

## PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>Date:</b> Monday 29th July, 2024
<b>Time:</b> 4.30 pm
<b>Venue:</b> Mandela Room

## AGENDA

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 - Environment Scrutiny Panel - 4 March and 20 May 2024 3 - 16

5. Minutes - Regeneration Scrutiny Panel - 20 March 2024 17 - 22

6. Overview of Service Areas 23 - 52

The Director of Regeneration and the Head of Neighbourhoods, Environment and Community Services, will be in attendance to provide the Panel with an overview of the services provided across their respective Directorates, and to highlight the strategic and departmental priorities for the coming year.

Recommendation: That the Panel notes the information provided and considers it when formulating its Work Programme for 2024-2025 (next agenda item).

7. Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2024-2025 53 - 60

Recommendation: The Scrutiny Panel considers its work programme for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year and selects up to three topics for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

8. Proposed Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2024-2025 61 - 62

Recommendation: The Panel is asked to consider the proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Municipal Year 2024-2025 and to agree a finalised schedule.

9. Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 26 June 2024.

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

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Friday 19 July 2024

#### MEMBERSHIP

Councillors D Branson (Chair), J Banks (Vice-Chair), J Cooke, C Cooper, J Ewan, N Hussain, D Jackson, J Kabuye, T Livingstone, L Mason, D McCabe, A Romaine and L Young

#### **Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Joanne McNally 01642 728329 / Susan Lightwing 01642 729712, 01642 728329/01642 729712, joanne\_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk; susan\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk**

## ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

**A meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was held on 4 March 2024.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Ryles (Chair), Branson (Vice Chair), Ewan, Grainge and Morrish.

**OFFICERS:** J Dixon, G Field, J Hill, A Shippey and M Walker.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Banks, Nugent and S Platt.

### **\*\* DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members at this point in the meeting.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 5 February 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

### **ANNUAL UPDATES – COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP; PREVENT AND CHANEL**

M Walker, Head of Stronger Communities; J Hill, Community Safety Manager and A Shippey, Community Safety Partnership Officer, were in attendance at the meeting to provide the Panel with statutory annual updates in relation to the Community Safety Partnership and the Prevent and Chanel programmes.

The Community Safety Manager commenced with an update in relation to the Community Safety Partnership.

Background information was provided explaining that the Community Safety Partnership was a statutory body made up of key 'Responsible Authorities' – including Police, Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Authority, Health, Probation and Youth Justice Service (YJS) – who each had equal responsibility for reducing crime and antisocial behaviour under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. (As amended by the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2014 and the Policing and Crime Act 2017).

The Partnership worked in collaboration with other statutory and voluntary services and local people to reduce crime and make people feel safer by dealing with issues such as anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, re-offending and serious violence.

The Partnership was required to delivery a number of statutory outcomes, including:-

- Production of a Strategic Intelligence Assessment, informing a Community Safety Plan. In turn, this Plan should set out the priorities and how they will be addressed (reviewed every 2 years).
- Consultation and engagement with the community.
- Formulation and implementation of a strategy to reduce re-offending by both adult and young offenders (Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009).
- Preparation of an information-sharing protocol which must be signed by all responsible authorities to disclose certain sets of depersonalised data at least quarterly.
- Ensure that it had a Committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made; or other action taken and to make reports or recommendations (Section 19 - 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006).
- Establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), as appropriate, (Section 9 of the Domestic Violence and Crimes Act 2004).
- Prevent violent extremism (Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015).
- Prevent and reduce serious violence (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022).

It was highlighted that there had been seven Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) in Middlesbrough alone in the last year and an independent team was brought in to undertake these.

The business of the Community Safety Partnership was open to scrutiny by all agencies, particularly the Overview and Scrutiny function of the Council. The working practices of the Partnership should enable Overview and Scrutiny to make early, constructive, contributions to policy as well as supporting scrutiny of decisions made, monitor outcomes and targets achieved and review practice and progress.

The Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) group monitored patterns and trends in multi-agency data looking at issues such as crime and anti-social behaviour which were plotted on a map on a monthly basis showing where partnership resources needed to be deployed to address emerging issues. The Head of Stronger Communities chaired the AIM Group and reported to the Community Safety Partnership.

It was highlighted that, in relation to the Panel's current scrutiny topic, environmental issues were also considered and plotted on the map using real-time data during AIM meetings which were also attended by Thirteen Housing.

There were a number of sub groups that fed into AIM and these were set out within the presentation. The groups included several Multi-agency Thematic Groups and Operational Groups, with task and finish groups established as and when needed. This had worked well in response to escalating crime and anti-social behaviour issues that had emerged in Hemlington and East Middlesbrough. A significant reduction had been achieved.

The Thematic Groups also linked with the four Neighbourhood Action Partnership meetings (NAP). The NAP meetings were held monthly and information was shared with Elected Members to highlight what was happening in their wards that required a multi-agency response. It also provided an opportunity for Members to provide feedback to the AIM Group.

The Panel was provided with the key headlines from the current Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA), as follows:-

- Cleveland Police Crime Statistics – Over the last four financial years, crime across all of Middlesbrough had continued to increase. The total number of crimes recorded in 2019 was 23,069, with an average of 1,922 crimes per month. This reduced slightly during Covid. In 2022/23 crime remained high with a total of 26,450 recorded crimes – an average of 2,204 crimes per month. This was an increase of 6% from 2019 figures. The latter half of 2022/23 showed signs of crime levels declining.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – In 2021/22 anti-social behaviour was lower than observed in previous years and some of the lowest levels per month were observed in the last four financial years resulting in 2021/22 ending with an average of 587 incidents per month. This had reduced further in 2022/23 with the total number of recorded incidents being 5,475, equating to an average of 456 per month. This was an overall reduction in incidents of 22.3% when compared with 2021/22.

Anti-social behaviour had reduced in all wards with the exception of Hemlington. At the end of 2022/23 ASB had reduced in Hemlington from the previous year by 34.7% and levels were currently lower than in 2021/22 and 2019/20. There had also been a reduction in all other wards in 2022/23 from the previous year, except Ayresome which had increased by 44% and Trimdon which had increased by 42%.

Within the four locality areas (north, south, east and west Middlesbrough), it could be seen that the majority of reports to the Warden service occurred in the North as this was where the most significant issues occurred, however, the Neighbourhood Safety Wardens and locality working had started to have a big impact.

- Cleveland Fire Brigade – Deliberate Fires – From 2018/19 to 2021/22 there had been an increase of 42% in deliberate fires across Middlesbrough. In 2022/23 levels remained the same as the previous year with an increase of just seven reports (0.42%).

In 2022/23, there had been a rise in reports of F1 fires (property, houses, vehicles etc) by 11.7% on the previous year but a slight reduction of 0.66% in reports of F3 fires (grass, rubbish etc) on the previous year. It was highlighted that work had been undertaken with the Environment Flying Squad and Thirteen Housing to ensure rubbish was removed from streets as quickly as possible in order to reduce the risk of fires.

- Serious and Violent Crime Data – Serious violence had increased in Middlesbrough by 32% from 2020/21 to 2021/22. In 2022/23 the figure had increased by 12.25% from the previous year with a total of 724 incidents. This was the highest figure in the last five years and was an increase of 51.93% from 2018/19.

The priorities of the Community Safety Partnership were :-

1. Perceptions and Feeling Safe
2. Tackling the Root Causes
3. Locality Working, including Town Centre

It was highlighted that the priorities were headlines and that under each was a significant delivery plan covering a vast array of issues and how each would be tackled at a local level, relevant to North, South, East and West Middlesbrough.

A discussion took place and the following issues were raised:-

- Reference was made to anti-social behaviour incidents currently being at their lowest levels whilst levels of serious and violent crime had increased significantly and it was queried how this could be the case and also whether serious crime was an escalation of anti-social behaviour. The Panel was advised that there had been some changes to the recording of crime and anti-social behaviour, with a proportion of anti-social behaviour incidents being re-categorised as crimes, such as malicious communication. It was highlighted that the recategorisation was implemented after the reduction in anti-social behaviour began to reduce.
- It was also pointed out that there a correlation had been observed in the reduction of anti-social behaviour where there had been a significant increase in the number of street wardens, patrols and activity.
- In relation as to why the figures for anti-social behaviour and serious crime did not appear to tally, the Panel was advised that anti-social behaviour included a range of issues that could blight communities but did not meet the threshold of crime. It was acknowledged that some anti-social behaviour could escalate to crime but the increase in serious crime and violence related to very serious incidents that were very different to anti-social behaviour.
- In response to a query regarding statistics around incidents on social media, it was stated that if the individual reported a social media incident to the Police then it would be recorded and dealt with by the Police, if appropriate.
- It was queried how Middlesbrough compared nationally and locally to other local authorities in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour. The Panel heard that Middlesbrough was an outlier for crime, having the highest levels in the Cleveland area and higher rates of crime per 1,000 per head of population than the national average. Middlesbrough's levels of anti-social behaviour also remained higher but on a positive note significant progress continued to be made with levels currently the lowest on record in Middlesbrough.
- It was queried whether Middlesbrough's higher levels of anti-social behaviour could possibly be due to Middlesbrough having a more 'zero tolerance' approach than perhaps some other local

authorities. In response it was stated that AIM examined other local authorities in the Cleveland area and the gap between the other authorities and Middlesbrough was beginning to close. Middlesbrough actively worked with all partners to look at reducing anti-social behaviour.

- A Member commented that in 2020/21 there had been a peak in anti-social behaviour in all areas of Middlesbrough and wondered if there was a reason for this. Members were advised that the peak in incidents correlated with the ending of Covid lockdown measures and there was generally a peak during the summer holidays and end of October.
- In response to a question in relation to high increases in anti-social behaviour in Ayresome and Trimdon (44% and 42%), it was stated that this was due to both areas previously having a much lower number of incidents.
- The Director of Environment and Community Services added that the data had emphasised anomalies during Covid times as, during periods of lockdown and social distancing, the Council and its partners had been unable to work as efficiently and that working relationships diminished to some extent. However, the Director stated he was incredibly proud of the Team and wished to place his thanks to them on record. They had refocussed on tackling crime and anti-social behaviour within their resources and had established strong working relationships with other organisations, through AIM and the other groups, to have a common approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. A good example of how this had been successful was in Hemlington. In addition the new Neighbourhood Model would see a multi-agency approach within the localities.
- It was stated that the number of female victims of crime had increased by 556 more than male victims and again Middlesbrough was an outlier for domestic abuse which correlated with there being more female victims of crime. More violent crime occurred in the town centre area and there was a thematic group looking at people most at risk of domestic violence (MARAC). It was accepted that whilst there were small numbers of male victims of domestic violence in Middlesbrough, the vast majority of victims were women.

### Prevent Programme

The Community Safety Partnership Officer provided Members with an overview of the Prevent Programme.

The purpose of Prevent was to safeguard people at risk of radicalisation and to stop them from being exploited by others who would want them to support terrorism.

Prevents used early intervention to protect individuals and communities from the harms of terrorism and was delivered through a wide network of partners in the community and public sector organisations.

Middlesbrough Council had established an Operational Prevent Group in response to the programme which led on action plans aimed at reducing the risk by increasing community awareness and resilience and promoting the safeguarding nature of Prevent.

Middlesbrough's Operational Prevent Group was a multi-agency group made up of local authority departments working with vulnerable people services including Youth Justice, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and external organisations such as Middlesbrough College.

The group developed and led on Action Plans annually to promote risk awareness to professionals and other who supported or cared for vulnerable members of the community.

In September 2023, revised Prevent Duty Guidance was introduced and the Operational Group had developed processes in the following areas to ensure compliance:-

- Reinforcing training provision

- Reinforcing the referral pathway
- Updating training provision in advance of new product launches
- Formalising engagement process
- Incorporation of the Security Threat Check Process requirement

The revised duty guidance had also adopted new terminology to include 'susceptibility' as individuals could be susceptible, but not necessarily vulnerable, or they could be both.

The referral pathway had been strengthened to include the use of QR codes, and translation for those whose first language was not English.

A number of examples of recent actions to promote the programme were provided including

- Half day event for professionals on Prevent with guest speakers
- Promotion of the 'Act Early' campaign and new Home Office Prevent promotional products
- Support third sector providing referral pathways and E-learning.
- Joint social media campaign with Redcar and Cleveland Council.
- Protect and Prevent awareness week, November 2023.
- Prevent roadshows promoting digital resilience and awareness of Prevent in Multimedia Exchange, Acklam Library, Hemlington Hub, Newport Hub and Streets Ahead.
- Supporting school designated safeguarding leads in Prevent and other safeguarding concerns
- Joint social media campaign to promote Prevent, holiday safety and online resilience with Wakefield Council.

Work was also undertaken in the wider community and the Panel was informed about a recent joint friends and family campaign with Parents Zone Local. This coincided with the launch of the Home Office promotional material, providing a twin track campaign in Middlesbrough.

A Parents Zone Local Ambassador was appointed to Middlesbrough to provide various sessions for parents, carers and community groups and professionals focussing on media literacy and digital resilience. 57 sessions had been held so far with 10 schools, 610 parents and 51 professionals.

It was highlighted that Middlesbrough continued to contribute to the Cleveland Prevent leads group which was held on a quarterly basis to promote a uniform approach across the Cleveland area.

In terms of training and support, a new face-to-face package was introduced by the Home Office in May for the education sector – 48 primary and 7 secondary schools in Middlesbrough.

The national figures in relation to Prevent were highlighted as follows:-

- 6,817 referrals made in the year ending 31 March 2023 – an increase of 6.4% compared to the previous year (6,406).
- Main categories remained consistent – 65% held Islamist-extremist views; 27% held extreme right-wing ideologies; 8% held beliefs related to other ideologies.

### Channel

The Head of Stronger Communities provided the Panel with an update in relation to the Channel Programme.

The Channel Programme was a bespoke provision operating across the whole Cleveland area.

Section 36 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2014 required each local authority to have a Panel in place for its area with the function of assessing the extent to which identified individuals were vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The Channel Panel was a multi-agency safeguarding meeting with everyone working towards

assisting individuals at risk, building their resilience against radicalisation and addressing any susceptibilities or vulnerabilities that they might have. All decisions made by the Panel must be accurately recorded.

Members of the Panel were required to complete high level security checks and annual training.

Nationally, 645 referrals were adopted as Channel cases in the year ending March 2022. Of those, 9% had been adopted following an initial referral to Prevent. During 2022/23, 46% of Chanel cases were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation (296); 18% linked to Islamist radicalisation (115); 16% related to individuals with conflicted concerns (103); 3% for school massacre concerns (18); and 2% for incel related concerns (13).

32% of referrals related to individuals aged 15 to 20, with individuals aged 14 and under accounting for 31% and 14% aged 21 to 30.

The Panel was informed that the number of referrals in Middlesbrough was low compared with other areas. In 2023, 35 referrals were made to Channel – meaning they had met the threshold.

Channel was a voluntary programme, therefore, the individual's consent must be obtained in order for them to take part. This had never been an issue. Once an individual had agreed to take part in the Channel Programme, an Action Plan was developed outlining how they would be supported including how they would be monitored, and guided and would also include any relevant organisations that required to be involved, such as education and employment providers.

In response to a query, the Panel was informed that there had been a very slight increase in referrals to Channel as a result of the Gaza Conflict and nothing of significance.

The Chair thanked the Officers for attending and the information provided.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted.

#### **UPDATE – CRUSTACEAN DEATHS COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP**

The Vice Chair provided the Panel with an update in relation to the work of the Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group. The Vice Chair had produced a summary report which was circulated to Panel Members prior to the meeting.

The report outlined that the Working Group had produced its draft report on the mass die-offs of crustaceans in November 2023 but there were several issues that required clarification including peer reviews of some of the scientific evidence.

The report cast doubt on the official position of the Government and Defra (Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs). Their position was that the mass die-offs could not be linked to the dredging operations carried out at Teesport around the time of the event and the Government believed that pyridine contaminant was not the reason for the deaths.

The report of the Working Group raised a number of key issues, including:-

- Limited data on the level of catches over the period of the die-offs.
- Lack of testing of sediment samples in the River Tees at the time of the die-offs and failure to test for Pyridine, or to allow independent bodies such as the University of Newcastle, to carry out such tests.
- Testing was carried out by PD Ports as the Statutory Harbour Master, despite the fact they have a commercial interest in the development of Teesport.
- The likelihood that so called 'capital dredging' had led to contaminants from the subsoil at the bottom of the estuary entering the River Tees. Capital dredging being those dredges which remove the subsoil at the bottom of the river and not just sediment washed into the estuary.
- Dredging carried out by UK Dredger 'Orca' in September 2021 involved a large amount of sediment and subsoil being dumped out at sea including highly contaminated soil, and that



such quantities would not normally have been permitted to be disposed of in this way. The mass die-off occurred shortly after this dumping had taken place.

Furthermore, it was the belief of two key witnesses, Dr Caldwell of Newcastle University and Dr Gibbon of Manchester University, that the need to quickly complete the new dock at Teesport, at a lower cost, had taken priority over the use of safe dredging and disposal methods to limit exposure of toxic chemicals and that it was possible that pyridine in the sediment was the key element leading to the catastrophic die-off of lobsters and crabs. There was concern that future dredging on the same scale would lead to more die-off which could seriously damage fishing in the north east coastal waters.

Local Councils would be asked to consider the findings of the report and determine what course of action should be taken to ensure a full and fair investigation into the cause of the die-off events.

The Vice Chair highlighted that the Final Report of the Working Group was anticipated in June and proposed that it should be subsequently submitted to Full Council for determination.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted and that the final Report of the Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group be submitted to Full Council in June, or as soon as practical following its publication, for consideration.

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

At the previous meeting, the Panel had requested recycling and waste data in relation to Middlesbrough's Cipfa neighbours. This information had been emailed to the Panel with relevant links to the information requested. As a result, a questionnaire had been devised and the Panel requested that this be circulated to the local authorities within the Cipfa neighbours group for response and/or teams meeting if appropriate.

The Director of Environment and Community Services also highlighted that there would be changes to current waste management arrangements should the Council budget and associated proposed measures be approved by Full Council at its meeting on 8 March. The Director stated that he would be happy to come back to the Panel to advise how all of the proposed measures within Environment and Community Services, particularly in relation to waste management, would impact service delivery.

A Panel Member raised the issue of the current charging arrangements for vans/trailers to dispose of household waste at the Haverton Hill Waste and Recycling Centre and a discussion took place. It was highlighted that this was a joint facility with Stockton Council and was not open to commercial vehicles or traders and would, therefore, be very difficult to monitor useage of non-commercial vans and trailers depositing household waste as opposed to commercial waste. Under the current arrangements, householders could apply for a permit to take household waste to the site in a van or trailer which would allow up to 12 free visits per year. Should householders wish to deposit non-household waste such as rubble/bricks, kitchen units etc, separate arrangements needed to be made for a site permit and this was chargeable at £23 per permit.

**AGREED** as follows :-

1. That the questionnaire in relation to waste management arrangements and data be forwarded to the local authorities within Middlesbrough's Cipfa family for response.
2. That the Director of Environment and Community Services be invited to a future meeting to advise of the changes to service delivery within the Service should the proposals within the Council Budget be approved.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was scheduled to take place on Monday, 2 April 2024 at 10.00am.

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

**A meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was held on 20 May 2024.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Ryles (Chair), Ewan, Grainge, Morrish and S Platt.

**OFFICERS:** K Bargewell, J Dixon and G Field.

**PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor Gavigan – Executive Member for Environment

**PRESENT AS OBSERVERS:** A Glover – Communications Team, Middlesbrough Council  
N Corrigan – Local Democracy Reporter, Teesside Live

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Banks and Branson.

**\*\* DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations of Interest made by Members at this point in the meeting.

**CHANGES TO BIN COLLECTIONS**

G Field, Director of Environment and Community Services, had been invited to the meeting to address a number of issues raised by Panel Members on behalf of residents and in relation to media articles regarding the roll-out of the new garden waste bins. The issues raised included the procurement process in relation to the new bins and communication with residents regarding transformation plans and how this would be dealt with going forward.

The Director advised that it had been just 40 working days since the commencement of the new garden waste bin roll-out. To date, the following had been achieved:-

- Movement of 45,518 bins in Middlesbrough.
- A total of 19,897 new garden waste bins had been delivered.
- A total of 25,621 old green 'diamond' waste bins had been collected.
- 41% garden waste subscriptions reached – double the estimated figure.
- Income target had reached £790,000.

The following queries were raised:-

- It was queried whether the 19,897 new bins issued and the 25,621 old garden waste bins that had been collected was the final total. It was clarified that residents with an old green waste bin had been given the option to keep it if they so wished and many had kept them for composting, etc. In addition there was a further two weeks remaining for residents to subscribe to the new green waste collection service. In addition, the income target to be achieved for the paid collection service of £790,000 had been achieved and was now more than £800,000. The assumption at the start was that £406,000 would be achieved.
- A Member asked, in terms of value for money, whether the cost of the purchase and roll-out of the new bins would be covered by the income achieved. The Director advised that the bins had been purchased from the capital budget and that during the budget-setting process for the current year, an assumption was made that an income of £406,000 would be achieved for this financial year. To date, a further £400,000 had been achieved (£806,000 so far). Should residents who had signed up to the paid for service renew their subscription next year, a similar figure would be achieved for next year and this would begin to narrow the budget gap.
- It was acknowledged that subscribing to the service had been a challenge, however, it would be much simpler next year for those wishing to re-subscribe as it was planned to provide an auto-

renewal facility for existing subscribers.

- A query was raised in relation to whether money originally allocated for traffic lights had been used as part of the budget spent on the new bins. It was clarified that the money for the purchase of the bins had been from the capital budget and that the capital funding allocated to traffic lights had subsequently been funded from an additional capital fund allocated to the Council through the TVCA. This had allowed the Council to use the money originally set aside for traffic lights for the purchase of the bins and avoided additional capital borrowing.
- It was queried whether the income from the green waste charges would be ringfenced to waste services. It was confirmed that this would not be the case and that any income would be received into the overall revenue account.

Members were advised that the timeframe for the roll-out of the bins was as follows:-

#### March 2024

- Approval for bin roll-out given by Full Council on 8 March 2024.
- Members briefing sessions held.
- Training for hub staff in order to assist residents.
- Work with IT to launch system for ordering bins, stickers, etc.

#### April 2024

- Deliveries of new garden waste bins commenced first week in April.
- Communication advising residents of arrangements to look out for soon in relation to collection of old green waste bins. Unfortunately, this included an example of the leaflet residents could expect to receive with a picture of the bin and 'Monday' across it. Many residents had assumed this meant that their old bin would be collected the following Monday and led to a lot of confusion regarding collections. Lessons had been learnt from this going forward.
- At least four Member briefing sessions were held at various times, both in person and on-line, to keep Members up to date.
- The new garden waste subscription service commenced.
- Collection of old garden waste bins (green, 'Diamond') began.
- On-line bin collection calendars were launched. There had been an issue with the software not pulling through around 15% of addresses. This had been a national issue with the software company which had now been resolved. However, the issues did not come to light until 14 May.

#### May 2024

- As mentioned, due to an IT glitch outside of the Council's control, around 1,300 orders for bins were not fulfilled on time, however, they were delivered by 12 May.
- Due to demand for the garden waste subscription service far exceeding initial assumptions, an additional 12,000 garden waste bins were ordered.
- As a result of the excess demand and queries, the Council's Contact Centre became overwhelmed, therefore, a small, secondary contact centre was established at Resolution House to deal specifically with bin orders and queries.

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- It was queried why the glitch in the ordering system had not been identified sooner. The director explained that the IT system used for ordering the bins had only been operating for a period of 40 days and that the error had been picked up midway through this period when residents began querying why their bins had not been delivered. There was then a process of catching up to fulfil the backlog of deliveries plus the scheduled deliveries.

- It was clarified that at the start of May there were 14,000 bins in stock, based on the estimate that there would be a 20% take up rate (around 9,300 bins). This figure was based on take up at other Councils and would have allowed for any additional requests to be met for second bins/late take up, etc. The current take up rate stood at 41% (just over 20,000 bins, including second bins). This was double the assumption at the start of the project. The total income reached was £790,800 but would exceed £800,000 this year.
- In response to a query as to which other Councils were looked at in terms of take up, the Panel heard that a comparison with Hartlepool and Darlington's take up for year one was considered. Initial take up rates in Middlesbrough had far exceeded expectations and it was acknowledged that this had been a huge task within such a short timeframe. Due to the budget setting process requiring approval in March, and given the Council's current financial position, it had been essential to ensure that deadlines for this year's green waste collection service were not missed as the figures assumed had been written into the budget. This had been an additional pressure as grass cutting was seasonal meaning that the subscription and collection service needed to be in place by April. The fact that demand and income would exceed predictions was a good thing, particularly as there had been some scepticism as to whether the initial take up assumptions would be achieved. It was also highlighted that there had been the additional challenge of collecting the old 'diamond' garden waste bins which had to be collected by a separate crew and dismantled at the roadside so that the component parts - bins, wheels and axels – could be recycled. More than 25,000 of those had been collected and removed so far in a nine-week programme which was currently ahead of schedule.
- Reference was made to many people, particularly older people, who did not have access to, or were able to use, the internet and therefore could not find out when their old bins were being collected as they did not receive leaflets letting them know the date of collection. The Director advised that 85% of bins that needed to be collected had been but there would be some residents who had decided to keep their old bins.
- A Member asked whether the Council would receive any income from recycling the old diamond waste bins. The Director advised that it was anticipated that around £40,000 would be received from recycling the bins assuming that all the ones known about were collected in. Once the nine-week collection programme had ended (in approximately two weeks' time) there would be a better idea of that income figure.
- A Panel Member commented that some residents had complained that despite subscribing to the green waste collection service and being issued with a new bin, they still had not had their bins emptied. The Director stated that this had occurred due to the backlog of new bins being distributed and old bins being collected. The service ran fortnightly from April to November, therefore, residents would be provided with two complimentary additional collections starting in March next year.
- In relation to the procurement processes followed in relation to the purchase of the bins, the Panel was informed that it was not true that it would have been cheaper to purchase the bins from a firm within the UK. It was common for local authorities to use procurement organisations that could source bulk purchasing and shorten the procurement selection process. A procurement exercise was undertaken which specified the particular requirements of the bins the Council wished to purchase, for example, a better-quality robust bin, microchipped, etched with the Council's recycling information. Schaffer was the Company that was able to deliver on all of the requirements and was selected on that basis and became the successful bidder. At the end of this process the Council must issue a Notice and this was overlooked in error but was subsequently rectified.
- In response to a question, it was explained that each bin was microchipped and the chip-readers, usually costing £1,000 each, were supplied as part of the process free of charge. In summary the correct processes were followed. A UK Company had challenged the Council stating that it could have supplied the bins cheaper, however, they did not meet the criteria specified.

- A Member queried why the bin stickers were needed if the bins were micro-chipped and it was explained that the stickers allowed the collection crews to see at a glance whether residents had paid for the collection service so it was essential for residents to place the stickers on their bins. If they had still not received their sticker for their bin they should contact the Customer Centre, 01642 726001. The micro-chips were embedded in the bins, which was a fairly standard practice, and allowed crews to identify bins where stickers had been removed – acting as more of a back up for owners.

### Fortnightly Collections

The Panel heard that the next major programme of bin roll outs was in relation to fortnightly collections which were due to commence in July.

A total of 30,000, 240 litre black bins had been purchased to be provided, upon request, to residents meeting the eligibility criteria for larger capacity residual waste bins once fortnightly collections commenced.

The figure was based on an assumption of half of Middlesbrough's households requesting a larger bin. To date, 11,937 larger capacity bins had been requested but it was expected that there would be further requests following further communications. There had also been 494 requests for additional 140 litre (small) black bins.

All bins being issued contained an embedded microchip assigned to the individual's address and this information was stored centrally within the Service.

It was anticipated that the delivery of the larger capacity bins would commence during the first week of June. Residents who had requested a larger bin would be sent a yellow bin transfer sticker, containing their address and a reference number. The sticker should be placed on the lid of the smaller bin and crews would empty the bin and take it away at the same time they delivered the new larger bin.

Those residents that had purchased an additional small 140 litre bin would be issued with a red authorised additional bin sticker which should be placed on the second bin allowing staff to clearly identify those who had purchased an additional bin.

A Panel Member noted that the example sticker stated 'valid from 2024 to 2026' and queried why it had an end date of 31 March 2026. The Director confirmed that there were no plans to charge again for the bins in 2026 and that it would simply provide an opportunity for the Service to reassess that resident's requirements, for example, someone may be receiving an assisted bin collection so it would be a case of refreshing those checks and ensuring nothing had changed.

In summary, more than 45,000 bin movements had taken place to date in 40 working days. The green waste subscription service had been significantly more popular than expected. The Director acknowledged that there had been some mistakes along the way, however, the Service would learn from those. The Director wished to thank all of the staff involved for their hard work throughout the complex roll-out programmes and in rectifying the issues that had occurred. The Director also expressed gratitude to the people of Middlesbrough for their patience and their commitment in signing up to the garden waste service which would ultimately be a positive step towards helping the environment.

In response to a question regarding gated alleyways, the Director confirmed that they would remain on weekly collections. New and additional bins had been ordered for the alleys and in addition the Council would commence reissuing of plastic sacks to residents in those areas. This would be rolled out by the end of the summer. It was highlighted that bins would have drainage holes and meshing to stop vermin getting in.

A Panel Member highlighted that, in the ward they represented, businesses using domestic bins for

their waste was a major issue. It meant that residents did not have full capacity for putting their refuse into the bins and that this attracted rats. It was noted that there had been some success in North Ormesby with the use of cameras in alleyways to stop this happening and to stop flytipping. It was also queried whether the Fixed Penalty fine for flytipping had been increased.

The Director advised that it was crucial to stop food sources for rats as this was what attracted them. It was hoped that this could be achieved by increasing the amount of bins in the alleyways, however, it was ultimately up to residents to ensure that sources of food were containerised and not left out. It was also confirmed that the Fixed Penalty for flytipping had been increased to up to £800.

It was queried how the Service would deal with any green bins that still had not been collected, possibly due to residents not being able to access information on-line and/or not receiving an information leaflet. The Director stated that further consideration would need to be given to this and how it would be communicated to residents.

In response to a question, reassurance was given that residents who had ordered larger capacity black refuse bins (and met the eligibility criteria) would receive them prior to the commencement of fortnightly refuse collections and delivery of the larger bins would commence the first week in June.

A Member noted that just under 12,000 larger bins had been requested to date and queried whether this figure was lower than anticipated and how requests were verified. The Director responded that the figure was lower than expected but anticipated an increase in requests closer to the start of fortnightly collections. In terms of verification, each resident applying for a larger capacity bin must provide their name and address and random checks were made to ensure they met the eligibility criteria.

A Panel Member asked the Head of Marketing and Communications and the Environment Services Manager what they would do differently in terms of the communication plan and operationally relating to the roll out of the new bins. The Head of Service responded that there had probably been an over-reliance on digital communications as some people did not have access to the internet. The paper leaflet which was delivered to residents did contain all of the information required, but did not pass the 'glance test'. At a glance, people had looked at the graphic which depicted a wheeled bin with the word 'Monday' and assumed that their old bins were being collected on the following Monday.

The Environment Services Manager added that operationally, the number of requests received had far exceeded expectations and that additional resources should have been placed in the Contact Centre in order to deal with the levels of requests and queries received. This would remain in place for the next six months. Members of the public could telephone the usual contact centre telephone number and press option 1 for queries relating to bins. It was acknowledged that the project had been a steep learning curve and that, as previously mentioned, additional resources had now been added to the contact centre. In terms of communications, the intention had been to try and explain a very complicated project in clear, simple terms and lessons had been learnt for future communications.

A Member made reference to the bulky collection service (junk jobs) and the information currently provided on the Council's website which referred to long waiting times for collections and it was queried whether there was any way in which to speed up the collection process as there were concerns that long waiting times might cause people to dump their rubbish. The Director responded that bulky waste collections were moving to a fully chargeable service and that this would reduce the timescale for collections. It was also highlighted that this was not a statutory function of the Council and that it was the responsibility of the individual to dispose of their waste by the correct method. For example, if they did not want to wait for the Council's collection service, they could use the Household Waste Recycling Centre or a properly licensed waste removal contractor.

A Panel Member highlighted that access to a bin calendar was only available on-line following

setting up an account and it was queried whether there were any plans to change this. The Director advised that this issue was currently being examined so that access to bin calendars could be gained from the main website by typing in the address without needing to set up an account.

The Chair commented that the meeting had been very useful and thanked the officers for their attendance.

**AGREED** that the information provided be noted.



**REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL**

A meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel was held on Wednesday 20 March 2024.

**PRESENT:** Councillors I Blades (Chair), J Ewan, S Hill, L Hurst, D Jackson, J Kabuye and I Morrish

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** M Peagam

**OFFICERS:** S Lightwing, P Clarke and G Kirby

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were submitted on behalf of Councillors N Hussain and J Ryles

**23/53 WELCOME AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

**23/54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>Item/Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor Hill	Non pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 – Member of Captain Cook Birthplace Trust
Councillor Kabuye	Non pecuniary	Agenda Item 5 – Member of Town Board

**23/55 MINUTES - REGENERATION SCRUTINY PANEL - 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

The minutes of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 21 February 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**23/56 HOW MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL CAN FUND CULTURE IN THE FUTURE: SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Chair of the Captain Cook Birthplace Trust and the Council’s Creative Programmes and Partnerships Manager were in attendance to provide information in relation to the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum.

The Chair of the Trust gave his presentation as follows:

The funding of culture and museums was a hot topic and a nationwide issue at the current time. The Captain Cook Birthplace Museum opened on 27 October 1978, to celebrate Middlesbrough’s most famous son and provide a place where people could be educated about Captain James Cook and his legacy. Education had become critical in recent years in respect of debates about colonialism and climate change, which the Trust had engaged in.

The Trust was established on 16 January 1978 in partnership with Middlesbrough Borough Council, with a specific remit to secure funding to provide the Museum. From the outset the partnership existed for the advancement of education about the life and work of Cook and the countries he discovered. After the Museum opened the Trust was dormant for some time.

In 2018, the Trust’s Constitution was revised and the Trust became more independent of Middlesbrough Council. The name was changed to the Captain Cook Birthplace Trust with the aim of being able to bid for funding or grants that the Council was unable to access. There were currently 11 Trustees and Membership was open to anyone who had an interest. There were 12 places on the Trust and 3 were nominated by Middlesbrough Council.

Over the last few years, the Trust had delivered talks, and other events including a tea dance, annual celebration of Cook's birthday, facilitated talks and hosted the Cook Island Rugby team. The Trust had also developed new signage to promote the museum and liaised with tour operators and Tees valley Tourism regarding reviving the Cook Trail. Unfortunately during the covid pandemic some of that work had become a little stagnated.

Since the announcement of the potential budget cuts by the Council in December 2023, the Trust had issued a press release explaining why the Museum must continue to operate. A petition opened by the Trust had gathered over 8000 signatures in support of keeping the Museum open. There had been local, national and social media coverage and debate had opened up on the subject.

In January, Members of the Trust had met twice with Middlesbrough's Mayor and Council Officers and had presented a proposal paper, detailing why the Museum should be maintained. There were some queries still to be answered regarding financial matters. The Trust was happy to participate in the operation of the Museum and ready to engage in discussion. The Museum could continue to be in the Council's ownership or it could be transferred to a new owner, either a commercial or voluntary body.

Currently the Trust's Constitution did not permit it to own assets and therefore was not in a position to take over the Museum. However, it would not be impossible as the Constitution could be amended and many other Museums were operated by charitable trusts. Clarity on the staffing, running costs, legal responsibilities, building conditions and cafe would be needed if the Trust were to consider a take-over. Footfall to the Museum would need to increase and the Trust would need to know if the Council were prepared to engage with volunteers.

One idea was to offer a 12 month membership – similar to other local venues such as Preston Hall in Stockton. This would encourage people to make return visits. School visits were another source of income. The Museum also had the potential for earning income from room rental to community groups.

The new signage that the Trust had developed needed to be put in place and this should be straightforward as none of the sites identified had presented a problem when discussed previously.

With regard to volunteers, around 33 people had expressed an interest – some offering half a day a week and others a full day. Even in the Museum was opened with reduced hours, it might be possible to operate with volunteers.

The Café was operated on a rolling lease and was due to be offered a new contract – although this had not happened as yet due to the Council's budget pressures. The Café currently paid rent and a service charge to a maximum of £20K per annum.

The Trust had also explored sponsorship and the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) had expressed some interest in providing grand funding. There was also a potential donor from the private sector who was interested in retaining the Museum.

The 27 October 2028 would be the 300th anniversary of Cook's birth and the Trust was already planning for this occasion. Groups in Australia, New Zealand and the USA were planning to be in Middlesbrough on that date, including descendants of the Cook family. The Maritime Museum in Australia housed a replica of The Endeavour and there was potential for that to return to the UK for the anniversary. There would be commercial potential for hotels, restaurants and other local facilities for events to mark the occasion.

The possibility of a new purpose-built museum at the entrance to Stewart's Park was also mentioned.

The Creative Programmes and Partnerships Manager explained that the Council operated the Dorman and the Cook Museums and the challenge was to operate two museum sites and find a 100K saving. The service was reviewed last year and a number of posts were on hold. The team was doing a good job without a full staffing structure in place. The Council was exploring how to make the two sites operate and make the saving, or, generating income to cover the gap. More front of house staff would be required to run both Museums and the

Council would be liaising with the Trust regarding volunteers and staff resource to manage a programme and embed into the structure across both museums. This might be an interim arrangement.

In the longer term, the Council had been working closely with TVCA to undertake a heritage study for the whole of the Tees Valley – looking at the assets and links in terms of heritage. The idea was to develop a plan and be in a position to advocate for the investment the Museum service needed.

The Museums Service had had a successful year in 2023 in terms of generating income through temporary and touring exhibitions such as the Lego and Titanic exhibitions, for which there had been a charge to visit.

In terms of visitor figures to the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, the following information was presented:

5360 paying visitors from April 2023 until January 2024.  
2431 school visits.

The current fee for museum entry was £4.50 which would increase from 1 April £4.70. There were also concessions. Tickets permitted access for one year but it was unclear how many visitors made repeat visits.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the information provided.

**AGREED** that the information provided was received and noted.

23/57

## **PLANNING CAPACITY - FINAL REPORT**

A copy of the Draft Final Report on Planning Capacity had been circulated with the agenda.

Members discussed the information provided and suggested conclusions and recommendations for inclusion in the Final Report.

**AGREED** that:

1. the following conclusions were approved for inclusion in the report:

- The Panel examined the findings of the quick review of Development Management carried out by the Planning Advisory Service in September 2023 and notes their recommendations to improve the speed of decision-making in line with government requirements.
- It is acknowledged that the review did not include Planning and Development Committee, Planning Enforcement or the Appeals Process and that performance of these areas can also potentially be improved.
- Middlesbrough Council currently has two Officers, based within the Environment Directorate, available to provide advice on highways and drainage and other planning powers. There is a lack of skilled personnel in areas such as design, ecology and arboriculture. Having to seek external advice can add delay to decision-making on planning applications.
- The increase in the number of enforcement cases is of great concern to the Panel. The two posts that support the Enforcement Officer have been vacant for a considerable length of time. The Panel also notes that due to the current high volume of work, the timescales listed in paragraphs 2.9 and 2.10 of the planning enforcement manual will not apply for the foreseeable future. With the limited available resources, the Council currently prioritises enforcement activities in relation to Article 4 and conservation in Linthorpe in order to protect Middlesbrough's heritage.
- The Panel is pleased to note the recent award of funding from the Government's Planning Skills Fund that will assist in addressing the backlog in enforcement support, planning support, highways and flooding input into the planning process and also used to

develop new Design Codes as required by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

- In relation to shared services it was apparent that there can be efficiencies not only with regard reduced costs but that having a larger team naturally provides more resilience and expertise.

2. the following recommendations were approved for inclusion in the report:

- The Council should ensure that the recommendations of the Planning Advisory Service's Development Management Review are implemented in full to ensure that the Planning Service continues to be able to meet government performance targets in relation to decision-making.

- Implementation of the PAS recommendations in relation to the following should be prioritised and enhanced:

- The Development Control Team should work together from the office in Fountains Court for a minimum of one day each week. Practical barriers to team working, for example, "block booking" space in the shared office should be addressed without delay.

- Continue to embed the Agile Planning system and recently acquired Power BI system into the DM process, make time to provide (and maintain) a practical guide to the system for case officers.

- Dedicated training is provided for staff to enable them to use the relevant specialist IT systems to their full potential.

- Consideration be given to inviting the Planning Advisory Service to undertake a full review of the Planning Service to include Planning and Development Committee, Planning Enforcement or the Appeals Process.

- Create a new Highways Officer post within the Planning Services Structure to provide a dedicated resource and as far as possible, eliminate delay in the planning application process.

- Investigate with the other Tees Valley Local Authorities whether there is potential to create a shared pool of statutory consultees who have expertise in the relevant disciplines such as highways, drainage, design, ecology and arboriculture.

- Explore with the Council's Human Resources Service whether, in addition to current recruitment practice, there are any further opportunities to more widely promote vacant posts, such as the enforcement posts, in the Planning Service.

- Give consideration to establishing a pooled enforcement team of specialist officers to work together to address all areas of enforcement that fall within the Council's remit. This could be particularly helpful where multiple issues of non-compliance related to the same individual or property.

- In conjunction with the Council's Digital Team review whether the information provided on the Council's website in relation to the town's conservation areas can be given a higher profile and/or made more user-friendly, to better inform residents who might be considering alterations to their properties and potentially reduce the numbers of enforcement cases.

3. a final version of the report would be circulated to all Panel Members for any further amendments/comments, with final approval delegated to the Chair of the Panel.

4. the final report would be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.

23/59 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Having concluded the current scrutiny review today, the Chair suggested that the final meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel for Municipal Year 2023/2024, currently scheduled for 17 April 2024, should be cancelled.

**AGREED** that the next scheduled meeting of the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel would be cancelled.

23/60 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED**

None.

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# Regeneration

Richard Horniman



# Regeneration Directorate

- Growth (Sam Gilmore)
  - Economic development, capital projects, housing, design services
- Planning (Paul Clarke)
  - Development control, planning policy, building control
- Community Learning (Claire Kemp)
  - Apprenticeships, ESOL, employability
- Property (David Jamison)
  - Corporate property, commercial property, sales & purchases
- Culture (Gaye Kirby)
  - Town Hall, theatre, museums, events, sector development
- Marketing and Comms (Andrew Glover)
  - External communication, internal communication



# What We Do

- Support the business community to thrive
- Support key sectors to grow such as digital & advanced manufacturing
- Facilitate new commercial space so businesses can locate or expand
- Provide opportunities for new housebuilding to retain population
- Control development to protect the town's future
- Provide opportunities for people to experience/enjoy cultural activities
- Promote the town and the work of the Council
- Support people to improve their skill levels and find work
- Provide the spaces for services to operate from
- Manage the spaces businesses operate from

# Direct Impact on the Council

- More Council Tax
- More Business Rates
- Reducing demand on public services
- Income from commercial lettings and sales
- Good publicity

Also...

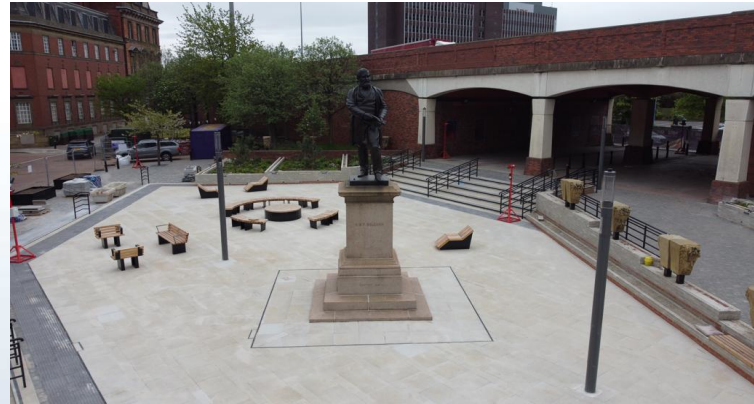
- Controversy (housing / community centres)
- Complaints (planning)

# What Are We Up To?

Page 27

# Transforming the Centre of Town

Page 28



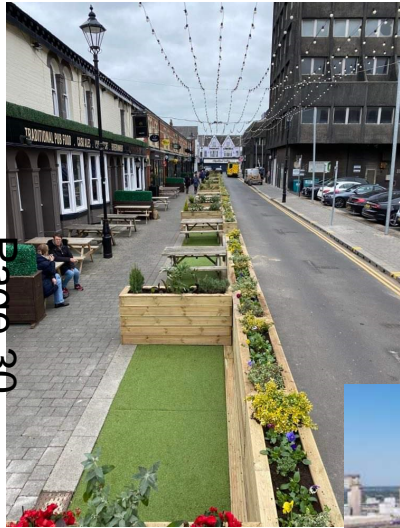
# Capital Projects

Page 29

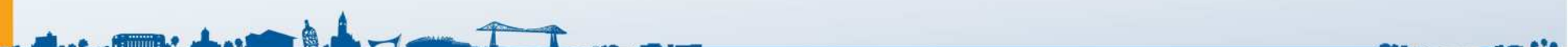


# Supporting Business Sectors

Page 30



# Culture



# Learning



Page 32





# Promotion



Page 33

Flying Squad respond to a call-out

ABOUT THE COUNCIL ALL SERVICES TEAM INFORMATION FORUM

Welcome back to the intranet Andrew Glover

ht

Our campaign for Fostering Fortnight 2022 is in full swing.

Did you know we have Middlesbrough carers who have fostered for over 20 years and even a couple who have fostered over 200 children?

Read more

HR A - Z Health & Wellbeing

Health & Safety Employee Benefits

Pay, Pensions & Expenses Finance

Cookie settings

# Housing



Page 34



# Big Issues

- Mayoral Development Corporation
- ASB
- Construction costs v Property values
- Nutrient neutrality
- Local Plan
- Dwindling resources – capital & revenue
- Adult learning contracts
- Building control
- Culture spend = venues only
- Aging property portfolio with increasing risks

# Transformation & Savings

- Property rationalisation
- Asset sales
- Museum closure
- Staff reductions
- Property management arrangements

# Questions?

Page 37

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# Environment and Community Services Overview

## Place Scrutiny Panel

29<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Marion Walker: Head of Neighbourhoods**

On behalf of Geoff Field, Director of Environment and  
Community Services



# Deliver services and policies that meet the Council's Strategic Vision.

*The Council's vision for Middlesbrough is a thriving, healthier, safer and more ambitious place where people want to live, work, invest, and visit. We will support our residents to live fulfilling lives, to ensure that our communities thrive.*



# Environment and Community Services

- Neighborhoods, including Environment Services
- Highways and Infrastructure
- Public Protection
- North East Regional Migration Partnership

# Neighbourhood Services

- **Waste services and recycling:** Domestic refuse, recycling and garden waste collections, collection of household bulky waste, waste disposal contract. Pest control.
- **Area care:** Green strategy, play areas, alley cleansing, grounds maintenance and animals and needles, street, trees and arboriculture, burials, parks maintenance.
- **School Catering:** Supporting 25 primary schools to provide healthy, nutritious meals
- **Libraries and Hubs:** 9 hubs/libraries and 2 self service locations

# Neighbourhood Services

- **Community Safety Partnership:** Statutory body looking at strategic oversight of multi-agency approach to reducing crime and ASB
- **Neighborhood Safety:** Wardens, partnership working, CCTV, enforcement, support and referrals.
- **Flying Squad:** dealing with fly tipping and education people of the consequences
- **Volunteering:** Staff volunteering day, supporting community volunteers and people who want to volunteer to work for the LA, linking in with 50 futures

# Neighbourhood Services

- **Partnership working and community development:** Building resilience, doing 'with' and not 'to' communities
- **Cohesion and Migration:** Supporting refugees and asylum seekers. Helping them to understand British values
- **Bereavement Services:** Crematorium and cemeteries
- **Parks:** Maintenance and support to events
- **Coulby Farm:** supporting animals and providing an excellent facility to the community.

# Highways and Infrastructure

- **Strategic Highways planning:** Sustainable transport, road safety, parking services, traffic management (signs, lines and traffic calming), Highways development control (New developments and traffic modelling)
- **Integrated Transport Unit:** Home to school transport service (SEND transport, and low income transport,) ASC transport and CSC transport.

# Highways and Infrastructure

- **Highway engineers:** Bridges and Structures, Highway Maintenance, vehicle crossings, highway inspections and intervention, flooding issues, beck maintenance, highway emergency response, winter maintenance (includes gritting and snow clearance), Street Lighting.
- **Fleet services:** Vehicle and machinery repairs, MOTs, car hire, servicing of Middlesbrough Council vehicles, fuel

# Public Protection

- **Trading Standards:** Selling unsafe or dangerous items, fakes, pressuring people into buying something, scamming, carrying out poor quality or dangerous work (i.e. builders), selling restricted items (alcohol or cigarettes) to people who look underage without asking for ID.
- **Environmental Health:** Inspecting food premises, noise nuisance, contaminated land.
- **Empty Properties:** Open for access, contamination, cleanliness.
- **Air and noise Quality:** investigations into complaints

# Public Protection

- **Selective Landlord Licencing:** Schemes throughout Middlesbrough (North Ormesby, Newport)
- **Licensing:** Alcohol and entertainment, taxi's, charitable collections, betting shops and amusement centres, street and market trading and scrap metal dealers.
- **Gambling Policy**

Page 48



# Property and Commercial Services

- **Transporter Bridge**
- **Metz Bridge Travellers Site:** Support to residents, rent collections
- **Council Buildings:** Cleaning and security

# Priorities

- Support and enhance Council's transformation program.
- Introduce and develop neighborhood working.
- Community safety plan and partnership implementation.
- Increase cleanliness of the town and its physical environment.
- Develop and implement green strategy.
- Tender for main waste disposal for post 2025/26.
- Reduce environmental crime.
- Reduce crime and antisocial behavior.
- Maintain a robust approach with regard to trading standards.

# Priorities

- Improve A66 through Middleborough.
- Highways investment to improve roads.
- Library development.
- Bridge investment.
- Building cleaning, caretaking and security services.
- North East Migration Partnership.
- Regional lead on asylum and migration.
- Lead on emergency planning.

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## MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

### PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

#### Setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2024-2025

29 JULY 2024

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To invite the Place Scrutiny Panel to consider its work programme for the 2024-2025 Municipal Year.

#### REVIEW OF 2023-2024

2. At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 7 May 2024, a new structure for scrutiny arrangements in Middlesbrough was agreed. As a consequence, the Place Scrutiny Panel is a new Panel for this year. Relevant topics considered by the former Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Panels in 2023-2024 are listed below for Members' information:

#### Scrutiny Investigations

Environment Scrutiny Panel:

- Waste Management.\*

Regeneration Scrutiny Panel:

- Planning Capacity.

#### Updates/Presentations

Environment Scrutiny Panel:

- Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group.
- Council Budget 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh – Environment.
- Use of the Surveillance Policy.
- Community Safety Partnership; Prevent and Channel.
- Changes to Bin Collections.

Regeneration Scrutiny Panel:

- Local Plan.
- Council Budget 2024/2025 and Medium Term Financial Plan Refresh – Regeneration.
- How Middlesbrough Can Fund Culture in the Future – overview of the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum and the work of the Trust.

3. \*Environment Scrutiny Panel – Waste Management

Throughout the last municipal year, the Environment Scrutiny Panel undertook a detailed investigation into Waste Management. It is suggested that a draft final report is brought to a future meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

**BACKGROUND**

4. At the start of every Municipal Year, scrutiny panels discuss the topics that they would like to review during the coming year.
5. Work programmes are useful as they provide some structure to a scrutiny panel's activity and allow for the effective planning and preparation of work.
6. As part of the process for establishing the work programme, support officers gather information/views from a number of sources. Following an annual consultation exercise which ran between 15 May 2024 and 14 June 2024 several topics were suggested by Councillors, residents and other stakeholders which are listed below. Members are advised that the list of possible topics is not exhaustive and that additional topics can be added and considered at the scrutiny panel meeting. Priorities from the Council Plan 2024-2027 are also listed below for information.
7. In the interests of openness and transparency, all suggestions appear as received. It should be noted that all suggestions are solely those of the individuals and not all requests will fall under the remit of the scrutiny function; this will be determined by individual panels.
8. In addition, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has suggested one topic for inclusion.

**Suggestions**

<b>Suggestion</b>	<b>Details</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Board and Councillor P Storey	<b>Home to school transport</b>
Councillor P Storey	<b>Bereavement services and future planning for cemeteries and cremations</b>  (urgently needed as Acklam cemetery will be full in under two years and I don't know what has been done about it and the furnaces need replacing at the crematorium).
Councillor P Storey	<b>Implementation of the new Brown garden waste bins and service</b>
Resident	<b>Neglected Thorntree and Brambles Ward</b>  This ward has become an area with few facilities for the public. We lack a sports hall and have only two playgrounds for our

	<p>children—one in Pallister Park and the other in Thorntree Park. There are no playgrounds in Brambles or St. Anthony's, and we need more than one in the Thorntree area.</p> <p>Thorntree Hub is only open four days a week and lacks many essential facilities. Millbrook Park, known locally as Spider Park, needs an update to provide Brambles Farm with a park, which it currently lacks.</p> <p>Thorntree Park also needs attention. The road requires repairs, the park fences need painting, the annual flooding issue needs addressing, and the MUGA pitches should be revamped into volta cages for daily public use.</p> <p>Providing recreational facilities will foster a healthier and more vibrant community. We seek Middlesbrough Council's support to enhance our community's quality of life.</p>
Resident	<p><b>Motorbikes/Drug Dealing</b></p> <p>Brambles and Thorntree are plagued by motorbikes and drug dealing. Quads and off-road bikes are rampant, some used for drug dealing and others causing disturbances. Riders are often without helmets and sometimes have children on board without helmets. The community council has received numerous complaints and action is needed.</p> <p>Drug dealing occurs openly, near children, outside shops, close to schools, and behind local buildings. These activities are disrupting local businesses and residents.</p> <p>We urge MBC to collaborate with Cleveland Police and local housing associations to address these issues, making Brambles and Thorntree safer and cleaner.</p>
Resident	<p><b>Gangs of Youths</b></p> <p>There is growing concern among residents about large groups of youths loitering in the ward, making it unsafe for people to walk around, shop, or even visit local pubs. Residents desire a safe and enjoyable local environment.</p>
Resident	<p><b>Litter and Bins</b></p> <p>Brambles and Thorntree suffer from a significant litter problem and a shortage of bins. Thorntree Park once had 12 bins, more than the rest of Thorntree combined. Cargo Fleet Lane has only five bins, the Greenway has none, and the rest of Thorntree has barely five bins. Brambles has three bins near Marshall Ave shops and fewer elsewhere. St. Anthony's has none, Town Farm</p>

	has one, and other areas of the ward have only two bins each, which is insufficient. We need more bins to manage litter effectively.
Resident	<b>Rubbish Dumping</b>  Residents are struggling with the high costs of waste disposal. The free service is slow, leading people to dump items in gardens, streets, becks, fields, and parks. This issue needs urgent attention. MBC must find a solution for the fifth most deprived area in the UK to dispose of rubbish for free and promptly. Residents shouldn't have to walk past discarded beds, sofas, and TVs due to unaffordable disposal costs.
Council Officer	<b>Decline of Middlesbrough spaces and place</b>  What do our communities want/ need. What matters most to them and what can we do to bring about positive change i.e. lighting up a dark area, disrupting adverse behaviours with structures or diversion activities, painting railings, community ownership (bedding plants given to schools to upkeep – taking an allotment approach to spaces).
Council Officer	<b>Town Centre and local communities shop space investment</b>  – evaluating our attempts to reinvigorate Middlesbrough Town Centre and local shop space in communities.
Council Officer	<b>Challenging landlords in communities</b>  – what is non-negotiable for a landlord, who is operating below the expected level and why.

### Updates

<b>Flood Risk Management</b>	The Pitt Review 2007, undertaken as a result of major flooding in the UK, made a number of recommendations, including that local authorities' scrutiny committees should receive annual updates in relation to the actions taken locally and review of the work carried out to manage flood risk.
<b>Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees/Crustacean Working Group</b>	At a meeting of Council on 6 July 2022, Motion No. 153, it was determined that regular updates on this topic be provided to the relevant scrutiny panel.
<b>RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers) (annual</b>	RIPA is the law governing the use of surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local authorities. RIPA requires that when public authorities need to use covert techniques to obtain



<b>update</b>	private information about someone, they only do so if surveillance is necessary, proportionate, and compatible with human rights. Typically, this relates to suspected criminal activity that is likely to result in a custodial sentence of six months or more.
<b>Prevent and Channel (annual update)</b>	In 2011, the Prevent strand of the UK's long-term strategy for countering international terrorism, known as CONTEST was explicitly changed by the Government to deal with all forms of terrorism, and target not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism. This change in strategic direction was enacted in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Act, which became law in February 2015, places a duty on specified authorities to have "Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". In response an Action Plan for Middlesbrough was developed to respond to the specific elements of the Prevent agenda. In 2018, the Counter-Terrorism Strategy was published and the former Culture and Communities and Environment Scrutiny Panels received an update regarding PREVENT actions and annual updates thereafter.
<b>Community Safety Partnership (annual update)</b>	The powers of the Police and Justice Act 2006 relating to Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require the Middlesbrough's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) to present the partnerships intentions, and actions to Scrutiny on an annual basis. This requirement commenced in 2009 and the former Culture and Communities and Environment Scrutiny Panels have received annual updates since that time. On 24 January 2023, the Executive approved an extension to the Community Safety Plan which would run in its current form until March 2024.

**Council Plan**

<p><b>Priority: A successful and ambitious town</b>  Maximising economic growth, employment and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way.</p>
<p><b>Priority: A healthy place</b>  Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives.</p>
<p><b>Priority: Safe and resilient communities</b>  Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives.</p>
<p><b>Priority: Delivering best value</b>  Changing how we operate to deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents and businesses.</p>

9. It should be noted that the topics and updates outlined above are suggestions. When considering the work programme, the panel is advised to select topics that are of interest to it, as well as topics that the panel feels by considering, could add value to the Local Authority's work.

10. In addition to undertaking the agreed work programme, scrutiny panels have also previously responded on an ad-hoc basis to emerging issues - such as considering relevant new legislation, guidance or Government consultation documents. This approach occasionally results in further topics being identified for investigation or review throughout the year.
11. The scrutiny panel is also advised that, under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have a responsibility of community leadership and a power to secure the effective promotion of community well-being. Therefore, in addition to the scrutiny panel's generally recognised powers (of holding the Executive to account, reviewing service provision, developing policy, considering budget plans and performance and financial monitoring), panels also have the power to consider **any** matters which are not the responsibility of the Council but which affect the local authority **or** the inhabitants of its area. For example, nationally, local authorities have undertaken scrutiny work on issues such as post office closures, rural bus services, policing matters and flood defence schemes.

### **Scrutiny work plan prioritisation aid**

12. When considering topics for the work programme, Members may wish to use the aid attached at **Appendix 1** to prioritise issues where scrutiny can make an impact, add value or contribute to policy development.

### **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

13. The scrutiny panel is asked to consider its work programme for the 2024-2025 municipal year. Further information can be requested from relevant officers if required, for example with regard to timely scheduling.
14. When considering its work programme, the scrutiny panel is asked to ensure that topics agreed for inclusion:
  - Affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area.
  - Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence.
  - Are not issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the scrutiny panels have considered during the last 12 months.
  - Do not relate to an individual service complaint.
  - Do not relate to matters dealt with by another Council Committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.
15. It is suggested that the scrutiny panel has a mixture of working styles in its programme. This can include detailed and in-depth reviews, shorter topics, or one-off investigations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

16. That the scrutiny panel initially identifies no more than 3 topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2024-2025, for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for approval.

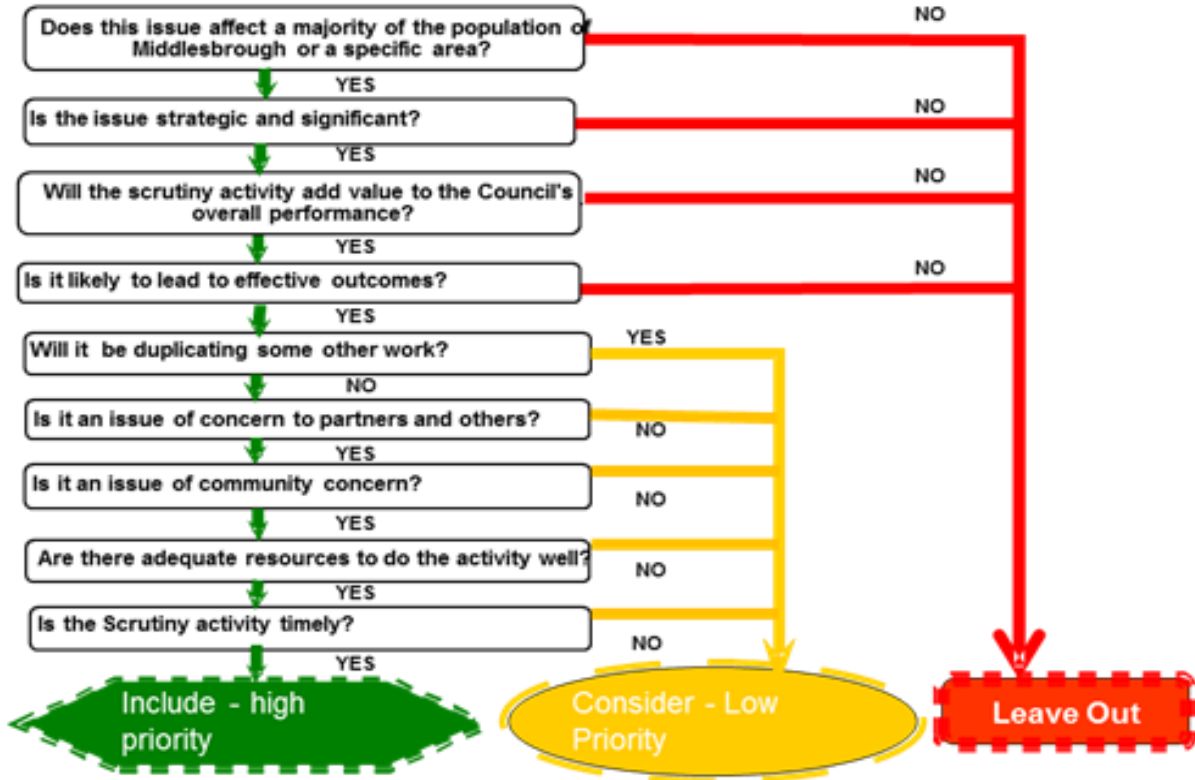
## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

17. None.

### **Contact Officers:**

Susan Lightwing, Interim Manager – Democratic Services  
Tel: 01642 729712  
Email: susan\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Joanne McNally, Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 01642 728329  
Email: joanne\_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk



**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**29 July 2024**

**PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE  
2024/2025 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To agree the proposed schedule of meeting dates, for the Place Scrutiny Panel, for the 2024/2025 Municipal Year.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Monday 29 July 2024	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 2 September 2024	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 7 October 2024	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 4 November 2024	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 2 December 2024	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 6 January 2025	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 27 January 2025	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 3 March 2025	4.30 pm	Mandela Room
Monday 31 March 2025	4.30 pm	Mandela Room

**COUNCILLOR D BRANSON**

**CHAIR OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Contact Officers:**

Susan Lightwing, Interim Manager – Democratic Services  
Tel: 01642 729712  
Email: susan\_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Joanne McNally, Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 01642 728329  
Email: joanne\_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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