

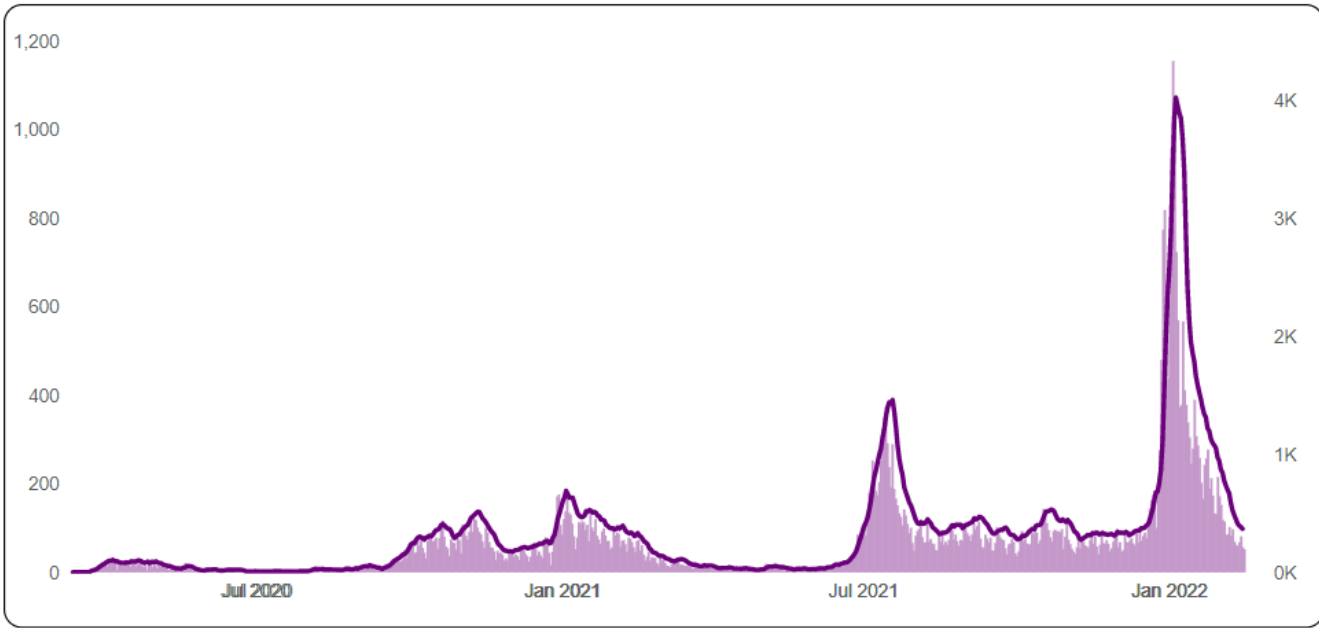
Overview and Scrutiny Board: Chief Executive update

22 February 2022

Agenda

- COVID-19
- Quarter Three corporate performance update
- Governance issues in Local Government
- Executive update
- Questions

COVID-19 overview



Last updated 17/02

Quarter Three corporate performance update

The Council's performance overall at the end of Quarter Three saw a drop in performance from the Quarter Two reported position.

Discipline	Q3	Last Quarter
Executive Actions	72%	97%
Strategic Plan: Outcomes	42%	58%
Strategic Plan: Workplan	96%	100%
Strategic Risk Register	71%	97%
Directorate Priorities	97%	98%
Directorate Risk Registers	81%	99%
Programmes and Projects	92%	91%

Quarter Three corporate performance update

The dip in performance is accounted for owing to a slight lag in performance reporting over the Christmas period.

Whilst work will be undertaken in the final quarter of the year to get performance back to target wherever possible, performance reported for February 2022 shows an improved position.

Alongside this, work is currently underway to develop a refreshed Strategic Plan workplan (activities and associated delivery plans), which will be presented to Executive for approval in April 2022.

Governance issues in Local Government

Governance failings have been identified within a number of Councils recently, which have led to direct Government intervention and a loss of local control.

The findings associated with each of the resultant Government-led reviews identify both circumstance and risks that have the potential to arise in Middlesbrough and other local authorities.

A brief synopsis of the recent findings associated with four Councils are provided in the following slides.

Governance issues in Local Government

Liverpool Council

Trigger:

Following the arrest of the LCC Mayor and several senior officers.

Findings:

- Failure of senior officers to challenge / escalate concerning behavior(s)
- Officers not supported when challenging concerning behavior(s)
- Member / officer roles not clearly understood or maintained
- Lack of legal oversight / involvement in regeneration projects
- Active circumvention of corporate governance without consequence
- Failure to follow policies and procedure in relation to contracts, procurement, finance and partnerships
- Weak Member training and a lack of consequence for non-compliance
- Poor records management

Governance issues in Local Government

Sandwell Council

Trigger:

Government considering appointing Commissioners in response to a number of Governance concerns highlighted through external audit.

Findings:

- Lack of stability in political leadership
- Number of misconduct allegations against Councillors
- Poor behaviour and lack of trust between Members and senior officers
- An absence of intervention by senior officers
- Lack of “corporate grip” and no real vision

Governance issues in Local Government

Wirral Council



Trigger:

Assurance Review following Government concerns about governance and financial viability of Council.

Findings:

- Failure to build political consensus
- Culture of avoiding difficult decisions
- Delays in agreeing a Local Plan
- Officers “compromise too quickly with members”
- No connection between Council strategy and priorities and budget
- Insufficient lead member understanding / accountability

Governance issues in Local Government

Slough Council

Trigger:

Assurance Review following Government concerns about governance and financial viability of Council.

Findings:

- Lack of trust between officers and Members
- Lack of improvement in Children's Services
- Officer and Lead Member churn, impacting on improvement potential
- Over-provision of some Children's Services and maintaining costly weekly refuse collection
- Lack of systems and processes to ensure good governance
- Scrutiny function not sufficiently developed or influential

Executive update: February reports

Corporate Performance update: Updating the Executive of progress against all corporate performance disciplines, at Quarter Three 2021/22.

Revenue and Capital budget outturn position update: To advise the Executive of the Council's financial position at Quarter Three 2021/22.

Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy 2022/23: The setting of the Revenue Budget, Council Tax, Capital Strategy for 2022/23 prior to full Council.

Virtual School peer review: Report outlining findings of the recent Peer Review of Middlesbrough's Virtual School. acknowledging excellent practice and providing suggestions for improvement and development of the Service.

Appointment of External Auditors: Seeking Executive endorsement for the Council's participation in the National Appointments Scheme for the procurement and selection of external auditors from April 2023.

Executive update: February reports

Local Council Tax Support 2022/23: Seeking Executive approval for the proposed Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23.

Tackling Crime and Social Behaviour: Seeking Executive approval for the proposals to extend existing town-wide Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for a further 3 years and additional investment in CCTV.

Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel: Service response to 'Cultural Events in Middlesbrough; their impact and future'.

Final Report of the Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel: Service response to 'Middlesbrough Regeneration post-COVID'.

Executive update: expected March reports

Final Report of the Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel: Service response to 'The Recruitment and Retention of Staff Within Adult Social Care'.

Children's Services: Progress update on Children's improvement journey.

Tender Pipeline Approval 2022/23: Seeking Executive approval, including the delegation of responsibility for award to the relevant Director in consultation with their Executive Member.

Transport and Infrastructure Capital Programme 2022/23: Seeking Executive approval for proposals to allocate funding to deliver infrastructure.

Fountain Court Refurbishment: Progress update on refurbishment and fit out, ahead of occupation by Council staff, seeking delegated approval for the Phase Two contract award.

Executive update: expected March reports

Tees AMP: Presentation of business case for additional investment in Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park (Tees AMP).

Towns Fund Ward Initiatives: Seeking approval to deliver the programme of schemes developed as part of the Towns Fund Ward Initiatives projects and for the Council to adopt and maintain the assets.

Questions?