste of Africa Carnival

28. Our total investment of £18K into the above events helps to leverage a further £250,000 of investment into those cultural events, which have the potential to bring up to 80,000 people to Middlesbrough town centre this year (50,000 of which are from Mela alone). The STEAM model indicates £30.58 per event attendee goes into the local economy, which equates to a total of £2.4M.

29. We are also looking at the financial impact that Culture has for the as for local economy in other ways, and this will be brought to council when the research work has been completed.

30. We are busy working with these and other third-party event organisers to ensure a safe and successful events programme.

31. Sonic Arts Week took place from 22 – 29 June, delivered by The Auxiliary Project Space in partnership with venues across the town, including the Town Hall. Total audience was 6,215 and participation in engagement/workshops was 490. The best attended event was Junkoactive Tin Man, a performance clocked 1,700 viewers over the set, this is due to its prominent location outside and the amazing costumes and spectacle of the performance.

Town Hall & Theatre

32. In the first quarter of 2024/25, shows at the Theatre have generated £9,680 in ticket sales compared to £7,600 in the same period last year. The number of performances also rose from 32 to 45.,

NB These figures do not include attendances at schools' performances where they sell their own tickets and we do not have access to the numbers.

33. In the first quarter of 2024/25, shows at the Town Hall have generated £12,709 in ticket sales (from 47 events) compared to £14,723 (from 51 shows) in the same period last year. The difference in sales comes from two large main hall sold out music shows which took place in Q1 23-24, compared to this year.

34. Upcoming events at the Town Hall:

- Charlie Cook's Favourite Book – August family show
- Classical Season launch in the next few weeks, begins in October
- Lennox Lewis announced for only Teesside date in November
- Scouting For Girls, Paddy McGuinness & Mo Gillian in the Autumn

Musinc

Open Orchestra: Digital Score Project

35. Since October 2023, Middlesbrough Open Orchestra have been taking part in a research project led by the University of Nottingham. The final result was a collaborative piece of music created by Middlesbrough Open Orchestra students and musical director Ben Hopkinson, inspired by visuals by artist Layla Curtis.

Watch their performance: [Middlesbrough Open Orchestra: Journey Through a Changing World \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Coming up for Musinc:

Musinc Summer Family Fun Day – 19th August

10.30am – 2.30pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall

Fancy getting creative this August? Come along to Musinc's Summer Family Fun Day with lots to do and see! Activities include: Fusion Drumming, iPad Music Composing, and Musical Crafting.

36. Tickets available from the website:

www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk/event/summer-family-fun-day/

Gig School – 27th, 28th and 29th August

10am – 3pm

37. Gig School is an exciting opportunity for young people to play, rehearse and perform in a band setting. Young musicians taking part will learn how to communicate with each other as a band, learn about live music rehearsal, set-up and soundcheck, and performance techniques.

For: Young People aged 12-17 years

www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk/event/gig-school/

Musinc Schools Programme: Set Works Concert

Monday 14th October, 1.30-2.45pm

Musinc presents a concert featuring music by Bach, Poulenc, Haydn, Debussy and more, performed by an orchestra of professional musicians. This concert is designed to showcase music from the set works of the AQA and Eduqas GCSE and A Level syllabuses.

Our orchestra will perform extracts of the pieces, with live commentary and analysis by classical music enthusiast Stephen Waller.

[Schools Programme: Set Works Concert - Middlesbrough Town Hall](http://www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk/event/schools-programme-set-works-concert/)

Musinc Schools Programme: Careers Panel

Monday 18th November, 1-2.30pm

We want young people from the Tees Valley to aspire to do amazing things! There are so many career paths available in music and we want to highlight what young people can achieve in our area.

Our panel of local professionals reflect the huge variety of musical professions, inspiring young people to think more about careers around their strengths and interests and pursue a career in music.

This event is hosted by Shakk (musician and radio DJ) and our panellists are: Amelia Coburn (musician), Claire Dupree-Jeans (NARC magazine) and Holly Scarlett-Carr (venue technician at Middlesbrough Town Hall).

<https://www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk/event/schools-programme-music-careers-panel/>

Museums

38. The Cook Museum reopened to the public in Easter and will continue to open during school holidays only. The Dorman reopened in May following a temporary closure to facilitate a programme of repairs and maintenance, funded through the Arts Council's MEND programme including a full electrical rewire, refurbishment of the lift and improvements to the accessible toilets.

39. The Museums' summer programme includes the following highlights:

- VR Experience - Pirate Jungle Adventure: All summer (Dorman Museum)
- Boro Shirts Family Trail: All summer (Dorman Museum)
- Botanical Family Trail: 20 July – 1 September (Cook Museum)
- BORO, a shirt history! Exhibition: Now until 29 September (Dorman Museum)
- Marton Hall Exhibition: 20 July – 1 September (Cook Museum)
- Colourscape Experience: 3-4 August (Outside Cook Museum)
- Pirate Takeover Day: 10 August (Cook Museum)
- Big Science Workshop: 17 August (Cook Museum)
- Big Science Workshop: 23 August (Dorman Museum)

Plus lots more!

Cultural Partnership

40. Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership is in the process of constituting as a charitable company limited by guarantee. The new company – The Creative Factory - will enable the partnership to work more strategically to grow the cultural sector including being able to raise and receive funds directly.

41. We are working with the Cultural Partnership to make more creative space available to artists and creative organisations through the Levelling Up Partnerships grant. £2M was awarded from DLUH to support the development of creative space in the Town Centre. The intention is to enter into a funding agreement with Creative Factory to utilise the grant deliver more creative space through a combination of investing in and acquiring space for use by the sector. Securing more affordable and accessible space for creativity is a key part of the partnership's Creative Vision for Middlesbrough and fundamental to enabling artists to work here and animate our town centre.

In other news

42. Teesside Archives celebrated its 50th birthday in on 5 April with a special event at the Dorman Museum and an exhibition “Treasures of Teesside Archives”.

NAME: Cllr Philippa Storey

DATE: 17 JULY 2024

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CHILDREN'S SERVICES - COUNCILLOR ZAFAR UDDIN

DATE OF MEETING: 17 JULY 2024

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND UPDATES:

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

➤ **Early Help:**

1. Early Help Service (Stronger Families)

A new Family Help Strategy (2024 – 2027) has been developed and launched in June, in collaboration with key early help partner agencies. This sets out the actions we are taking as a partnership to ensure that we have robust and effective Family Help arrangements in place for children, young people, and their families across all communities and aims to support families at the earliest opportunity and prevent escalation to statutory services.

2. Middlesbrough has adopted Family Hubs as the model of delivery with the Family Hubs providing a single access point, a 'front door' to co-located services to make it easier for families to access the help they need. This includes Start for Life services, outreach support and virtual offers from pre-birth to 19 years, and 25 years for children and young people with SEND. The support we provide to families fits together with the targeted family help delivered by the Stronger Families Service and other specialist services. The Stronger Families Service remains stable and is performing well, supporting 877 children (May 2024) through whole family working and early help interventions.

➤ **Young People Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)**

3. The Early Help service performs all LA statutory duties linked to participation of young people, and we have a small team of specialist staff who work with young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) or whose current activity is not known. We are performing well against all key measures and Middlesbrough has been identified by the Department for Education (DfE) as a 'top performer' regarding the participation of young people in education, training, and employment opportunities. The DCS and Head of Service for Early Help were recently invited to meet with DfE representatives to share good practice with other LAs.

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

4. The MACH Team is fully staffed with permanent workers currently. There continues to be strengthening of our Multi Agency Partnerships and we continue to facilitate Multi Agency Audit monthly. We have held our second practice week which commenced 03 June 2024. This has included dip sampling of contacts within the MACH, observations of business support and screening by the social workers and observations of the daily triage meeting and Strategy meetings we are developing a plan to further strengthen the service. As part of the practice week, we have completed a case study with the whole team and have completed some peer audit and reflective discussion around recording and strengthening practice. Weekly Audit is continuing with MA Partners. The Team has regular Team meetings to look at team development, improvement, and stability. Bimonthly MACH strategic Board is held with key partners to support improve and develop multi-Agency working and Operational MACH meetings also take place Bi-Monthly. We continually scrutinise our practice to ensure that we know ourselves and look at ways to improve and develop so we can achieve the best outcomes for our children.
5. The Assessment Team have continued to be a relatively stable staff team and although there remain some agency workers in place, we have recently recruited a further two workers to permanent positions and we have had 1 agency go permanent and another will be permanent later in July 2024. There is current recruitment out to advert to replace the current agency workers with permanent members of staff. We have completed a further practice week within the assessment service which commenced 17 June 2024 where our dip sample audit reviewed management oversight, quality of visits assessments and planning for us to strengthen and develop our service. During practice week observations of visits and direct work with children has taken place alongside observations of strategy meetings, conference, and MA meetings. We will continue to review our direct work with our children to look at strengths and Areas of development. Our performance data continues to improve with regular high support and challenge within supervision and management oversight. Weekly performance is reviewed by Team Managers and the service manager.

➤ **Learning, Review and Development:**

6. The Head of Quality, Learning and Review and PSW completed a review of the RAD unit this month, which reflected that the number of children and young people In Our Care and children and young people subject to Child Protection Planning requiring the allocation of an IRO has decreased by 12% between April 23 and April 24. This is a decrease of 42% between 2021 and April 2024. The unit remains stable, and we are seeing a steady improvement in ICPC/RCPC and Cared for review timeliness, with RCPC timeliness hitting 100% in both April and May.
7. Recruitment has successfully been completed for two full time Practice Lead Auditors (PLAs), who will sit within The Centre for Practice Excellence. The successful candidates are due to commence in August 2024. PLAs will work alongside the service to implement the new Quality Assurance Framework which was finalised this month. PLAs will deliver and report on quality assurance activities and learning across

all areas of children's social care. This will include the delivery of group audits, which continue to be positively received by the service.

8. The Principle Social Worker (PSW) newsletter is now embedded, and monthly drop-ins are also in place with the PSW providing all staff with a conduit for practice and workplace discussion and reflection. This feeds into the key responsibility of the PSW in ensuring that the views of social workers and practitioners are represented to senior managers. New recording guidance has been developed and shared across the service, to support practitioners in developing the purposefulness and quality of their recording in children's records, whilst increasing consistency of practice.
9. The next cohort of students to commence with Middlesbrough via the Frontline arrangement have been agreed and we are looking forward to them joining us in September. Our ASYE manager has returned from a period of absence and their colleague is due to return from maternity leave in September. The Social Work Academy Team Manager is now established, and the Senior Social worker vacancy has been recruited to (commencing 01/08/2024). As a result, the Social Work Academy is now fully staffed and excitedly preparing for its next cohort of students. Staff are all working to further develop the student experience and ensure our students are provided with a supportive experience that encourages them to remain with Middlesbrough as they progress in their careers.

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

10. Safeguarding & Care Planning, Children with Disabilities, Aspire and Pre-birth Team
The safeguarding service continues to be busy with a high number of care proceedings and children subject of child protection plans. The introduction of child protection panel and child in need panel has provided extra scrutiny in considering the children who have been subject to intervention for a longer period, to enable assurance that children are not experiencing drift in care planning, ongoing harm, or unnecessary intervention.
11. This means children's cases are escalated and deescalated appropriately. We have undertaken a review of practice, process, and the experiences of children subject to pre proceedings and care proceedings and are awaiting the final report and recommendations before considering changes we can make to improve the effectiveness of this for children. The overall caseloads for social workers in the safeguarding teams has decreased with the average caseload being about 22 cases. Reflecting the picture in neighbouring local authorities, the recruitment of experienced social workers continues to be challenging. The safeguarding service has 25 vacancies for social workers, 17 of these vacancies are covered by agency social workers and there are 8 vacancies that are not covered. To address this the service has a rolling ad for social workers across the wider service. The innovate team has now left the service and we have recruited one permanent member of staff who are all in the process of coming into post over the next few weeks. This has meant children have experienced a change of social work and the teams have taken to the workload from the team.

➤ **Children Looked After (CLA):**

12. The service has experienced a short period of stability. This has enabled the teams to work through the drift and delay, from previous workers and plans for children are being progressed. Tracy Jelfs who is an experienced Head Of Service (HOS), commenced as planned in March 2024, as interim Head of Service and covers the role across CLA, Pathways, Leaving Care and Fostering. The numbers of children allocated to Social Workers remains at a good level, assisting the staff to support the children in a timely manner. Resolving the drift and delay has taken time to understand and progress the required tasks. The Service Manager is effective in supporting the work of the service and developing further good practice. As a result, the performance and standards of practice continue to improve in the service. There have been worries about the data not accurately reflecting the work of the service and this should be resolved in July 2024, when reports are amended to collate the data correctly. This has also been an issue for Pathways 1.

➤ **Pathways:**

13. The permanent Service Manager for Pathways has left their role with Middlesbrough in June 2024. An interim Service Manager commenced in May 2024, to cover the absence of the permanent post holder and remains in post. A new HOS Tracy Jelfs, commenced in post in March 2024. Work has progressed at pace in this area, as a Focused Visit is expected by Ofsted imminently. The service has 2 permanent Team Managers, with a new manager starting at the end of May. Pathways 1 has 60% permanent staff, whilst Pathways 2 is fully staffed with permanent colleagues.
14. Additional Personal Advisors have been provided to the service when it became apparent that several young people were not open to the service, who should be open following a previous change in legislation, which would increase demand in the service. Housing, health, education, employment, and training have been the focus of developments and improvements in the service over the past few months. The Care Leavers Offer has been updated, housing protocol is under review and drop ins for young people has been established in Middlesbrough. In addition, the operational group has been established regarding supporting young people's housing needs and a strategic group, planning for future needs has been established. Audits have progressed to understand the gaps in practice and briefing sessions have been established to support good practice. It is evident that staff know their young people and can advocate on their behalf.

➤ **Residential, Supported Accommodation, Resource and Care Leavers:**

15. Children's Residential home.
We have recently experienced a few issues within some of our homes; Holly Lodge has recently been inspected as Inadequate and Futures for Families has been graded by Ofsted as Requires Improvement – all other homes are graded by Ofsted as Good. We have recently appointed an interim Head of Service who has started in post on 02/07/2024. The new interim head of service will review all the homes and put in plans in line with the improvement notice.

HIGHLIGHTS:

16. I would like to stress that given that the difficulties we have experienced over the past few years or so, within our service delivery. I can now certainly and comfortably say that the situations are now much more settled, and we are making improvement. Having said that there are still a lot of work and a lot of challenges to overcome. I am confident that having appropriate, permanent workforce with relevant skills, knowledge, and the dedications, I am sure we are moving to a right direction.
17. I personally would like to thank and appreciate all our staff members for their tireless work and strong commitments to Children's Services, to the Council and it's town.

THE TIME AHEAD:

18. We are continuing to work with SHIFT project, in the best interests of our children and young people. Working with ISLINGTON project in terms of good practice and obtaining training for the Staff members, ie. for the middle management team.
19. Working with the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership Board looking at and addressing some of the significant issues i.e., Deprivation, Poor housing, and High level of unemployment in the area, which are the main causes affecting the lives of our young people. Keeping in mind that Children and young people are our future, and we want to offer them every opportunity to achieve their best potential.
20. I continue to work with the HeadStart Project and recently met with Wendy Kelly Senior Manager looking at how some of the issues affecting the mental health of our children and young people in general.
21. I am also working with The Council 's HR department and looking at the Diversity and Equality inclusion and Diversity strategy. Exploring the important areas to address in terms of hard to reach out certain BAME cultural groups and other disadvantaged communities' inclusion into wider and mainstream employment opportunities.

NAME: **Cllr Zafar Uddin**

DATE: **17 July 2024**

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CLLR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 2024

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

Libraries and Community Hubs

Euro Sticker Swapshop

1. Collecting football stickers is almost as old as the game itself and appeals to supporters of all ages. Middlesbrough Libraries are laying on a couple of special events for football fans.
2. All are welcome to attend Euro 2024 Sticker Swap sessions at Hemlington and North Ormesby Community Hubs & Libraries on Saturday (July 6) from 10am to 11am.
3. A second session will be held at Acklam Community Hub & Library on Saturday, July 12, also from 10am.
4. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to find that elusive missing card to complete a collection, chat to fellow fans and make new friends.
5. All are welcome, admission is free, and no booking is required, but children must be accompanied by an adult.
6. Summer reading challenges will be taking place in our Libraries and Community Hubs starting from the 6th of July.

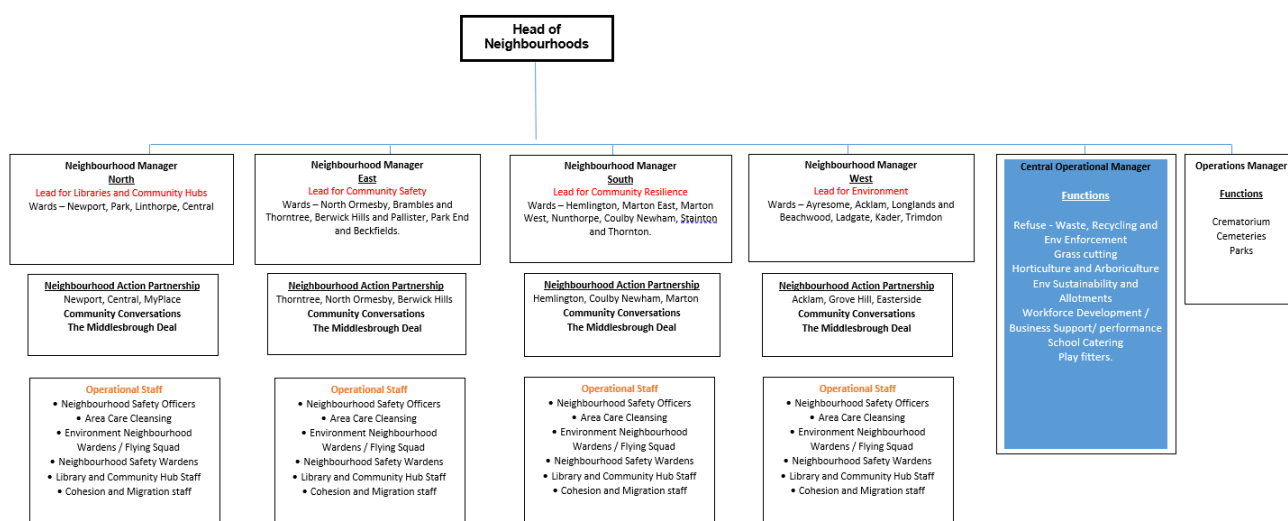


Blue Peter Book Club LIVE

7. During May half-term children created their very own airplane and launcher as part of the Blue Peter Book Club LIVE craft event.
8. Children aged 5-15 were eligible to apply for a Blue Peter book badge and The Blue Peter Book Club recommend a book to read each month.

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs) Neighbourhoods model launched

9. Council services are being brought closer to the communities they serve as part of a new model launched last month.
10. The neighbourhood's model will see dedicated managers and staff members based in the north, south, east and west of Middlesbrough.
11. Staff on the ground will concentrate on how communities can be improved. They will also respond to issues including crime, antisocial behaviour, and area care.
12. The change in approach will see a named lead manager for each area, as well as operational leads for street cleaning, enforcement and community development.
13. Staff from Environment and Community Services are initially making up the teams, with those from different directorates expected to join them as the model is developed.
14. It will increase the visibility of Council officers in the community and builds on the success of the locality working model which has already been in place in Newport and Hemlington.
15. Locality working saw Council staff working more closely with colleagues from different departments and partners such as Cleveland Police and other emergency services, probation and youth justice services, housing providers, health colleagues and the charity and voluntary sector.
16. The new structure focuses on the following



South Middlesbrough Neighbourhood

Marton Community Hub and Library

17. A snapshot of some of the great activities delivered throughout May 2024!

- Martyn the Music Man (Thursday mornings 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd May) – a free music and rhymes session for preschool children and their parents/grandparents/carers
- Knit & Natter (Thursday afternoons 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th May)
- Lego Club (Saturday mornings 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th May) – a free family-friendly Lego session
- Library Reading Group (Monday 13th May)
- Stay and Play (Monday mornings 13th, 20th May) – a free session with toys and books for babies and toddlers and their parents/grandparents/carers

Hemlington Community Hub and Library

Martin The Music Man at Hemlington Library

18. **Description:** Parents and carers of children under 4yrs / pre-school were invited to Hemlington Library to play, sing & dance to nursery rhymes session with a musician, interactive instruments for the toddlers to play, sing & dance along to popular nursery rhymes.

19. The sessions are funded by the Friends of Hemlington Library to enable them to offer the activity as a free drop-in.

20. Recruitment workshops and Coffee Mornings throughout May and June workshops included:

- How to search, register and apply for Jobs, apprenticeships and work placements
- How to fill in application forms
- How to get support from the employment hub

Coulby Newham

Coulby Newham Food Bank Coffee Event

21. **Description:** The Coulby Newham Food Bank Coffee Event was designed to support members of the community accessing the food bank. This event provided free coffee and a welcoming environment for attendees. Community members were given support and advice with their Universal Credit (UC), housing, and any other support they needed. Were working correctly.

Community Safety

Examples of work undertaken by the team in the month of May 2024

Hemlington

22. A nuisance motorbike which was being repeatedly reported to MBC and police during May has been located and recovered in Hemlington.

23. Riders of this bike had been causing a nuisance across Hemlington, Coulby Newham and Marton wards.



24. A bag was also found with the bike containing general cycling tools, a screwdriver, a kitchen knife, and a pair of bolt cutters. A resident from Marton believes the riders of this bike had been trying to steal a motorbike from the area.

Court Result

25. Police were called to a violent incident on 26 November 2023 in Hemlington where an officer sustained a serious injury, 5 males were arrested at the time and 3 of those were remanded in custody. The males appeared at Teesside Magistrates Court on 20 May 2024 and all 5 pleaded guilty to violent disorder; they are due to be sentenced on 9 August 2024. The 3 males who were remanded in November 2023 remain in custody until their sentencing.

Enforcement Actions taken throughout May

26. A walkabout was carried out with Thirteen Housing, a number of issues were reported from missing drain covers, damage to a play park, road signposts damaged and fly tipping. Highways have made the road sign and drain safe. Area care are due to jet clean the playpark on Friday 28 June.

Coulby Newham

27. Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO Severs attended a meeting with Parkway Centre new management team to discuss recent asb issues and a rise in shoplifting. Two banning letters have been issued to 2 youths causing issues in the centre. Neighbourhood Officer to serve these and take council enforcement action alongside this.

Marton East

28. A visit took place with Marton East councillors to look at issues on Cypress Road / A174 underpass to The Grove regarding off road bikes and drug dealing.

Environmental Enforcement

29. Middlesbrough Council Environmental Enforcement Wardens are responsible for investigating all matters of environmental crime. This includes Fly Tipping, Littering, Waste Presentation at both domestic and commercial premises. The team are also responsible for responding to enforcement of untaxed and abandoned vehicles, stray dogs and matters relating to repairing or selling vehicles on a highway.

30. In the month of April the team investigated a total of **620 service requests (10.6% decrease on March Data)**. These requests were made up of **49 requests for service (32% decrease on March Data)** relating to stray dogs, **457 requests (15% decrease on March Data)** for service for fly tipping and environmental related matters and **112 79 requests (41% increase on March data)** for service for untaxed and abandoned vehicles.

31. In the month of April the team issued a total of **51 legal notices** for a range of environmental offences. The team issued **12 fixed penalty notices** for waste related offences which included Fly Tipping Offences (**approximately £8k of fines/ fees were paid in the month of April**). The team undertook several DVLA and untaxed vehicle operations which resulted in **12 vehicles being seized**. We took 11 stray dogs to our kennel provider and returned four stray dogs back to the registered keeper. We had 3 **cases in court for fly tipping offences and have approximately 15 cases scheduled to go to court** in the coming weeks/ months for fly tipping and commercial waste related offences.

The table below provides a breakdown of activity by ward and shows a comparison against total service requests from the previous month.

Ward	Stray Dogs	Fly Tipping/ Environmental Reports	Vehicle Related Issues	Total	Previous Month	Difference From March 24
South						
Coulby Newham	0	6	10	16	14	+2
Stainton & Thornton	1	0	1	2	9	-7
Hemlington	2	20	3	25	37	-12
Marton East	2	0	2	4	5	-1
Marton West	0	1	1	2	1	+1
Nunthorpe	1	4	2	7	9	-2

East Middlesbrough Neighbourhood

Community Development

32. Our team have attended a community event at Rainham house in Thortree, to link in with partners and engage with vulnerable clients living at Rainham house.

33. On 16th May, a Welcome Orientation event was held at Trinity Church in North Ormesby. Around 40 people including children attended, representing local residents, asylum seekers, and refugees. The event offered advice, information and guidance on hate crime, antisocial behaviour, community development and more. Partners in attendance included MyPlace, Ethnic Minority Achievement Team, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Middlesbrough Community Learning, CAB, Public Health, and the Thirteen Employability Service.

34. North Ormesby Hub worked with Community Hub Officer Jess Christie, North Ormesby Big Local and Remaking Beamish Project to deliver a successful Middlesbrough History Event. Lisa from Remaking Beamish Project talked us through the history of Beamish and the development of the 1950's area. Residents enjoyed sharing memories from the 1950s and information they provided will contribute towards the development of a Middlesbrough based film.
35. Communities working in partnership with Thorntree Community Hub hosted a community fun day on Monday 27th May. The event was held between 1-4pm and included a host of entertainment for families including a bouncy castle, craft activities and a good range of foods for adults and children. The event was well attended and received good feedback from the community.

Criminal Activity

36. A house closure which was granted back in March following significant issues in the Jubilee Street area of North Ormesby has been extended. Cleveland Police applied for a 3-month extension to the original order, preventing the tenant from returning to the property.
37. A problematic male from Welton House was given a Criminal Behaviour Order which was granted for two years. This male's behaviour was having a detrimental effect on the community.
38. During a joint walkabout with partner agencies in Pallister Park on 06/06/24 our East locality team recognised the number plate of a vehicle which had recently been reported as stolen. Officers reported the stolen vehicle's location to Police who confirmed the vehicle was still listed as stolen and it was recovered later in the afternoon.

Begging

39. A nuisance beggar who plagued Middlesbrough shoppers and businesses has been hit with a powerful court banning order. Teesside Magistrates heard how he would knock on the doors of residential properties and car windows asking for money. His offending has been mainly in the Berwick Hills, Pallister Park and North Ormesby areas of East Middlesbrough and on Parliament Road in Newport. The 28-year-old has been offered support on numerous occasions but was issued with a Community Protection Notice (CPN) after failing to engage with any of the help offered. He was subsequently served with a Fixed Penalty Notice which he failed to pay. He was fined £250 with a £90 victim surcharge for breaching his CPN and made subject of a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). Under the CBO he is banned from asking for money or goods from any person within the borough of Middlesbrough. He is also barred from obstructing the highway outside any business or nearby cash machine anywhere in Middlesbrough.
40. Despite the Council previously obtaining a Civil Injunction against the male who repeatedly harasses members of the public and local businesses by begging on Ormesby Road and Norfolk Place, reports were received on a daily basis that the male continued to cause a nuisance in the area. The Neighbourhood Safety team obtained sufficient evidence that the male continuously breached the terms of the Civil Injunction and as a result the male was arrested and referred back to Court.
41. A CPN breach was heard at the Magistrates Court for the well-known persistent male beggar in East Middlesbrough. The male did not attend court and they found him guilty in absence. He was fined £250 and a victim surcharge of £90, totalling £340.

42. Business welfare checks and surveys have been conducted at Norfolk Shops to provide reassurance. Local businesses and residents have been provided with information on the reporting process and what happens once an ASB report is received. Lots of positive comments were received regarding the noticeable presence of wardens since the neighbourhood model was introduced.

Off Road Bikes

43. Information obtained during proactive patrols by the Neighbourhood Safety team and CCTV resulted in two off road bikes being seized by Police in Pallister Park.



44. Proactive patrols in the East locality have resulted in a male riding an off-road bike being witnessed breaching his community protection warning and has now been served with a community protection notice. Any further breaches of this notice will result in a fixed penalty notice being served. If the fixed penalty is not paid, we can attach a criminal behaviour order as and when we receive a court date.

Lifesaving injection

45. An off duty East locality officer assisted a member of the public with a male who had taken an overdose. Having quickly conducted some basic checks for an overdose (see below) the officer injected 5ml of Naloxone whilst awaiting emergency services. The male quickly responded to the injection with his breathing and circulation improving. His support worker and accommodation provider were later contacted. All of our Neighbourhood Safety Wardens have received Naloxone training and have saved many lives in recent years.



Environmental Enforcement

46. A Fixed Penalty Notice was issued following a fly-tipping incident in the Crowland Avenue area of Netherfields. Environmental Wardens can use powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The offender was fined £300.00.
47. A further Fixed Penalty Notice was issued following the attached rubbish being dumped in Eversley Walk, Park End. This offender was also hit with a £300 fine.



Crossing The Tees Book Festival

48. The annual Crossing The Tees Book Festival, a joint venture between Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Hartlepool and Darlington Libraries took place in June, across library services throughout the region. The festival was funded by the Arts Council. Events include creative writing workshops and author visits. A funding bid is currently being written to secure the future of the festival for the next 3 years.

Newport Community Hub

49. 'Bring it on!' - The Hub has been booked to host summer 2024 'Bring it on!' activities. Ubuntu and Creative Minds are hosting sessions thorough-out the summer holidays to cater for the needs of the local children.
50. Gruffalo's 25th Birthday - To celebrate the Gruffalo's 25th Birthday we will be hosting celebration session at Newport Hub. It will be an interactive re-telling of The Gruffalo suitable for 2–7-year-olds.
51. Community Fun Day - Newport Hub hosted its annual Fun Day on 27th May 2024. Over 850 people attended. The event was supported by The Friends of Newport and Middlesbrough Council. The event was an excellent opportunity to showcase what the Hub has to offer.

West Neighbourhood

Longlands and Beechwood

52. Investigations have been carried out by our Neighbourhood Officer and Police around individuals setting fires and causing ASB around the Grove Hill Hub / Bishopton Road area.

A total of 19 youths have been identified from CCTV footage and the following actions have been taken:

- Neighbourhood Officer and Police have carried out joint home visits to all youths involved and spoken to parents about their behaviour.
- A total of 19 warnings have been issued to the youths involved.
- Information has been given to parents for Fire Setters Intervention Courses at Cleveland Fire Brigade. Officers carry out intervention work with those identified for fire setting.

53. Youths have also attempted to cause Criminal Damage to the CCTV Camera on Bishopton Road since enforcement action has been taken. A thermal detection camera has now been fitted to the camera, this sends an alert to the control room to make operatives aware that there is a heat source is in close proximity.

54. A Community Skip Day was arranged by Environmental Neighbourhood Wardens in the Deepdale Avenue / Thorndyke Avenue area.

55. Partners from Thirteen, West Locality Neighbourhood Officer and Community Development and Cohesion Worker engaged with residents to encourage them to bring out any waste items they may have had and dispose of them in the skip. This area has been a hotspot for fly tipping and fire setting.

Multi Agency Neighbourhood Walks

Longlands & Beechwood

56. The first locality walkabout has been carried out by West Middlesbrough Locality Team, Councillors and partner agencies in Longlands and Beechwood. Number of issues picked up and reported to the relevant teams within the council. Issues picked up included overgrown bushes, uneven pavements, damaged bin and a burnt-out vehicle. All jobs picked up are recorded and monitored to ensure completion. The team engaged with several residents on the walkabout and informed them on the multi-agency approach to improve their area.

Ayresome

57. Reports received of motorbike nuisance on the new build site on Harehills Road. The Neighbourhood Manager, local councillor and local PCSO carried out a site walkabout at the location, identified the problem area and spoke with the site manager regarding the reports of motorbike nuisance. The site manager has placed boulders along the path/field which will now help prevent access to motorbikes / quads. There are also concerns around vehicles speeding on the estate, Our Neighbourhood Officer and Police are working with the site manager and Middlesbrough Councils Transport and Infrastructure Manager to address these concerns.



58. Investigations are ongoing around Teesside Park Leisure area. Concerns have included rough sleepers around the footbridge / footpath leading into the area from Whinney Banks and ASB from a group of teenage girls. The following actions have been taken:

- Area Care have been tasked to cut back overgrown bushes to make the area safer and more open.
- Homeless Team will include this area on their early morning sweeps to engage with any rough sleepers and ensure advice and support is given.
- Police are working with their colleagues from Stockton, who also cover part of Teesside Park to identify those responsible for causing ASB, will then work with Neighbourhood Officer to take relevant action.

59. A CCTV camera has been installed on Acklam Road in the area of Whinney Banks Shops. This is due to an increase in reports of Crime, ASB and Motorbike Nuisance.

Acklam

60. Our West Locality team completed a multi-agency walkabout in the Acklam Ward. Issues that were identified included:

61. Illegal parking on Coniston Road – Neighbourhood Wardens were made aware and two cars received parking fines.



62. The team came across trade waste left out and unsecure retail bins that were overflowing.

63. Our Enviromental Enforcement Officer and NSO have arranged to visit all the stores at Acklam Shops to intruduce themselves and educate them regarding the does and don'ts regarding waste disposal. Enforcement action will be taken in the future.



NAME: **Cllr Janet Thompson**
DATE: **17 July 2024**

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 2024

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

HIGHLIGHTS

2. I held a meeting with local councillors to discuss Stewart Park and made several site visits regarding local traffic issues. I have attended meetings at Middlesbrough Environment City and the Northern Powergrid Workshop at the Riverside Stadium. I also attended a meeting of the Crustacean Deaths Working Group.
3. I undertook a site visit ahead of the Single Member Decision regarding the Brackenhoe Connection Scheme. I also attend a Community Environment Workshop at the St. Mary's Centre on Corporation Road.

WORKS UPDATE

Transport and Infrastructure

EV Charging

4. Electric vehicle charging points continue to be created in the local authority area through the ORCS funding allocation, and work continues with TVCA to coordinate policy, strategy, and ultimately further delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Middlesbrough is also developing on-street electric vehicle charge points via the grant award to Middlesbrough from ORCS.

Nunthorpe Parkway Railway Station Proposals

5. Work continues with RCBC and appointed consultants regarding the Strategic Outline Business Case for the Nunthorpe Parkway Railway Station proposals. These proposals, if successful, are expected to encourage more visitors from outside of Middlesbrough to travel by railway into Middlesbrough centre, therefore

reducing road traffic which will help to decrease pollution (from combustion engine vehicles) and help to alleviate road traffic congestion.

Collapsible Bollards

6. Working with Night-time Economy, we are investigating whether remotely operated collapsible bollards should be installed to restrict vehicle access at appropriate locations to enhance road safety. This follows a traffic incident on Albert Road.

Road Safety

7. We continue to work with schools and businesses to promote road safety messages such as increasing visibility and considerate parking.
8. Junior Road Safety Officers from Linthorpe school supported the RST on Brake's national campaign day on 24 April 2024 by accompanying them into local day nurseries and teaching the children a song they had written to promote road safety.
9. We have continued the delivery of Bikeability and Pedestrian training. The Bikeability Contract is currently under review.

Travel Plans

10. The development of a Travel Plan for Fountain Court using Modeshift Platform continues. Travel Plans for other local authority sites are to be developed.

Inconsiderate Parking

11. On-going site visits with local councillors and residents to address concerns regarding inconsiderate parking/road use. This was subject to news reporting published online by TeessideLive on 10 June 2024, which helped to amplify the Council's message of the need to park considerately. You can read it [here](#).

Highways

Traffic Signals/UTMC: Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2024/25:

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Road / Brentnall Street.
- Junction upgrade at Marton Road JCUH.
- Junction upgrade at Newport Road / Marsh St.

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2024/25:

- Puffin crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / Coniston Road
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / The Avenue of Trees
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Road / Urray Grove
- Puffin Crossing upgrade CFL / Crestwood
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Road / Linthorpe Road
- Puffin upgrade to Marton Road / Wellesley Road

Verge Replacement and Footway Improvement

12. Verge replacement and footway improvement works programmes are underway with implementation of the programme for 2024/25 ongoing.
13. To date, four of the planned fifteen verge replacement work schemes have been completed and 6 of the planned twenty-seven footway improvement work schemes have been completed.

Bridges and Structures

Tees Transporter Bridge

14. A contract has been awarded for the digital monitoring equipment to continuously record movement of the Tees Transporter Bridge. The monitoring data generated from the equipment will feed into the design and repair plan. The equipment is expected to be installed following the Peregrine Falcon fledgling leaving its nest on the site. Following consultation with the RSPB, works are to take place to discourage further nesting. Furthermore, broader preparations are underway for the main preliminary design and permanent design works of the landmark.

A66 Column 20B – Station Viaduct

15. The issues with the quality of the concrete pour to the Row20 Beams B-C following routine testing have been resolved and work continues on the column-head at row 20B. Some additional minor-work has been identified on beams A-B with a revised completion date expected in August.

A66

16. Concrete testing report at Hartington Interchange bridges has been completed. The work plan is being formulated with concrete repairs to be carried out in 2024-25.

Borough Road Flyover

17. Resurfacing and re-waterproofing of the bridge deck on Borough Road Flyover have been completed. Further works, to replace the bridge joints, bearings, and carry out localised hydro-demolition and concrete repairs, will be commencing in 2024. Prerequisite concrete testing works and subsequent report are expected soon.

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

18. A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge works include replacing the bridge deck, waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets. Works were tendered via NEPO with no take up by contractors, therefore a further tender process via NEPO is underway with the design phase to commence in August 2024. Physical works are expected to begin during the school summer holiday period in 2025.

Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

19. Works including painting, installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages, structural repairs to piers and decks, new bearings, concrete repairs, and installation of new lighting have been proposed for the Linby and Belle Vue footbridges. The design phase is coming to end and will be presented to Network Rail for agreement in the coming weeks. Initial estimated costs have been received for suicide prevention parapets at Linby and Belle Vue footbridges from Network Rail's main contractor with a further tender process to follow to ensure best value is met.

A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges

20. Works including waterproofing, resurfacing and installation of new bridge joints was completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspection for any further issues arising from the works is taking place ahead of part of the principal inspection within the next month.

Newport Bridge Approach Structures

21. Work has commenced on repairs to the West Approach Retaining Wall, Cannon Street / Ayresome Road Bridge, and Newport Approach Bridge. The repairs include concrete repairs, anti-bird mesh, renewed lighting, deck-joint replacement, re-waterproofing, and resurfacing works. The works are being co-ordinated with works to Newport Bridge. Road closures from Newport Roundabout with local diversions will be in place.

Newport Bridge

22. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council are expected to begin Newport Bridge repairs works on 8th July which are expected to last until the beginning of September 2024. The nature of the works includes replacement of the bearings and drainage channels. Newport Bridge will be closed to all traffic during the full period of works with diversions in place.

Bridges Small Schemes

23. The scope of a tender for several smaller schemes involving minor parapets works, masonry, and concrete repairs is currently being drafted.

Principal and General Bridge Inspections

24. Principal and general bridge inspections contracts have been awarded via NEPO. There are 18 principal and 169 general inspections taking place. The inspections are ongoing.
25. Longlands Road overbridge will be the subject of a full structural and principal inspection. It is anticipated extensive repair works, or even full replacement, could be required. A design phase will follow the assessments with major works planned for 2025/26. Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing.

Carriageways

26. The programme for 2023-24 classified and unclassified roads resurfacing programme has been completed with all schemes completed, baring one small scheme on Earls Court Road which has been delayed due to gas works undertaken by Northern Gas Networks. A total of 99,360m² of resurfacing was achieved throughout the period.

2024-25 Resurfacing Programme

27. The 2024-25 resurfacing programme has been finalised and two contracts have been awarded for resurfacing on the unclassified and classified roads, with works due to start in July. A further two contracts are due to be tendered for thin-surfacing and surface-dressing. There are a total of 53 resurfacing schemes to take place in 2024-25.

Flood Management

Gullies

28. Work is continuing to clear gullies identified as being 75% - 100% full of silt following a survey of the network. A risk-based approach to cleansing of gullies has been adopted as of April 2024 with gullies to be cleaned either at 6-monthly, annual, biannual or three yearly intervals based on assessed risk following aforementioned survey. We continue to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with EA and NWL and increasing our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk.

Street Lighting

Column Replacement Programme

29. Work has started on the 2024/25 column replacement programme with Acklam Road, Borough Road and Ladgate Lane works currently underway.

TS1 and TS3 Street Lighting

30. Funding has been received from DLUHC to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 and TS3.

Refuse and Recycling

Green Waste Service

31. The Green Waste Service has continued to prove popular with 22,944 Subscribers (as of w/e 28 June 2024). This is more than double of the expected take up. We will shortly be reviewing the rounds to rebalance them accordingly. While we will try to keep as many residents to the same day as possible, it should be noted that some may have a change of day. This will be the final review for this year and residents will have been made aware that this may happen in their sign-up literature. Any changes will be communicated to affected residents.

Alternate Weekly Collections (Domestic Refuse)

32. Officers continue to plan for the start of the forthcoming introduction of the new alternate collections. The service will start on 6 August 2024. The roll out of bins is continuing and officers are working to ensure that all bins are delivered before the start of fortnightly collections. Please be patient with officers and collections staff on introduction as changes are being implemented. We would like to thank residents and local councillors for their continued support as we implement changes to Recycling and Waste Services.

Area Care

Grass Cutting

33. Amenity grass cutting (verges and estates) is still ongoing in all areas; however, some large open spaces are still to be cut because of unexpected wet weather. We will address these outstanding areas in coming weeks.

Weed Spraying

34. Weed killing of obstacles and wall/fence lines has commenced in all areas. Weed killing is used in these circumstances rather than strimming to alleviate the need of the labour-intensive workload, which may need doing three-four times per year, rather than one-two. Weed spraying instead of strimming also reduces the amount of fuel that is introduced into the environment. To encourage wildlife areas in these areas, we no longer apply weedkiller or strim underneath hedges and some shrub bed areas unless they encroach onto the footpath and become a possible health and safety risk.

Summer Bedding Planting

35. As summer has eventually arrived, we have been able to complete the summer bedding planting on the Cenotaph, the Canal (Centre Square) and the war memorial sites in Marton and Albert Park. A very well done and a thank you to all staff involved in the rapid preparation works and completion of the planting at short notice and in a very small timescale.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – COUNCILLOR NICKY WALKER

DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 2024

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

Update:

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

HIGHLIGHTS

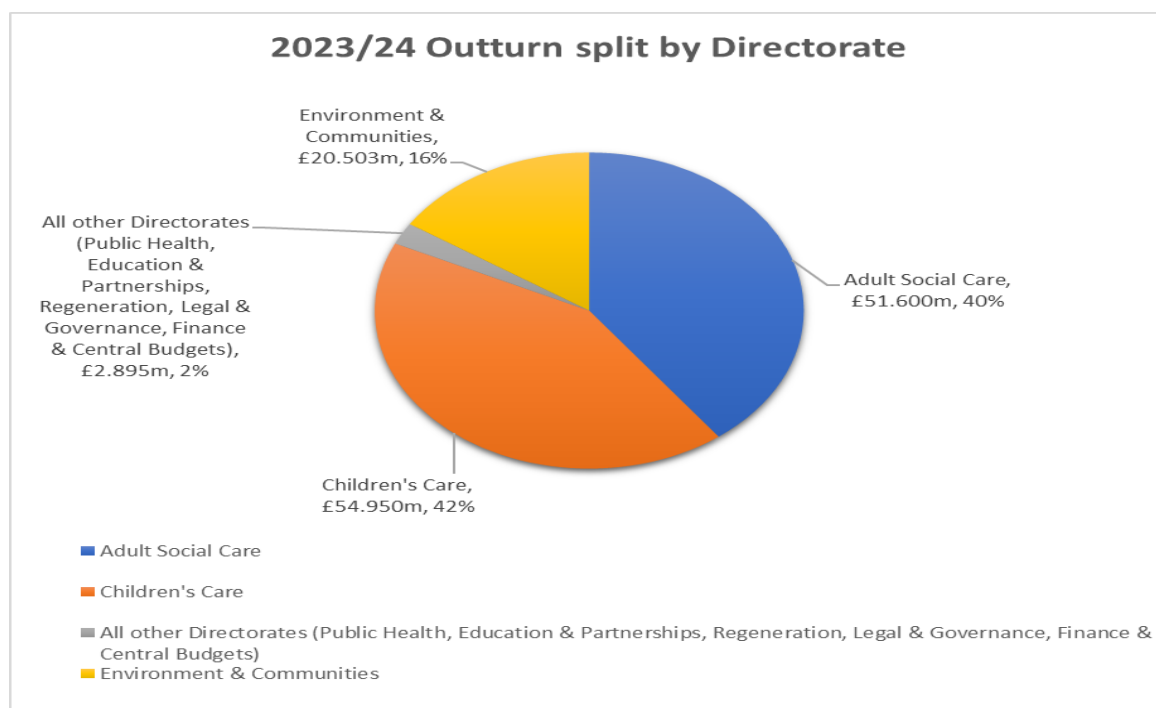
2023/24 Outturn

2. On 26 June 2024 I presented a report to the Executive on the 2023/24 Revenue and Capital Outturn and update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan. The outturn report compares the actual expenditure for the year to the approved budget for the year.

Revenue Budget

3. I am pleased to be able to report that that the overspend against the revenue budget for 2023/24 has substantially reduced from:
 - £11.6million at the end of quarter 1,
 - £8.6million at quarter 2,
 - £5.6million at quarter 3 down to
 - £3.6million at the end of the year or quarter 4.

4. This year-end figure represents around 2.8% of the net revenue budget.
5. While this represents significant improvement in our financial position from that which existed early in the 2023/24 financial year, it does show that the Council continues to spend above its available income, as reflected by the overspend of £3.6million at the end of 2023/24. Like any household the council must spend within the income available to it each year and we must return to spending within budget this financial year.
6. The overspend includes £2.8million in respect of Childrens Care. Costs of transporting SEND children accounts for an overspend of just over £1million. There is a similar overspend of just over £1million within Environment and Communities in relation to a fall in demand at the crematorium and increased waste disposal costs. However, it is pleasing to note that Adult Social Care had improved their position by £1.4million, resulting in a small underspend.
7. I have reported previously that Children's and Adult's Social Care accounts for approximately 83% of the Council's expenditure, and that was reflected in the position at year end where these two areas made up 82% of expenditure during 2023/24. This is illustrated below:

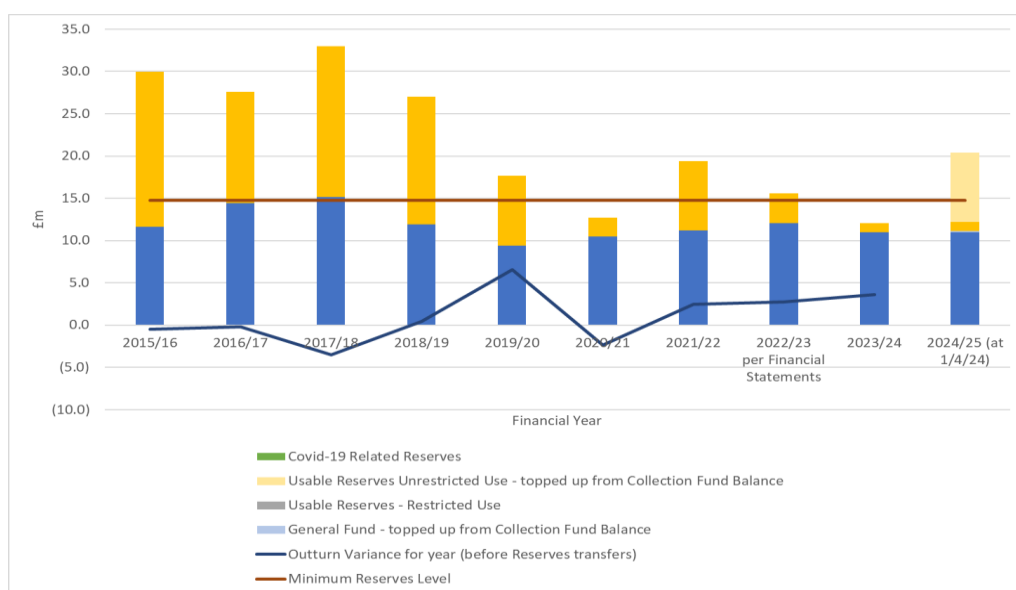


Reserves

8. Members will be aware of the already critically low level of the council's reserves, and the overspend for 2023/24 has had to be met from those reserves. Again, a reminder that we can only use those reserves once and our reserve levels had already fallen to a level which is much lower, as a proportion of our budget than most other unitary authorities nationally.

9. Some excellent work by our Director of Finance on the Collection Fund Bad Debt provision has realised £8.25 million which has been used to replenish the General Fund Balance to the recommended £11.1million minimum level and unrestricted usable reserves at £9.3million at 1 April 2024, making a total just over £20million. Without this the reserves would have remained below the recommended minimum reserves levels can be seen in the graph below which shows the Unrestricted Reserves Balances from closing balance 2015/16 through to opening balance 2024/25 and reported outturn variance per year.

(It should be noted that the statutory accounts for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 remain subject to audit adjustment and may impact the final position including reserves)



Key messages

10. Over the last year a great deal of work has gone on, with members and officers working together with the result that we have begun to get a better grip on our finances, and started to turn things around. However, as things stand, the Council is still spending more than it has income, the budget for 2024/25 could only be balanced by incorporating £4.7million of borrowing under Exceptional Financial Support and we are facing a budget gap of £7.5million for 2025/26, rising to £8million in 2026/27 and this may increase upon review of the Medium-Term Financial Plan over the summer.
11. Therefore, we are by no means out of the woods and much more needs to be done. Some of the key measures required include:
- Modernising and transforming service delivery, at pace, to deliver improved service outcomes from a financially sustainable cost base.
 - Delivering all approved savings included within the Transformation Portfolio for this year.

- Develop a pipeline of new transformation projects that deliver savings and/or income to meet the forecast budget gap over the period of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- Build on improvements introduced this year in relation to budget monitoring, forecasting and financial governance, by exercising even more robust budgetary control
- Directors and their management teams becoming even more engaged in the operational management and control of their budgets.
- Directors continuing to exercise stringent financial control of budgets and restraint on non-essential spending during 2024/25 together with full delivery of approved savings.

Councillor Gateway/ New Member Enquiry System

12. Councillor Gateway went live on 01 July 2024.

13. This followed cross-party working with members in assisting with designing the system to meet with our needs, and I would like to thank those members who volunteered their time to do this and also those who took part in the training and briefing sessions and those who have provided positive feedback to the officers concerned.

14. A great deal of hard work has been put in by our officers to deliver this new system within a timescale of 3.5 months, where it has generally taken other local authorities 9 months, as well as the excellent range of training, support and regular email updates for councillors.

15. As well as in person and online training and assistance with accessing the new system on council or personal devices that has taken place, there is help online on the Bridge which includes videos, screen shots, how to save the system as a short cut to give you easy access, list of enquiry categories, help on what a good enquiry looks like, and more.

[Please click here to view the help page available on The Bridge.](#)

16. There will be a further drop-in session on Monday 15th July, 9.30am to 3.30pm in the Collaboration area of Fountain to provide councillors with additional support or answer any questions you may have.

17. As councillors will be aware the previous onestop email process was not fit for purpose.

18. The advantages of this new system include:

- Quick easy process 30 – 60 seconds to submit simple enquiry
- Allows back and forth communication, which onestop didn't.
- Councillor decides if the enquiry can be closed, unlike onestop.

- Live map feature for Councillors to 'pin drop' current location of enquiry, especially useful when out and about
- Pictures can be uploaded directly into the system
- Provides a dashboard of cases
- Automated solution, with significantly reduced officer intervention time that supports the council's approach to digital.
- Built in timescales and escalation routes - now available to view on The Bridge
- Council Officer Response templates – making it easier to understand responses – although more work is needed – responding to the question that has been asked.
- Email notifications at every stage of enquiry

19. There was a slight glitch on the official go live date – 1st July, with a global issue which affected over 100 councils. Middlesbrough was one of them. Plan B was up and running immediately and communications were sent out periodically throughout the day with Councillors and Council staff updated on progress. The system was back up and running by the evening.

20. A reminder that bin related enquiries should continue to be sent to the dedicated bins@middlesbrough.gov.uk email address.

Revenues and Benefits Customer Service Excellence award 2024

21. The Revenues and Benefits team have been re-accredited with Customer Service Excellence. The Service have held this award for more than 2 decades, every year having to show improved excellence which is extremely difficult to do given the length of time the service have held the award.

22. Having once again this year been one of those interviewed during the accreditation process, I know how impressed the external assessor has been and he had nothing but praise for every member of the team.

23. This year, in addition to Customer Service Excellence accreditation already held, the service has achieved Compliance Plus in a whopping 16 areas. This means around 30% of the service being delivered to residents and businesses is at 'Elite' standard with the remainder being of excellent standard.

24. To put this into context, Compliance Plus means that your organisation/division/team has shown that it has exceeded the requirements of the Standard against an element, demonstrated exceptional practice, or can be used as an exemplar for others within or beyond your sector.

25. 'Exemplar' is a terrific word and demonstrates our Revs and Bens team are one of the best.

26. The key criteria used to assess were as follows:

- Customer Insight

- Culture of the organisation
- Information and Access
- Delivery
- Timeliness & Quality of service

27. I would like to extend my congratulations to the staff involved in delivering this outstanding achievement and thank them for all that they deliver.

THE TIME AHEAD

Cross-party working group on financial sustainability

28. On 03 June 2024 members from the various political groups on Middlesbrough Council met to discuss the formation and remit of a cross-party financial working group, with a view to working collaboratively on the budget for next year and the council's overall financial sustainability. Cross-party working on finances is something both Mayor Chris Cooke and I are committed to developing and I'm grateful to those councillors, who traditionally attend the Leaders Group, for agreeing to come together in this way to work together in the interests of Middlesbrough.

29. At this meeting we discussed what might be the size of the group, potential membership, what areas of finance we would concentrate on, what information we would need to be provided with, how this would feed into the budget process and issues of confidentiality.

30. An example of such a group, already in existence in Peterborough was used as an example to stimulate discussion and ideas.

31. This information was to be taken back to the different groups for discussion and now that the General Election is over, I hope that a further meeting can be convened in the near future.

NAME: Cllr Nicky Walker

DATE: 17 July 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CLLR THEO FURNESS

DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 2024

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

Newbridge Court

1. The apartments are being let on a commercial basis through Michael Poole, with many expressions of interest received following an initial marketing exercise. One open day has already been held with another planned before tenants will be confirmed. Demand has been very strong, and it is expected that the building will be fully let in the near future. This shows the demand for this kind of housing need. If given the right funding, it shows what a council can do to step in to build and supply product that is needed within Middlesbrough. Turning a derelict shopping parade into a brand new modern energy efficient and better built for purpose building for housing and retail.

Captain Cook Square

2. The opening of Wendy's has seen significant footfall into the Square, producing excellent trading figures. Work on new restaurant Bazaar is nearing completion and preparing for opening, which will be a further addition the food offering in the town centre. Funshack is also nearing completion, so the summer offer will be significantly increased attracting families into the town centre. A major 'Dino' event was planned for the 6th/7th July that is being widely promoted as part of a programme of co-ordinated centre/tenant publicity it was a great success pulling in lots of people into area. At Captain Cook Square we are hoping to be a one stop shop leisure area for Teesside, attracting people from far and wide into the town centre. As the highstreets are dying and shrinking across the country this is a part of our vision to change the dynamic of which the current layout of the town is based upon.

Cleveland Centre including our employment hub and live well centre.

3. Work is fully underway on the redevelopment of units within the Cleveland Centre for the relocation of the Live Well Centre. Following an initial refusal from the Mayoral Development Corporation's Planning Committee, a solution has been found that allows the work to be undertaken as 'Permitted Development'. This has enabled the work to commence with a view to moving the Live Well Centre across before the end of 2024. Physical work on the Employment Hub that will sit alongside the Live Well Centre will follow shortly, as designs are currently being finalised. This will further add our strategy to condense the offering in the town centre to increase footfall in a concentrated area and have more coherent plan for the centre of town.

Historic quarter

4. Middlesbrough's Historic Quarter was designated a conservation area in 1989. It is a key part of the town centre between the retail core and Middlehaven and the first place visitors see when they arrive at the railway station. The Historic Quarter's High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) four-year programme concluded in March 2024. During the HSHAZ Middlesbrough Council and Historic England invested over £2m. Highlights included:
 - Repairs to four historic properties, helping to bring vacant floorspace back into use. This has been a catalyst for further private sector investment, particularly at 2-3 Exchange Place and 1 Albert Road (Bloom) where an additional £4.8m has been expended
 - Restoring and upgrading the public realm at Exchange Square and Zetland Road, complementing the local architecture, railway station development and improving the commercial appeal of the area;
 - 4,500 people attending HSHAZ community engagement events such as site tours, exhibitions, walks and talks; and,
 - Creation of a HSHAZ community steering group, website (www.historicquarter.co.uk) and publication of regular newsletters.
5. Historic quarter will become the crown jewel of the town centre showing off our proud industrial past and grand architecture of our industrial past.

Asset Review

6. The sale of TeesAMP is nearing completion as the final elements of due diligence are undertaken by the buyer. The Council will receive the capital receipt in this financial year which will contribute to funding the Council's Capital Investment Programme and the wider Council Transformation Programme. Further sales of land and property are progressing and will be brought forward for Executive consideration where appropriate. It is expected that the 2024/25 target for asset sales will be achieved.

Housing sites and the current build rate including thirteen sites

7. Over the last four years 2,218 new homes have been built in the town across several highly successful development sites. The Grey Towers Village site will see the development of 452 new dwellings by Barratt/David Wilson Homes with the scheme progressing well. At Hemlington Grange it is anticipated that Taylor Wimpey will complete their development of over 500 new homes this year, with Persimmon Homes also on site delivering a further 500 plus homes. Persimmon are also making good progress on their development at Orchid Gardens, with over half of the 466 now complete. Gleeson Homes are expected to complete the development of 304 units at the popular Acklam Gardens site in the next couple of years. The bracken Grange development of 350 units is also expected to complete soon with Linden Homes building the last of the units for market sale. The Miller Homes development of 72 units at Rowan Park is also on site with half of the units now complete. Thirteen are currently on site at Union Village (Gresham), Grove Hill and Kedward Avenue and will deliver a total of 546 units of affordable housing over the next four years. The Q1 housing completion numbers for 2024/25 have yet to be compiled but current projects indicate that the annual target of 450 completions will again be achieved.

MDC asset transfer hold up.

8. The transfer of assets from the Council to the Mayoral Development Corporation has been on hold due to the General Election and will be considered further by the new incoming minister. The Council and the Mayoral Development Corporation continue to work together on any investment/development opportunities that arise until this is resolved.

Teesside Park Leisure side.

9. The Ninja Warrior venue at Teesside Park is due to open in mid July that will add to the overall leisure offer in Middlesbrough. Although situated at Teesside Park, the Middlesbrough boundary includes the leisure element of the site, and the business rates are collected by Middlesbrough Council. Its great to see investment in this side of the Teesside Park and the attraction to the area they will bring.

Local Plan

10. Following the conclusion of the consultation on the Draft Local Plan, the Council has been considering all comments received. There were a large comments received raised issues relating to the proposed Gypsy & Traveller Site, and significant others relating to proposed housing sites. A full report of consultation will be prepared later in the year to set out the issues raised. In response to the consultation, and also to meet national policy and legislative requirements, further work is ongoing to strengthen the evidence base to ensure the next stage of the Local Plan is robust. This includes:
 - A Transport Study to look at the impact of the Local Plan on Middlesbrough's road network and to identify mitigation measures;
 - A Gypsy & Traveller Site Assessment to further look at site options to meet future housing needs for our Gypsy & Traveller community;
 - A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to understand the issues relating to proposed development and avoiding flood risk;
 - A Habitats Regulations Assessment to assess the impact of the Local Plan on important wildlife designations; and
 - A Viability Assessment to asses the viability of the proposed sites and the impact of the policies on their delivery.
11. This body of work is more substantial that previously envisaged, and will take longer to complete than originally timetabled. Therefore, a new timetable will be set out in the Local Development Scheme for the next stages of the Local Plan, with Publication expected to take place early in 2025.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – THERE WERE NO DECISIONS TAKEN DURING THIS PERIOD

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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
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health				
17 Jul 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	Productivity in Local Government – a response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	That the proposed productivity plan, attached to this report at Appendix One is agreed and submitted to government.	Yes
Executive Member for Community Safety				
16 Jul 2024	Executive Member for Community Safety	Community Safety Enforcement Powers	For the Executive Member to approve proposals to withdraw Neighbourhood Warden Police Accreditation Powers	No

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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 and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health				
17 Jul 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	Productivity in Local Government – a response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	That the proposed productivity plan, attached to this report at Appendix One is agreed and submitted to government.	Yes
24 Jul 2024	Executive	South Tees Clean Air Strategy	Key decision for approval.	Yes
24 Jul 2024	Executive	Third progress report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	to provide the Executive with a report that summarises the Board's views on the Council's progress in relation to addresses weaknesses within its corporate governance arrangements	No
3 Sep 2024	Executive	Gambling Policy 2024-2029	Statutory requirement to have gambling policy to place.	Yes
4 Sep 2024	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	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			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	
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Review of Licensing fees for Houses in Multiple Occupation	Key decision for approval.	Yes
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025		No
Executive Member for Community Safety				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	Community Safety Partnership Plan	The Council have a statutory obligation to develop and publish a Community Safety Plan every 2 years.	Yes
Executive Member for Environment				
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Integrated Transport Strategy	Executive to approve the update of the current Integrated Transport Strategy.	Yes
Executive Member for Finance and Governance				
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Vulnerability Policy	Vulnerability Policy - 3 year review	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
24 Jul 2024	Executive	CIPFA Review of Council's Financial Management Arrangements		Yes
2 Oct 2024	Executive	ASC Residential Charging Policy	ASC Residential Charging Policy - 3 year review	Yes
25 Jul 2024	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Cash Handling Policy	No current policy, Executive approval needed for new policy as per Constitution	No
Executive Member for Regeneration				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	Scrutiny Review - Planning Capacity	Service response to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Review of capacity within the planning service.	Yes
24 Jul 2024	Executive	The disposal of land at Hemlington Grange West	To seek Executive approval for the disposal of the Hemlington Grange West site in accordance with the Council's Asset Disposal Process, and to inform Executive of the next steps to take the site to market.	Yes
4 Sep 2024	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
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Cemetery Provision	Setting out the future plan for cemetery provision.	Yes
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Disposal of Land Nunthorpe at Nunthorpe Grange	To seek Executive approval to dispose of the land at Nunthorpe Grange.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
2 Oct 2024	Executive	Southlands Facility Contract Delivery	To seek Executive approval to commence the contractor procurement process and delivery of the Southlands Facility.	Yes
11 Nov 2024	Executive	Management and Maintenance of Development Land / Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation	The report seeks Executive approval of the resources required to maintain land held prior to disposal / development and the management of land held fallow as part of the Nutrient Neutrality mitigation measures. Report seeks management resources to be capitalised as an abnormal cost to disposal receipts.	Yes

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	17 July 2024
Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)
That Council note the report.

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council
note the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4. Background and relevant information:

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Board

- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 26 June 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:
- a) Scrutiny – Work Planning
 - b) Executive Forward Work Programme
 - c) OSB Work Programme 2023/24
- 4.3 OSB considered a presentation regarding Scrutiny future work planning arrangements and received a refresh on scrutiny best practice. The Board was advised of prospective scrutiny topics following the annual scrutiny public consultation exercise. The Board was also advised that the People and Place Scrutiny Panels would consider their own work programme reports at their July meetings. Following these meetings, OSB would consider the final scrutiny work programme for the forthcoming year and would seek OSB approval.
- 4.4 Members also considered the Executive Forward Programme as a means of identifying issues that may warrant scrutiny input.

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.
- 5.2 **People Scrutiny Panel**
- 5.3 The first meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel was held on Monday, 10 June 2024. The Panel considered the South Tees NHS Foundation Trust's draft Quality Account for 2023/2024, and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust's draft Quality Account for 2023/2024.

Representatives from the South Tees NHS Foundation Trust were in attendance to deliver a presentation and answer any queries that the Panel had. Members heard from the Trust's Chief Nurse, Compliance Manager and Deputy Director of Quality. Members noted the document and information provided. A letter containing

Members' feedback in respect of the draft Quality Account was subsequently forwarded to the Trust, which had a deadline date of 14 June 2024.

In the absence of representatives from TEVV, two queries raised at the meeting were forwarded to the Trust for a response. Members noted the contents of the draft Quality Account document that had been provided with the agenda pack.

The next meeting had been scheduled for Monday, 15 July 2024. At that meeting, the Panel would be receiving information from the Directors of Adult Services, Children's Services and Health in order to discuss and agree its Work Programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

5.4 **Place Scrutiny Panel**

5.5 The first meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 July 2024 at 4.30 pm. The Panel will be discussing and agreeing its Work Programme 2024-2025 at that meeting.

6. **Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive**

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

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

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

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

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

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

9. ***Legal***

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

10. ***Risk***

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

Risk No	Risk Description	Impact
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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.
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11. ***Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion***

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

12. ***Climate Change / Environmental***

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

14. ***Data Protection***

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
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Relevant Executive Member:	The Mayor, Chris Cooke
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	17 July 2024
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Title:	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Strategic priority:	All
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Key decision:	Not applicable
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Why:	Not applicable
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Subject to call in?	Not applicable
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Why:	Not applicable
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Proposed decision(s)

That Council notes the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan and agrees the proposed changes to milestones and activity in relation to the Section 24 Action Plan as outlined at paragraphs 6.7 to 6.10.

That the departing Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board Financial Lead, Chris Buss, is thanked for his support, advice and guidance on the Council's improvement journey to date.

Executive summary

This report sets out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, since last reported to Council on 27 March 2024..

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the key activities and progress since an update was last provided to Council on 27 March 2024, in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors and the Council's Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan and agrees the proposed changes to milestones and activity in relation to the Section 24 Action Plan as outlined at paragraphs 6.7 to 6.10.
- 2.2 That the departing Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board Financial Lead, Chris Buss, is thanked for his support, advice and guidance on the Council's improvement journey to date.

3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The Council must respond effectively and at pace to the deliver the improvements set out in both the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the Section 24 report if it is to effectively address the concerns around its culture, governance and financial challenges.
- 3.2 Member oversight is crucial in delivery of these actions and also provision of assurance that intended impacts to address the governance weaknesses identified by the Council's External Auditors are being realised.

4 Background and relevant information

- 4.1 On 18 September 2023, Council received a report that set out the activities of Phase Three of the proposed Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, alongside the associated governance arrangements providing oversight of delivery. It also received a report from the Council's External Auditors which made statutory recommendations in relation to the Council's governance. This report provides an update on delivery against the action plan that was put in place in response to that report, as well as an update on delivery against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.
- 4.2 The activities in the improvement plan comprise ten workstreams, each with a milestone delivery plan which is monitored and reported monthly to the

Leadership Team, the Independent Improvement Advisory Board and at each full Council.

5. Performance management methodology

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

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

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

Activity	STATUS AT 18/06/2024			
	% On-track	% Off-track	% Delivered	Overall % on track or delivered
Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	18% (17/95)	4% (4/95)	78% (74/95)	96%
Section 24 Action plan	7% (3/47)	4% (2/47)	89% (42/47)	96%

5.3 The above table shows that 96% of planned activity has either been delivered or is on-track for delivery in relation to the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, with three planned activities across the 10 workstreams measuring as off-track.

5.4 96% of activity in relation to the Section 24 delivery plan is on-track or has been delivered, with one activity showing as off-track.

5.5 The remainder of this report sets out the detail of the delivery plan activity, alongside supporting measures of success that are in place to assess the impact of activity.

6. Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: progress status

6.1 For the current reporting period, seven of the workstreams are on target in terms of activity, as per timescales set out in the corporate Governance Improvement

Plan, with three being off target currently in the Cultural Transformation plan, which are outlined below:

- *Development and delivery of an enhanced Member Development Strategy*– one milestone relating to undertaking a first annual review of the strategy is off-track as a date change for the first annual review was not made when the strategy first went live in November 2023. There is a change control proposed to undertake the first annual review by December 2024.
- *Development and implementation of an improved focus on employee performance and accountability* – a milestone relating to the target of 95% (75% of staff have had an appraisal to date) of all staff to have had an appraisal by end of March is off-track due to a large number of staff appraisals within the Waste Management service delayed as a result of the rollout of new garden waste charging and fortnightly residual waste collections. This delay has further impacted upon a subsequent milestone relating to undertaking sample quality assurance of appraisal objectives setting. Two change controls have been proposed to extend the end dates of both as detailed in section 6.10. Additional activity is currently being undertaken to communicate to all managers to ensure appraisals take place and are recorded on the People Manager system.
- *Improving financial governance, spending controls and monitoring, by ensuring effective financial management across the organisation* – a milestone in relation to the development of a more efficient accounting, financial recording to reporting within Business World application is off track and a further milestone in relation to the implementation of compliance and enforcement protocols to embed governance arrangements into operational practice is also off-track. A change control to extend the due date on both has been proposed as detailed in section 6.10.

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 and are detailed in Appendix 1. 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 Since last reported to Council, the following amendments have been proposed to the Measures of Success that assess the impact of the Council's Corporate Governance improvement activity:
- 6.5 Summary of proposed new Measures of Success:

Measure	Rationale
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Forecast outturn is within the agreed budget	The previous measure tracked the 23/4 budget. This proposed new measure will track this year's budget and future years
Maintain General Fund balance in line with approved reserves policy - 7.5% of the net revenue budget which would be £11.1m at 31/3/25	Reflects the position as set out in the Reserves policy
Maintain unrestricted usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25	Reflects the position as set out in the Reserves policy
Balanced Budget for 2025/6 set	The previous measure tracked the 24/25 budget setting process.
Balanced Medium Term Financial Plan to 2028/9	The previous measure tracked delivery of the MTFP to 2026/27
Achievement of 3 star or higher rating for financial governance against the CIPFA criteria	This will be external validation of the Council's financial governance health and will demonstrate the impact of activity on improved financial governance. This replaces two previous financial governance related measures with a Measure that can be externally validated.

Key activities

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

THEME	WORKSTREAM	COMPLETED ACTIVITIES WITHIN REPORTING PERIOD
Cultural Transformation	Development and implementation of a People Strategy	<p>Delivery ongoing of the Strategy against the underpinning delivery plan, feeding into corporate performance reporting cycle is ongoing.</p> <p>Insights Leadership workshops have been delivered to LMT, Executive and one combined session; to raise awareness of preferences, styles and increase relationship building.</p> <p>Workshop has been delivered to all Managers in the Council to explore the Corporate Plan and how it links into the daily work of staff and aligns to the People Strategy.</p>
	Development and implementation of a corporate governance training programme	All activities have now been completed.
	Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	A recruitment plan / process has been developed for all interim appointments in a Leadership and Management position.
	Review the Council's approach to Member enquiries and engagement	The new Members enquiries system is now live, and all activities have now been completed.
	Develop and implement communications and engagement plan to support cultural transformation	Regular CGIP newsletter communications to all staff ongoing.

Financial Recovery and Resilience	Setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27	All activities have now been completed.
	Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management, across the organisation	<p>Delivery of training in budget management for Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Managers as part of the Corporate Governance Training Programme has been undertaken.</p> <p>Establishment of 2024/25 budget management hierarchies, profiles and coding structures for more effective / robust budget management purposes has been completed.</p> <p>Delivery of training in Financial Procedure Rules (FPR) and Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) has been completed.</p>

Changes to delivery dates

- 6.7 Detailed delivery milestone plans have been developed to underpin all workstream activities within the improvement plan.
- 6.8 Where slippage occurs to individual milestones but the overarching end date for the workstream activity is not impacted, no escalation or change control will be required and it can be assumed that any required mitigated will be put in play at an operational level.
- 6.9 Where there is impact on achieving the intended measure of success or overarching end date of workstream activity, a change control will be proposed for noting and transparency.
- 6.10 The change controls since last reported to Council are described below and summarised in the following table:
- *Cultural Transformation:*
 - CT2.06: one milestone relating to undertaking a first annual review of the strategy is off-track as a date change for the first annual review was not made when the strategy first went live in November 2023. There is a change control proposed to undertake the first annual review by December 2024.
 - CT5.07: Monitoring of Appraisal completions - 95% (75% of staff have had an appraisal to date) of staff in work to have had an appraisal - Change control to 30/09/2024 to reflect the delay in the completion of staff appraisals within the Waste Management service.
 - CT5.08: Quality assurance sample of objective setting and follow up guidance to Managers via HR BPs – Change control to 31/10/2024 following the completion of CT5.07 milestone.
 - CT7.07: Consider results of May 2024 staff survey to assess how engaged staff feel in communications relating to corporate governance improvement is

slightly off track due to the staff survey end date being extended. Change control to 31/07/2024.

- FRR3.11: Development of more efficient accounting, financial recording to reporting, within Business World application – Training on Business World still to take place, some training has taken place, however system users are requesting further training and taking on board initial findings of CIPFA. Change control to 31/12/2024.
- FRR3.15: Establish and implement compliance and enforcement protocols to embed governance arrangements into operational practice – further strengthening of performance management and disciplinary processes regarding non-compliance have delayed completion. Change control to 31/07/2024.

Theme	Key tasks / milestones	Original target date	Revised target date
Cultural Transformation	CT2.06: 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	31/10/2023	31/12/2024
	CT5.07: Monitoring of Appraisal completions - 95% of staff in work to have had an appraisal	31/03/2024	30/09/2024
	CT5.08: Quality assurance sample of objective setting and follow up guidance to Managers via HR BPs	31/07/2024	31/10/2024
	CT7.07: Consider results of May 2024 staff survey to assess how engaged staff feel in communications relating to corporate governance improvement	31/06/2024	31/07/2024
	FRR3.11: Development of more efficient accounting, financial recording to reporting, within Business World application	30/06/2024	31/12/2024
	FRR3.15: Establish and implement compliance and enforcement protocols to embed governance arrangements into operational practice	31/03/2024	31/07/2024

Summary of progress against plan and measures of success

6.11 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. This table reflects the current status – as per the above change controls that have been considered by LMT and IIAB.

CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT		LMT LEAD	EXEC MEMBER
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?		
Development / implementation of People and Cultural Transformation Strategy	Green	Green	Mixed change	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Development / implementation of Member Development Strategy and Programme	Amber	Green	No change	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker

Development / implementation of a corporate governance training programme	Complete	Complete	No change	Yes	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	Green	Green	Mixed change	No	C Heaphy / C Benjamin	Mayor Cooke
Development / implementation of improved focus on employee performance and accountability	Amber	Green	No change	Yes	C Heaphy	Cllr N Walker
Review Council's approach to Member enquiries and engagement	Complete	Green	No change	No change	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Develop / implement communications and engagement plan to support cultural transformation	Green	Green	No change	No	C Heaphy	Mayor Cooke

FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT		LMT LEAD	EXEC MEMBER
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?		
Controlling 2023/24 expenditure to within approved budgets	Complete	Complete	Improved	No	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker
Setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27	Complete	Complete	No change	No	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker
Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management	Red	Green	No change	Mixed	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker

7. Independent Improvement Advisory Board

7.1 Since its work was last reported to Council on 27 March 2024, the Improvement Board as met on 16 April and 23 May and will meet on 10 July, after this report has been published.

7.2 In its April and May meetings the Board has considered reports and presentations on the following:

- Progress within the transformation programme. The Board is reviewing the programme on a theme by theme basis. Members of the Board have also observed a number of the transformation programme meetings that take place as part of steps to seek assurance around the governance of the transformation programme
- the 23/24 and 24/25 budget

- an overview of the Council's improvement journey to date that set out what success will look like by each improvement theme within the Best Value Notice, has been achieved so far and what is next
- a standing update on progress against the improvement plan and Section 24 report.

7.3 During that time the Board has also met with:

- the Chair of the Children's Improvement Board to review common areas of interest
- the Chairs of Audit, Scrutiny and Member Development committees
- a range of external partners.

7.4 In mid-July the Board will issue its third progress report for the Council's consideration. In line with agreed reporting for this, the report will be considered by Executive on 24 July 2024.

7.5 Action points arising from formal Improvement Board meetings, excluding admin related tasks, e.g., facilitation of meetings, are set out at Appendix 3, alongside a summary of information requested by the Board.

7.6 In April 2024 Board members were asked if they would be able to extend their support for the Council's improvement journey past the original planned end date of October 2024. Unfortunately this was not possible for the Finance lead on the board due to other commitments, therefore the Council are actively seeking replacement support from a finance specialist. The Chief Executive and Mayor would like to place their thanks to Chris Buss, the Finance lead, on record.

8. Section 24: progress update

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

8.2 Since the last report a further two actions have been completed and the measure of success for another has been achieved:

S24 ACTIONS	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT	
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?
1. Progression of next phase of Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, prioritising actions to address cultural and governance issues.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

2. Development of contingency and succession governance protocols to mitigate potential impact of any future changes in senior leadership.	Green	Green	No change	Yes
3. Conclusion of Constitution review and provision of officer / member training ensuring changes are understood and implemented.	Complete	Complete	No change	No
4. Identification of deliverable short-term savings, protecting limited remaining reserves, considering statutory responsibilities and delivery of services.	Complete	Complete	N/A	Baseline set for 24/24
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.	Green	Green	No change	Mixed
7. Conclusion of Financial and Contract Procedure rules review to ensure they are fit for purpose.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
8. Provision of training on Financial and Contract Procedure rules to all officers involved in contracting, procurement or financial decisions.	Red	Red	N/A	N/A
9. Completion of contract review to ensure compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
10. Review oversight arrangements for Middlesbrough Development Company to assure value for money.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
11. Develop action plan for the demise of Middlesbrough Development Company setting out benefit realisation.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

*No baseline set

8.4 Across all S24 workstreams, one is reporting activity which is off target:

- **Recommendation 8, Financial and Contract Procedure rules:**
 - **S8.07:** Establish compliance and enforcement protocols to embed the governance arrangements into operational practice is slightly delayed due to further strengthening of performance management and disciplinary processes regarding non-compliance. Change control to 31/07/2024.
 - **S8.08:** Develop and deliver improved training and tools for all users of the Council's corporate finance system to facilitate compliance has been delayed due to training on Business World still to take place. Some training has taken place; however system users are requesting further training following initial findings of CIPFA review

Section 24: key activities

8.5 89% of all planned activities within the Section 24 Action plan have now been delivered. Progress against the Section 24 action plan agreed since last presented to Council is set out below:

REC	ACTIVITY
S5.01	The Council's strategic planning and budget development process for setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 and over the period of the MTFP to 2026/27 to consider opportunities for managing service demand, service redesign and transformation, reduced levels and stopping services
S6.03	Development of a first stage transformation programme (2024/25 to 2026/27) to review service delivery models to maintain / improve service outcomes from an affordable and sustainable cost base.
S8.02	All budget managers and staff involved in purchase to pay activities, to undertake mandatory face-to-face training.
S8.03	Implementation of monthly budget monitoring and forecasting to analyse cost and volume variances, driving proactive management intervention in services to address areas of overspend and income shortfalls.
S8.04	Develop budget management and purchase to pay dashboards to drive compliance through improved management information.
S8.05	Delivery of training in budget management for Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Managers as part of the Corporate Governance Training Programme.
S8.06	Deliver mandatory training in budget management tools for Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Managers
S11.01	Provision of a closure report on Middlesbrough Development Company to Executive

Changes to delivery dates

8.6 Since last reported to Council, 5 minor change controls are presented below to workstream activities for full Council to note. They reflect adjustments in prioritisation and chronology of activities:

Key tasks / milestones	Original target date	Revised target date
S8.07: Establish compliance and enforcement protocols to embed the governance arrangements into operational practice	Original start date 01/01/2024	Revised completion date 31/07/2024
S8.08: Develop and deliver improved training and tools for all users of the Council's corporate finance system to facilitate compliance.	Original start date 28/02/2024	Revised completion date 31/12/2024

Section 24: measures of success

8.7 There are currently 22 measures of success in place to assess the impact of activity within the Section 24 action plan:

- seven are now complete
- six are on or above target

- three are below target
- Measures of Success relating to the 23/24 budget position have now been removed and replaced with 2024/25 measures of success
- Five cannot yet be measured.

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

9.1 Not applicable.

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

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

10.1 Not applicable.

Legal

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

Risk

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

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

Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

10.4 Not applicable.

Climate Change / Environmental

10.5 Not applicable.

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

10.6 Not applicable.

Data Protection / GDPR

10.7 Not applicable.

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

10.8 Not applicable.

Appendices

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

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
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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
Improved understanding of corporate governance policies and process and improved adherence to them	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance	No change	Improved	0	Below target	every 2 months	2 out of 16 complete audits	March 2024 report	2 out of 12 complete audits	December 2023 report
	Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	n/a baseline	Improved	80% or higher	n/a baseline	Quarterly	No P1s or P2s so far in 24/25	Jun-24	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales	Mar-24
Improved relationships between officers and members	Staff and Member surveys to assess health of relationships and direction of travel	No change	n/a baseline	50% of staff and 80% of councillors or higher	Below target	Ad hoc	77% of heads of service and directors now view relationships with Executive members as positive or very positive (22 respondents)	Dec-23	26.6% of staff think relationships are somewhat or very positive, compared to 69% of Councillors	August 2023 Survey
Improved retention of staff	Staff turnover rates – Number of leavers	No change	Improved	5%	Above target	Quarterly	3.40%	Q4 2023/24	5.60%	Quarter 3 2023/24
Improved staff satisfaction	1-10 Score of how valued staff feel as an employee of the Council	No change	n/a baseline	6.2 or higher	Below target	Ad hoc	5.9	August 2023 Survey	6.22	Nov-22
Reduced need to use agency staff	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Total	Worse	Worse	75	Below target	Monthly	164	Jun-24	135	May-24
	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Transformation	No change	No change	No target set	No target set	Monthly	10	Jun-24	10	May-24
Improved ability to recruit to key roles.	Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	No change	3	At target	Monthly	3	Jun-24	3	May-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	Worse	Less than 150	Below target	Monthly	174	May-24	221	Apr-24
	% of complaints upheld or partially upheld by the central team	Worse	Worse	Less than 40%	Below target	Monthly	75%	May-24	60%	Apr-24
Members have a Member development programme that meets their needs and is well used	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	Complete	100%	At target	Annual	100%	Oct-23	100%	Oct-22
	Percentage of Members attending wider skills training	n/a baseline	n/a baseline	95%	Above target	Annual	98%	Oct-23	Data not available	Oct-22
	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	n/a baseline	n/a baseline	90%	Below target	Annual	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	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	n/a baseline	95%	Below target	Annual	63%	Jun-24	48%	May-24
Improved Member behaviour	Number of member on member complaints received	No change	Improved	2 or fewer per quarter	Above target	Quarterly	0	Q4 2023/24	6 complaints received member on member	Q3 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:
Expenditure for 2023/24 is completed within the approved 2023/24 budget	Actual expenditure and Forecast revenue outturn within the approved budget	No change	Improved	£0	Below target	Quarterly report to Executive	£3.6m	Period 10 2023/24	£7.023m	Period 8 2023/24
Maintain General Fund balance and usable revenue reserves at 31/3/23 levels	Maintain GF balance at £12m at 31/3/24	Complete	Improved	£12m or more	Below target	Annually	£10.986m on 31/3/24 (but on 1/4/24 will increase to £11.1m due to release of Collection Fund surplus)	23/24 outturn (to Executive 26/6/24)	£9.09m	Q3 23/24
	Maintain unrestricted usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £4m at 31/3/24.	Complete	Improved	£4m or more	Above target	Annually	£1.063m on 31/3/24 (but on 1/4/24 will increase to £9.280m due to release of Collection Fund surplus)	23/24 outturn (to Executive 26/6/24)	£6.3m	Feb-24
Establish Medium Term Plan to rebuild GF Balance and revenue reserves	Section 151 Officer assessment of adequacy of reserves	Complete	n/a	n/a	Complete	Feb-24	Judgement of S151 officer	Feb 2024 report to Council	n/a sufficient resources in place - judgement of S151 officer	Feb 2023 report to Council
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	87.66%	Jun-24	86.88%	May-24
Corporate finance training programme established	Quarterly programme of finance training established	100%	n/a baseline	One training session delivered per quarter	Complete	Quarterly	100%	Feb-24	n/a	n/a
Budget management and purchase to pay dashboards developed to improve management information and compliance	Budget management dashboard available to all budget holders from Business World through Power BI reporting tools by 30 November 2023. P2P Dashboards available by 31 March 2024	Complete	n/a	Dashboard in place	Complete	n/a one off measure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Budget management training rolled out to budget holders	All Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Holders Training delivered December 23 to March 24	Complete	n/a	95% or higher	n/a at this stage	n/a one off measure	n/a due from April 2024 onwards	n/a	n/a	n/a
2024/25 net expenditure is delivered within the approved budget	Forecast outturn is within the agreed budget	n/a to be reported from June onwards	n/a	Compliant / within budget	n/a					
The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain GF balance in line with approved reserves policy - 7.5% of the net revenue budget which would be £11.1m at 31/3/25	At target	Improved	£11.1m	At target	Annually	£11.1m	Apr-24	n/a	n/a
The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain unrestricted usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25	At target	Improved	£8m	At target	Annually	£8m	May-24	n/a	n/a
2025/6 budget is set and balanced	Balanced Budget for 2025/6 set	Not yet measured	n/a	£0 variance	baseline set	Quarterly	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Set a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan in place for the period 2025/6 to 2028/9	Balanced MTFP to 2028/9	Below target	n/a	Compliant / within budget	Below target	Annually	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Robust financial governance is in place	Achievement of 3 star or higher rating for financial governance against the CIPFA criteria	Below target	n/a	3 star or higher	Below target	18 months	2 star	Jun-24	n/a	n/a

Appendix 2 – Measures of Success – Section 24 Report

Recommendation	Measure of Success	Current performance	Target	Status against target	Frequency of data refresh	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
1	Delivery of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan activity	Complete	n/a	Complete	Monthly	6 out of 10 workstreams activity on target	Nov-23	10 out of 10	Oct-23
2	Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	3	At target	Monthly	3	Jun-24	3	May-24
2	Number of Transformation roles that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	No target set	No target set - baseline	Monthly	10	Jun-24	10	May-24
3	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance	No change	0	Below target	Quarterly	2 out of 16 complete audits	March 2024 report	2 out of 12 complete audits	December 2023 report
3	Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	n/a baseline	80% or higher	n/a baseline	Annual	No P1s or P2s so far in 24/25	Jun-24	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales	Mar-24
3	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	100%	Complete	Annual	100%	Oct-23	100%	Oct-22
3	Percentage of Members attending wider skills	No change	95%	Above target	Annual	98%	Oct-23	Data not available	Oct-22
3	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	No change	90%	Below target	Annual	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	Oct-23	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7	Oct-22
4	2024/25 revenue budget is balanced and maintained during 2024/25	n/a baseline	Balanced budget set	At target	Quarterly	Balanced budget set	Feb-24	n/a	n/a
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		

Recommendation	Measure of Success	Current performance	Target	Status against target	Frequency of data refresh	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
6	Actual expenditure and Forecast revenue outturn within the approved budget for 2023/2024	Complete	£0	Complete	Quarterly	£3.6m	Period 10 2023/24	£7.023m	Period 8 2023/24
6	Balanced MTFP to 2026/27	Below target	Balanced MTFP set	n/a baseline	Annually	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
6	Maintain GF balance at £12m at 31/3/24	Complete	£12m or more	Improved	Annually	£10.986m on 31/3/24 (but on 1/4/24 will increase to £11.1m due to release of Collection Fund surplus)	23/24 outturn (to Executive 26/6/24)	£9.09m	Q3 23/24
6	Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £4m at 31/3/24.	Complete	£4m or more	Improved	Annually	£1.069m on 31/3/24 (but on 1/4/24 will increase to £9.280m due to release of Collection Fund surplus)	23/24 outturn (to Executive 26/6/24)	£6.3m	Feb-24
6	Set 2024/25 revenue budget	Complete				Balanced budget set	Feb-24	n/a	n/a
6	Maintain expenditure in line with agreed budgets in 2024/5	n/a baseline		n/a baseline					
6	Maintain GF balance at £11.1m at 31/3/24	At target	11.1m	n/a baseline		11.1m	Q1		
6	Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £4m at 31/3/24.	Improved	Between 8m and 10m	n/a baseline		9.25m	Q1	6.2m	Q3 23/24
7 and 8	LMT, WLMT, all Budget Holders and all staff involved in Purchase to Pay trained by 31 December 2023	Complete	100%	Complete	Monthly	100.00%	Feb-24	76.88%	Jan-24
8	Deliver training to LMT, WLMT and all budget holders in use of Power BI budget monitoring dashboard to support budget monitoring and forecasting in 2024-25 by 30 June 2024	Improved	100%	n/a baseline	Monthly	100% of LMT 70% DMT Wider teams in next phase	Jun-24	n/a	n/a
9	Number of contract extensions that do not comply with contract extension rules	At target	0	n/a	Quarterly	0	Mar-24	0	2022/23

Appendix 3 – Summary of Information Requested and Major Action Points Arising From the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board (MIIAB) Recent Meetings

Information requests	Status
The recent survey of Members in relation to Members Enquiries should be shared with the Board	Complete
The CIPFA report on Financial Governance should be shared with the Board	Complete
The Calendar of meetings for Transformation Programme Board and Thematic Board meetings to enable Board members to observe meetings	Complete

Major comments / action points
The Council should provide further support to Members to encourage them to engage in budget discussions.
Provision of updates on delivery of the People Strategy since launched in April and an update on activity undertaken on Leadership was requested – this has been provided to the Board for consideration at its July 2024 meeting.
Recommendation that the Council reestablish reporting budget and performance outturns to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	17 July 2024
Title:	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)

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

Executive summary

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees/scrutiny panels/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:

People Scrutiny Panel

1 vacancy

Place Scrutiny Panel

1 vacancy

Staff Appeals Committee

Chair

Standards Committee

Chair

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

3 vacancies

You Matter to Us – Corporate Parenting Board

2 vacancies

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

Durham Darlington Teesside Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Committee

1 vacancy

Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee

1 vacancy

North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

1 vacancy

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

1 vacancy

Tees Heritage Trust Ltd (was Cleveland Building Preservation Trust)

1 vacancy

2.2 Live Well South Tees Board

The Live Well South Tees Board was established and the terms of reference were approved by Council on 22 May 2024 as follows:

5 Elected Members:

Mayor or Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture (Chair), plus statutory council officers and representatives from health.

Membership/Restrictions:

In a departure from the Council's Procedure Rules the following will apply to meetings of the committee:

- Quorum: At least 50% of the members are present. This should include the Chair or Vice Chair, at least one CCG representative and an officer of the Local Authority.
- Substitution: In order to ensure consistency and ability for senior decision-making, ad-hoc substitutions will not be allowed. Each member of the group to nominate one appropriate deputy.
- Voting: Decisions will be reached through a majority vote. The Chair to hold a casting vote.

Voting Members

Elected Members: Councillors Cooke and P Storey

Council Officers:

J Tynan	Executive Director of Children's Services
M Adams	Director of Public Health
P Rice	Director Adult Social Care Redcar & Cleveland Council
E Scollay	Director Adult Social Care and Health Integration

Non Voting Members

Supporting Officers

Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council

Managing Director, Redcar and Cleveland Council

2.3 5 Elected Members from Redcar and Cleveland were selected as follows:

Leader of the Council

Portfolio holder for Children's

Portfolio holder for Adults

Portfolio holder for Health, Welfare and Housing

1 other member chosen by the Leader

As the portfolios are different to Middlesbrough's Executive Members' portfolios, and the Mayor is both Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Councillors Gavigan, Ryles and Uddin have been nominated to fill the 3 vacant Middlesbrough places.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4. Background and relevant information

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

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

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

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

5.1 *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

5.2 *Legal*

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

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

The Council is under a duty to:

(a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.

(b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.

5.3 ***Risk***

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

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

5.4 ***Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion***

No protected groups are affected by the decision.

5.4 ***Climate Change / Environmental***

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

5.6 ***Data Protection***

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Update Memberships of Committees/Outside Bodies	Democratic Services Officers	31 July 2024

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	17 July 2024
Title:	Committee Terms of Reference Changes
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	Not applicable
Why:	

Proposed decision(s)
That Council approves the changes to the terms of reference for Works Council and Staff Appeal Committee as recommended by Constitution and Member Development Committee.

Executive summary
Following advice from for the Local Government Association (LGA) and in line with best practice it is proposed to change the terms of reference for Works Council and Staff Appeal Committee to reflect that a Member cannot sit on both committees in order to have a clear separation of roles. At a meeting on 27 th June 2024 Constitution and Member Development Committee agreed to recommend the changes to Council.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval from Council to amend the terms of reference for Works Council and Staff Appeal Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council

- Approves the changes to the terms of reference of the Works Council and the Staff Appeals Committee and recommends full Council approves the changes as follows:
 - Works Council – Members of Works Council are prohibited from being a member on Staff Appeal Committee.
 - Staff Appeal – Members of Staff Appeal Committee are prohibited from being a member on Works Council.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 Having clear separation of roles in place is good practice in local government and has been suggested to us by the Chair of the Improvement Board following feedback from the LGA.
- 3.2 Some members of Constitution and Member Development Committee have previous experience in Works Council and/or Staff Appeal Committee and therefore understand and agree with the clarity provided by having a clear separation in membership between the two meetings.

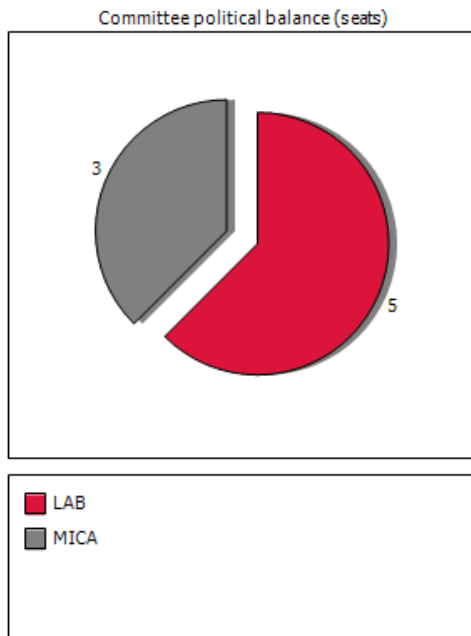
4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 Having reviewed the trade union consultation framework as part of our improvement journey the Chair of MIIAB provided feedback from the LGA workforce team.
- 4.2 We currently have one Member that sits on both Works Council and Staff Appeal Committee. That Member is aware of the proposed changes should the changes be approved that Member would have to relinquish membership of one of the meetings.
- 4.3 The current Terms of Reference and membership requirements for Works Council and Staff Appeal Committee are;
- 4.4 Terms of Reference - Works Council
- To be an advisory body to the Council.
 - To establish regular consultation between elected members of the Council and the recognised trades unions on issues affecting the Council at a strategic level. As this is not a negotiating body, the rights of the trades unions to negotiate issues through the proper negotiating process are preserved.
 - To present resolutions for the Executive's consideration.

- To discharge any functions specifically assigned to the Works Council.
- To review annually the operation and performance of the Works Council, including setting and evaluating performance indicators.

Seats: 10

Quorum: 2 Elected Members + 2 Trade Union Representatives



4.5 Terms of Reference - Staff Appeals Committee

- To have delegated powers to hear relevant staff appeals.

Membership:

- Chair and two other members to be selected from the full committee shown below to sit at each panel meeting.

Panel meetings need not be politically balanced.

4.6 It is proposed to add the following statements to the terms of reference

- Works Council – Members of Works Council are prohibited from being a member on Staff Appeal Committee.
- Staff Appeal – Members of Staff Appeal Committee are prohibited from being a member on works Council.

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

- 5.1 The other option would be to carry on with the existing terms of reference. This has not been recommended as there may be a perception of conflict of interest for any members sitting on both Works Council and Staff Appeal Committee.

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

6.1 Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

There are no financial implications of the proposed changes.

6.2 Legal

The proposed changes promote good governance insofar as they avoid any conflict or perceived conflict of interest, in respect of the possible cross over of business between Works Council and the Staff Appeal Committee.

6.3 Risk

There are no implications arising from the proposed changes.

6.4 Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

There are no implications arising from the proposed changes.

6.5 Climate Change / Environmental

There are no implications arising from the proposed changes.

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

There are no implications arising from the proposed changes.

6.7 Data Protection

There are no implications arising from the proposed changes.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Terms of Reference for Staff Appeals Committee and Works Council to be amended.	Democratic Services Officer	On approval

Appendices
None

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Constitution and Member Development Committee	Committee Terms of Reference Changes	27 th June 2024

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