



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

Council Meeting: 25 October 2023



INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **25 October 2023**.

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

Bernie Carr – Democratic and Registration Manager - (01642) 729714



THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 25 OCTOBER 2023

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SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 8 September 2023.

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.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: THE MAYOR CHRIS COOKE

DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023

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.*

Update: Homelessness Review

As the review progresses there are a number of areas which can be reformed, one of which is a streamlining of the incoming eviction notices including no fault evictions which have been on the rise. As we move into the new year, we are aiming to clear any historic cases that have already been addressed but also institute additional monitoring of the timescales for the cases to ensure that we have a greater understanding of deadlines on the notices. Through this approach we hope we can provide more support at an earlier stage and reduce the amount of people with no accommodation.

Update: ACT Complex Homelessness Panel

A key issue that has been raised is difficulty in escalating some of the more complex housing cases. Working with partners there will be a new panel to address the people we have previously had difficulty finding accommodation for. The aim of this panel will be to look at people more holistically and make sure that we put safeguards and mitigations in place instead of barriers.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Crescent

The Crescent provides supported accommodation for individuals with learning difficulties. During my visit I met with a resident who raised accessibility challenges particularly for those in wheelchairs in the surrounding area. This is an issue which I have now raised with officers to explore the issue further.

MHA Communities Bingo

MHA Communities provide a variety of events to promote wellness in over 55s within the local area. The Bingo Group has evolved into a favourite for members. The Bingo provides a welcomed social outlet to meet likeminded individuals and plays a powerful tool in combating isolation for many in the local area.



THE TIME AHEAD

Upcoming initiatives:

3-year Public Health Strategy to be submitted to Executive in December following consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Board and other bodies prior to that.

NAME: Mayor Chris Cooke
DATE: 25 October 2023

Culture

1. The Taste of Africa carnival and Orange Pip and Middlesbrough Pride went extremely well with a huge turnout of circa 5,000 people. A big thank you to our Events Team, Taste of Africa, and Curious Arts for pulling together an absolutely amazing day for people of all ages.



2. We launched our Vision for Culture at The Auxiliary which had a superb attendance, which included a tour of the Middlesbrough Art Week. The vision is a 10-year prospectus for arts for the town, in partnership with the Arts Council and Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership. A special thank you to Gaye Kirby for collating together the many strands and partnerships to enable this to happen.
3. This coincided with the start of Middlesbrough Art Week, with live performances across the town centre, incredible visual art displays and a chance to meet and talk to the artists and performers. Over 120 artists took part and made the event even more spectacular than previous years (not least because it now lasts a whole week and not just a weekend). Thank you to The Auxiliary and all of the festival contributors including Navigator North, Pineapple Black and Teesside University.



4. Middlesbrough Town Hall will be hosting the Prestigious Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday the 31st October. Middlesbrough is one of only a handful of venues approached to host the orchestra. Please buy a ticket and show your support.
5. We have successfully recruited a new music inclusion manager for the Town Hall – which is part of our NPO (National Portfolio Organisation).
6. The first of the Most Creative Train Station artist commissions have gone out (deadline for submission is 16 October), (funded by the Cultural Development Fund grant). This will help transform the train station into an arts space – there is a small Gallery run by Platform Arts located at the end of Platform 1, please go, and have a look.
7. The Theatre recently hosted a site visit from the RSC who are bringing a performance of Romeo & Juliet to the Theatre in March 2024 as part of their First Encounters Programme.
8. Final figures for the Titanic exhibition are attached on a separate sheet:

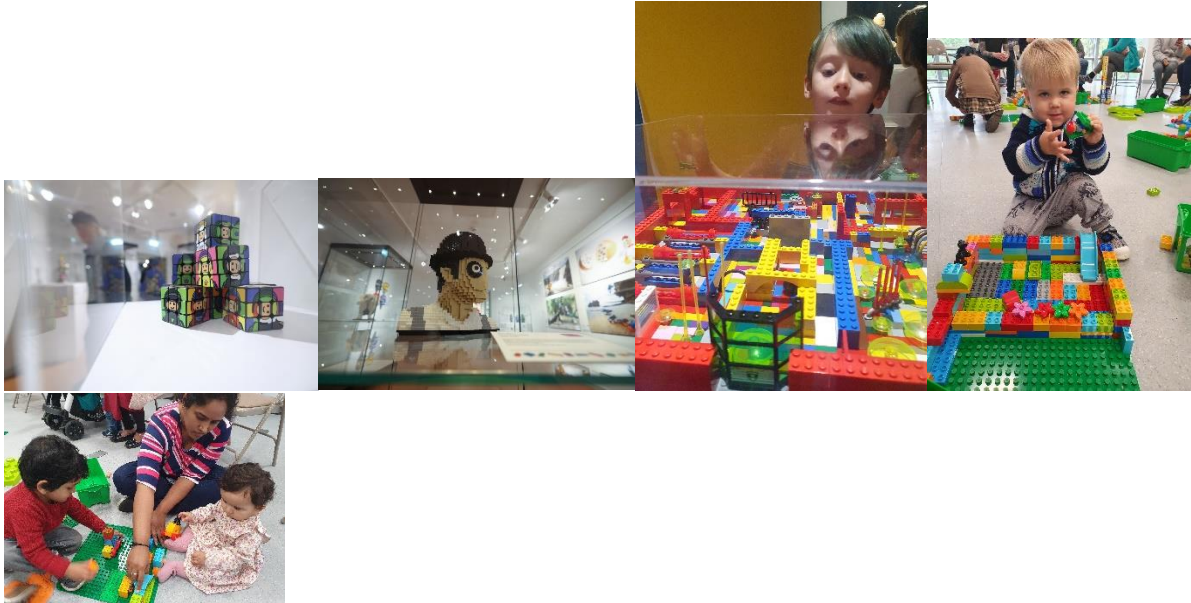
In the community

9. The Dorman museum has launched its new Lego Exhibition which includes a build area for enthusiasts. A Duplo club Meet and Make was also created, giving tots and toddlers the chance to construct their own builds (thank you NCT Teesside and the Dorman Museum for this). Since opening on 15 September, the exhibition has so far welcomed over 1600 visitors, bringing in an additional ticket income of £5,202.
10. The exhibition will continue until 10 December with a range of activities and events planned over October half term and December to encourage footfall and visitor economic value.

Activities include;

- Dorman after Dark – Beer & Bricks, an 18+ evening themed around Lego and adult fans of Lego (AFOL)

- Brick or Treat, A weekend of Halloween themed Lego activity including, take away building workshops, crafts, and trails.
- Spiro-Bots, STEAM based workshops where visitors build will learn how to build a Lego spirograph drawing robot.



11. The organising of the community Coat Event – Give a Coat a Home is underway (at the time of writing). I am sure that all our donated coats will find new homes with people who need them, and I would like to thank all our Drop off points including the Dorman Museum, Town Hall, Grove Hill Community Hub, Newport Hub, and Windermere Care Home.
12. Discover Middlesbrough – is running and supporting a series of events this year with the Discover Middlesbrough Festival, including a “For King and Country” talk and walk in Linthorpe Cemetery. Discover Middlesbrough is an amazing group of dedicated individuals, and the events are a must for those wanting to know more about the history of our town.

Education

13. Literacy is a foundation block for future learning, as a result we are promoting a range of initiatives to support this, including the National Literacy Trust in Middlesbrough/Boro Reads. Allison Potter and her team organised an amazing Big Boro Book Bash with almost 1000 primary school students from across Middlesbrough being involved. The annual festival is an author celebration and helps to encourage a lifelong love of books and reading. Thank you to Allison and the authors and illustrators who provided our children with an amazing experience that they will be talking about for years to come.

14. Take 10 to Read which has encouraged 10 minutes of reading as a way of boosting mood, wellbeing, and literacy. Many schools took part in the event, and this will hopefully encourage further reading at home.
15. There is currently a SEND inspection taking place and we will work with any recommendations put forward to make sure our procedures are as robust as possible and that our children get the support that they are entitled to and need, in order to succeed educationally.
16. I will be meeting with Baroness Barran, Minister for school buildings on the 24th October referencing the ongoing build issues with Outwood Riverside School. I thank the Head Teacher of the school and the CEO of the Outwood Academy Trust for their support.
17. Welcome to our new DCS and Head of Childrens Service.

Going Forward:

Culture

18. On the 20th of October there is a short ballet at the Dorman Museum (and the day after at Newport Hub) at, 3.30pm. Created by London based Oxygen Arts, Island Movements is an epic tale of the lives of a family from the Windrush generation. Island Movements is a short ballet that tells the story of Windrush and explores the impact of this generation's experiences on their families, communities, and society. Beginning with a young Caribbean soldier in WW2 Britain, this moving tale follows him and his family through their life in the UK up to the current Windrush scandal. Darren Panton, who was the first black British dancer to graduate from the Royal Ballet School and Patrick Williams, who danced at Alvin Ailey and the Paris Opera, are choreographing. Featuring original music by the ground-breaking Kinetika Bloco, the story is driven by a pulsating mix of reggae, calypso, and contemporary black British music. The show will be followed by a Q&A with the dancers and creators at 4pm
19. There are also numerous Halloween events at Newham Grange Farm, the Dorman Museum, and the Town Hall. Please have a look at schedule of events!
20. We welcome back Nightfall to Stewart Park in November and tickets are already selling very quickly.
21. Creative craft bags have been created for primary schools to participate in the laying of the first poppy.

Education:

- 22. A conference for educators on attendance has been arranged in Middlesbrough, with a plethora of highly acclaimed speakers.
- 23. Any recommendations from the SEND inspection will be enacted.
- 24. Events are being planned for the Year Of Literacy in Middlesbrough, looking at writing, reading and the spoken word.

25 October 2023

Councillor Philippa Storey
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture

Titanic Exhibition
Dorman Museum
6 May – 3 September 2023 (104 days)



Impact

- The Titanic Exhibition at Middlesbrough Museums is its most successful exhibition to date.
- The exhibition is the highest grossing commercial exhibition to date across the Tees Valley.
- Income generated across 2023-24 has broken previous records for the Museum service.
- It is anticipated annual visitor numbers to the Dorman Museum this year will be the highest in the last 10 years.
- The museum had its busiest day during summer 2023 welcoming 1500+ visitors within 6 hours.
- The on-site tearoom has seen record sales and visitors in its 9 years with the museum.

Visitors

Visitor total – 16011

67% of visitors from the Tees Valley - 10,780

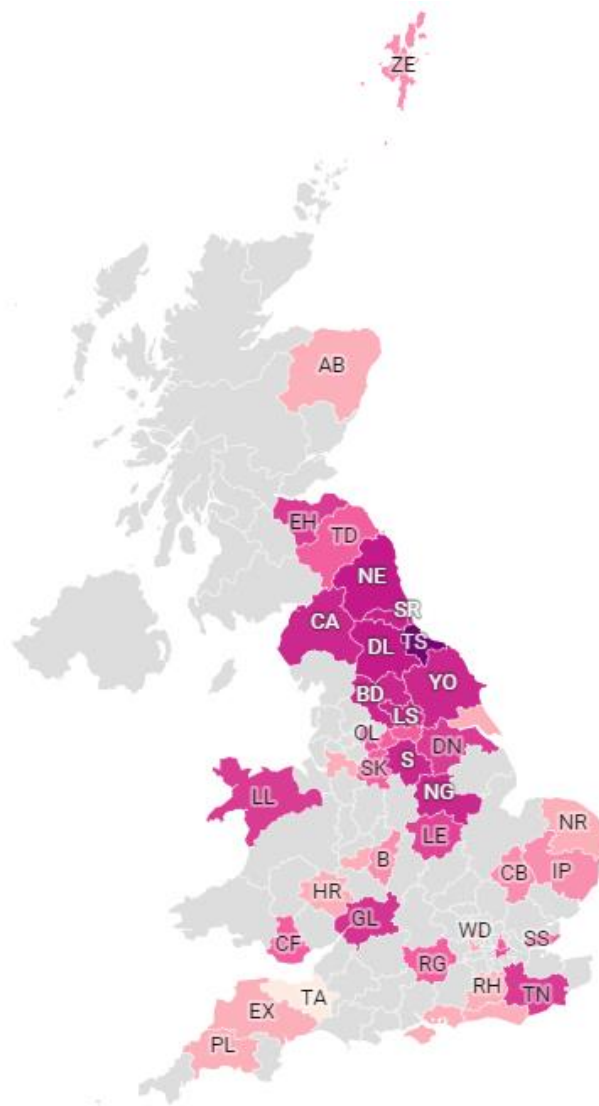
Area	Percentage
Middlesbrough	41%
Stockton-on-Tees	30%
Redcar & Cleveland	14%
Darlington	7%
Hartlepool	8%

33% of visitors came from outside Tees Valley – 5,231

NORTH-EAST		
County	Average Attendees	Percentage
County Durham	1622	11%
Northumberland	314	2%
Tees Valley	10780	72%
Tyne and Wear	2309	15%
TOTAL	15025	100%

BEYOND NORTH-EAST		
County	Average Attendees	Percentage
East Midlands	75	7.61%
East of England	28	2.84%
London	28	2.84%
North-West	77	7.81%
Scotland	31	3.14%
South-East	52	5.27%
South-West	33	3.35%
Wales	28	2.84%
West Midlands	21	2.13%
Yorkshire & Humber	613	62.17%
TOTAL	986	100.00%

Visitors Mapped



- Furthest travelled – Shetland Islands & Plymouth
- 327 visitors travelled 2–6+ hours to visit.
- A further 326 school children from across the North-East attended the Titanic workshop / exhibition.

Income

Ticket sales – £83,787

Gift shop sales - £16,011

- Average spend per head during museum visit (*ticketed activity & gift shop*) - £7.52
- Average secondary spend per head (*gift shop only*) - £2.07
(2019 average spend per head – £0.19)

Economic Impact

Benefit to local economy – **£200,137.50**

(*Average day spend per visitor £12.50*)

Likely overnight visitors 3%

Onsite tearoom sales increased by 80%.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CHILDREN'S SERVICES – COUNCILLOR ZAFAR UDDIN

DATE OF MEETING: 25 OCTOBER 2023

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:

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

1. The Early Help service (Stronger Families) is stable in terms of staffing and all Early Help Family Practitioner posts are currently filled on the structure, except for some maternity leave and sickness. Following a steady period in August, the referrals into Stronger Families are now increasing with schools returning from the summer break and our main referral sources continue to be our schools, the police, and health.
2. We have three members of staff in the service who are studying for the Social Work Apprenticeship with Sunderland University, and they have all now commenced their 6-month placements in other areas of Children's Care. During this period, their work has been reallocated to other members of the team.
3. Within the Early Help Service our Education, Employment and Training Team fulfils a range of statutory duties for the Council, which are set out in the 'Department for Education Statutory Guidance, in delivery of education and training provision for young people' (16- and 17-year-olds). We are responsible for promoting participation of young people and tracking and supporting young people's activity. The Department for Education monitors the performance of all LAs in delivering these duties, using data which is submitted and published nationally.
4. The team are currently focussing on the September Guarantee which is to ensure that all young people who left school in Middlesbrough during 2023 and 2024 have a suitable offer of learning. The Middlesbrough September

Guarantee data will be submitted to the department by the end of October and work on this is progressing well.

5. In the MACH we have had a round of successful interviews which have seen us secure a new MACH Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager, who are due to move into post in October 23. This will allow us to secure a permanent structure and move on from the acting up positions which have been in place for a few months. We have only one agency position in the MACH Team which is a maternity cover post and the team continue to provide positive timely responses to our families in terms of referrals for safeguarding and support.
6. The Assessment Team also continue to be a stable team and drive performance and practice forward, we have successfully converted a high number of agency workers to permanent social workers and this trend continues, with more in progress. Aside to maternity cover, there are few agency positions, and we have a good percentage of permanent staff, indicating a settled and cohesive team.

➤ **Our work with Children with Disabilities**

7. Safeguarding & Care Planning/Children with disabilities - Recruitment update:

Safeguarding and Care Planning have secured some positive outcomes for children in the last month, with a high level of care proceedings concluding, and a number due to conclude in September. We continue to secure positive family network outcomes for a good proportion of our children, and we have welcomed new FGC workers into the wider service, knowing that they will assist us to find those family members much earlier and increase family support at an earlier stage, but also to increase the potential of finding family members at an earlier stage in proceedings where this is needed. Children with Disability Services continue to be a stable team and are working hard alongside the SEND teams to present the good work taking place around EHCP to OFSTED during the inspection underway.

➤ **Children Looked After – early permanence and permanence planning – one of the best performing in the region.**

8. Children Looked After (CLA). We have experienced some staffing issues recently but are excited to be interviewing four candidates next week for permanent posts. We are progressing cases to permanence and have three special guardianship applications ready to take to court. We have managed to bring a young man back to the Middlesbrough area who was in an unregistered placement, his social worker has done some fantastic work with him to build trust. One of our Social Workers received some excellent feedback from a child and their carers.

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

9. Occupancy of residential and supported accommodation remains high. The Ofsted inspection cycle has started again with a new inspector for Middlesbrough and teams are working hard to maintain the high standards within our internal homes and services.
10. We have had a young person from residential care go onto university and they are thriving this is our first young people from residential care to go to university and it needs to be celebrated.
11. There is consideration to review the statement of purposes for some of our children's homes. This would make those homes more flexible and dynamic which will drive outcomes for young people and challenge the home and care team with high aspirations against the young person long term plan, which would be positive for young people and support evidencing individual homes against SCCIF (Social Care Common Inspection Framework). Recruitment continues with interest for residential roles and our leaving care service has also taken on another permanent social worker.

➤ **Fostering Services:**

12. Approval of foster carers:

We have approved eight carers since relaunching our offer. We have eleven in process and ten are targeted to be approved by the end of the year. We have nine live enquiries with six expected to progress to panel by March next year. We have a worker who has trained in specialist therapy for carers and work with children, she will be offering support to carers and doing "flipping the lid" work with children to help them understand and regulate their triggers and emotions. This should support placement stability.

Update: Any additional risk/progress/best practice/high profile change - None Identified other than the financial constraints

HIGHLIGHTS:

13. Kinship Care: Middlesbrough Council's Kinship care website has been updated on 28th September 2023. I have recently attended a meeting with Kinship Care Project organised by Family Right Group. They have highlighted that, children who grow up in Kinship care are likely to have better outcomes than children who grow up in other types of non-parental care.

Our values and principles:

14. The key principle of the Children Act 1989 is that children should be enabled to live within their families unless this is not consistent with their welfare and, with this in mind, support for kinship arrangements in

Middlesbrough is based on the needs of the child rather than the child's legal status.

15. Middlesbrough Borough Council recognises that kinship care is a permanence option for children and young people, as it provides high levels of stability for large numbers of children. Therefore, wherever safe and appropriate to do so, the council actively encourages kinship care as a positive alternative to a child or young person becoming looked after. The Local Authority will take into account the child/young person's wishes and feelings in all relevant processes and will seek the views of family and friend's carers when identifying services to support Kinship Carers.

THE TIME AHEAD:

16. As I highlighted in my previous report, we are continuing to explore our internal residential provision by purchasing properties in the local area, which means we can consider bringing our young people closer to their home and their families and friends, as one of the Council's priorities. Currently continuing to explore several properties within the Borough as part of council's property project. However, the purchase of properties has not progressed as quickly as had been anticipated in the budget setting/savings plan.
17. I have continued to visit various teams and meeting up with front line staff members, team managers and senior managers, who are dedicated to our children and working tirelessly to make difference the lives of our children and young people in Middlesbrough.
18. I continue to liaise with Middlesbrough Adoption Team at the Adoption Tees Valley (ATV), supporting the team with regards to recruitment drive of the new panel members.
19. Both Mayor Chris Cooke and I have attended a meeting with the youth providers in the area. We found that, among many youth providers one of them was The Junction Foundation who are making a positive difference to the lives of our young people and their families across the Tees Valley.

NAME: Councillor Zafar Uddin

DATE: 25 October 2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY SAFETY - COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023

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

Community Hubs & Libraries

Acklam

1. Acklam serves the communities of Acklam, Whinney Banks, Trimdon and the wider area. The hub provides help and support to local residents, signposting them to other Council services, assisting them on the public computers or using the Wi-Fi printing services.
2. As well as one off events, they have a full weekly program of activities. These include coffee mornings, in partnership with Age UK and Friends of Acklam Library two thriving knit & natter groups and a very well attended Dementia Café. The Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC) visit weekly for a story and craft session. For families with young children, there is Tot's Tales, Rhyme Time, Stay & Play and Saturday morning Lego Club.
3. The library issued 3830 books in July and runs 3 reading groups for adults and supports external reading groups. Over 200 children took part in the very successful Summer Reading Challenge, Ready Set Read

Newport

4. Newport Community Hub hosts many community/voluntary groups. The Friends of Newport Settlement organised a Community Fun Day which attracted over 800 people, the centre also hosted International Women's Day. They arrange monthly litter picks.
5. In September the hub hosted 'the Newport World Cup Tournament' in which 6 community teams took part in.
6. This year's 'Give a Coat a Home event took place on the 14th October 2023. Last year over 200 coats were given to people in need.

7. The Ukraine group has ESOL classes. Youth Club sessions are held every Thursday hosted by LINX youth project. Approximately 60-80 young people attend the sessions.
8. The Locality team are also based in the Hub. The Probation Service takes over the whole building on a Friday and is able to offer appointments/drop in sessions to their clients. The Hub also hosts Middlesbrough Railway Club.

North Ormesby Hub

9. On 13 September, the Hub celebrated the launch of their new kitchen, made possible by the Big Local. People enjoyed food from around the world, including Ukraine. It was a hugely successful event that brought communities together and there have been multiple requests for a repeat event.

Myplace

10. Myplace opened in June 2012 as a state-of-the-art youth facility, developed for young people by young people, it is now part of the Community Hubs & Libraries service.
11. Partners within Myplace provide services to a wide range of vulnerable young people. All services based in Myplace have a common thread to improve the lives and outcomes for young people and their families.
12. Services within Myplace include;

MBC Home Support

Home support provides short breaks and respite for children with disabilities, this involves collection from home/school bringing them to Myplace to engage in activities and also personal care in the family home.

The Junction

The Junction is a charity delivering young carers services, Mental health & emotional wellbeing services, Youth employment, education and skills and youth sessions in Middlesbrough and the Tees valley.

NHS-Project Choices college

Promoting employment opportunities for students with learning difficulties/disabilities and or Autism through supported internship courses.

Interns spend one year learning Maths, English and employability skills and attend up to three, 12 week placements with a Project Choice Partner.

Grass Roots Music and recording studio

This project involves working with musicians, art groups and organisations that support young people and isolated members of our community. Grass roots

deliver music sessions at Myplace youth groups and deliver a Musical Dementia café.

Steve Waller's amazing model of St Hilda's is now housed in Myplace, Steve said "it is as if the model has come home" and we can now look at the Custom House within the Custom House!

Myplace hosts fortnightly Dementia cafes in partnership with Public Health and Grass Roots Music. Residents from care homes and people whose lives have been affected by dementia are invited for afternoon tea and singing and dancing. After discussions with care homes, we found that on their first visit, for some, it was the first time residents had been out for over two years

Community Safety

13. We are continuing to see issues with parking in and around the Town Centre, particularly on the Linthorpe Road cycle lane.

14. School patrols returned in the month of September. We also have more focused enforcement on match days on the approach to Middlesbrough Football Club.

Please see below table showing total service requests undertaken by the Neighbourhood Safety Team for the month of September 2023. The table shows category type of incident/ report and each ward area.

Ward	ASB Issues	Stray Dogs	PSPO	Fly Tipping/ Environmental Reports	Vehicle Related Issues	Criminal Related issues	Proactive Patrols at hot spot locations	Total
North								
Central	158	7	12	71	31	8	101	388
Newport	45	13	0	67	10	1	32	168
Park	34	9	0	67	10	2	10	132
South								
Coulby Newham	3	3	0	15	5	0	0	26
Stainton & Thornton	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Hemlington	14	0	0	18	1	1	5	39
Marton East	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Marton West	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Nunthorpe	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	5

East								
North Ormesby	10	4	0	40	4	1	6	65
Berwick Hills and Pallister	12	0	0	52	4	1	3	72
Brambles and Thorntree	9	7	0	34	3	1	0	54
Park End & Beckfield	25	6	0	42	2	6	3	84
West								
Acklam	4	1	0	1	3	0	3	12
Ayresome	3	3	0	18	1	1	1	27
Kader	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	6
Ladgate	2	0	0	22	5	0	1	30
Linthorpe	0	2	0	16	7	0	0	25
Longlands and Beechwood	6	3	0	49	5	0	2	65
Trimdon	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	6

Please see below a snapshot of activity from the team for the month of September 2023

Town Centre & Central

15. On Saturday 23rd September three wardens and the Town Centre Enforcement Manager carried out parking Enforcement duties. Over 60 Penalty Charge Notices were issued for irresponsible parking on the approaches and other locations within the town centre. Our Enforcement Team also noticed two males who had broken into a vehicle on North Ormesby road, quickly utilising CCTV who liaised with Police we gave clear instructions and direction of travel. A short while later both males were arrested.

Newfield Crescent

16. In September we had a group of travellers set up camp on Newfield Crescent. Acting quickly the Neighbourhood Safety Team engaged with the group and served a legal notice in line with the organisation's illegal encampment protocol. The group left the land within 24 hours.

Brambles Farm

17. Following reports that a family in had been subject to several targeted attacks which they believed to be racially motivated, officers from the Neighbourhood

Safety team worked with local schools to identify the two youths responsible. Officers carried out home visits to speak to both youths and their parents and although Officers were satisfied the youths behaviour was not racially motivated, they were both issued with formal warnings regarding their nuisance behaviour.

Netherfields

18. Having received a number of reports regarding a youth causing ASB in the Brambles Farm and Netherfields wards, officers from the Neighbourhood Safety team carried out two separate home visits to speak to the youth and their guardian regarding the escalation in their ASB. Two separate warnings were issued to the youth for breaching the terms of their Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). Officers have also identified that this youth is being exploited by adult males to deal drugs in the Netherfields area and as such referrals to Childrens Services and VEMT have been made in an attempt to safeguard the youth from further exploitation.

Ayresome

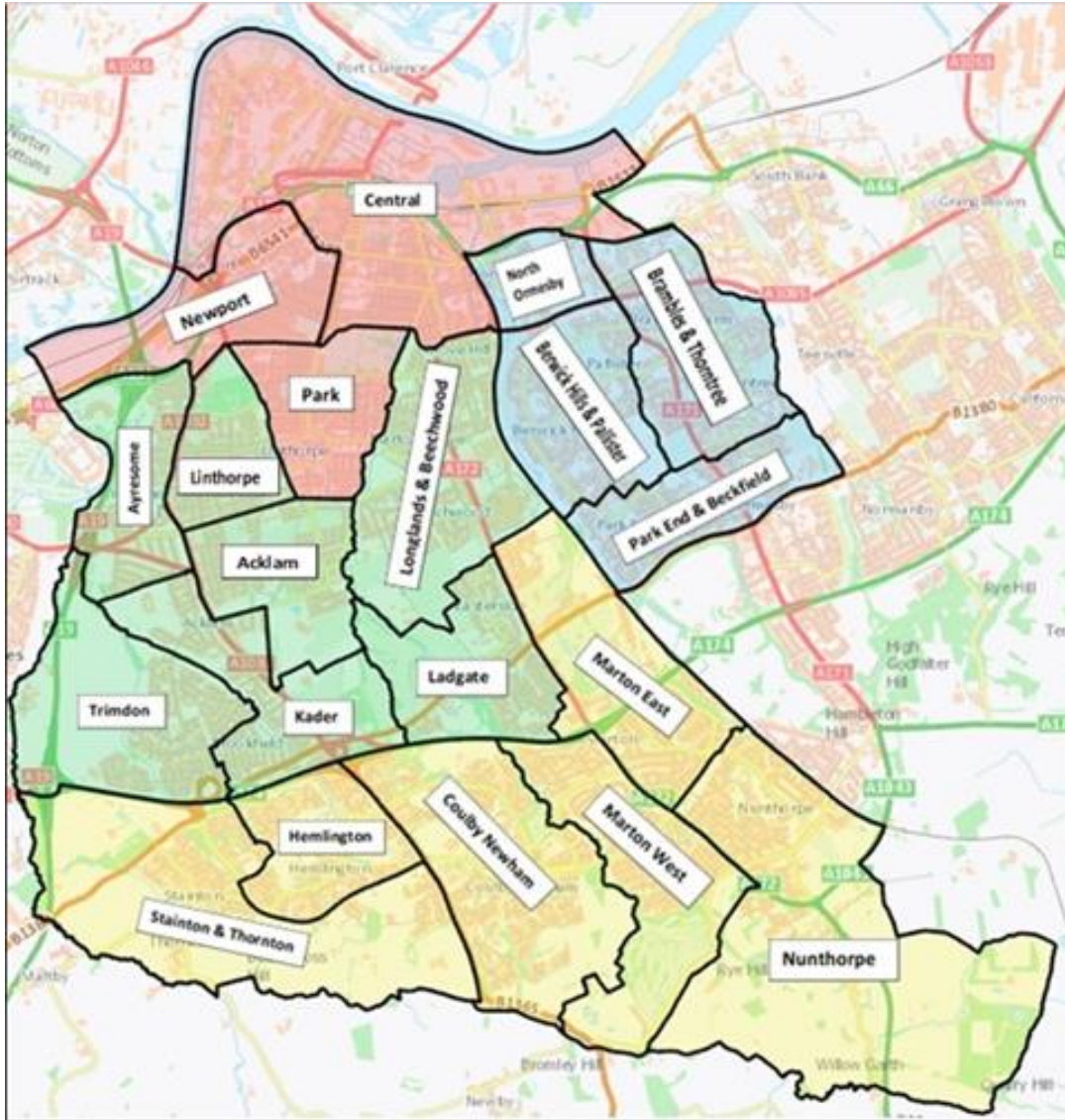
19. During a walkabout of the Ayresome ward with the Mayor, officers from the Neighbourhood Safety Team and Cleveland Police males were observed wearing balaclavas riding an off-road motorbike. Both males were quite vocal in letting officers know that they believed there was nothing that could be done to stop their criminal and nuisance behaviour. The bike was observed leaving a house and the following day Police attended the property, seized the off-road motorbike, 2 arrests were made and three malnourished adult dogs and several young puppies were found, which resulted in the RSPCA attending the property to remove the animals.

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs)

20. I have been working with officers to ensure that Elected Members are kept up to date with crime and disorder issues affecting our wards and I know that everyone is keen to get involved with partners to tackle these issues.
21. We are therefore in the process of developing Neighbourhood Action Partnerships within four zones across the town (map attached). These strategic meetings will bring together Ward Members and a range of partners, including the Council's Community Safety Team, Area Care, Cleveland Police, Fire Brigade, Housing Providers, Early Help and locality working.
22. Meetings will take place once a month (quarterly for each NAP area) and members will be given the opportunity to raise key/priority issues that are affecting your wards. Plans will then be formulated, and actions assigned to relevant agencies. This will further enhance our multi-agency work and will allow Councillors to gain a better understanding of what is happening within their wards in terms of crime, anti-social behaviour, fires and environmental crime. Councillors will then be able to feed this information back to local residents and businesses.
23. Detailed data will be shared with Elected Members during the meetings to identify hotspot locations within your wards and you will be able to compare with other

areas as information regarding overall crime and ASB for the whole of Middlesbrough will also be shared.

24. Meetings will be held at Newport, Hemlington, Thorntree and Acklam Library. The first meeting is due to take place in October and invites will be sent in due course once all the details have been finalised.



Councillor Janet Thompson
Executive Member for Community Safety

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023

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

I am currently working 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, streets and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.

HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to my weekly meeting with the Director of Environment and Community Services, I met the Area Care managers at Resolution House in September to gain a greater understanding of the work they do and the issues they face. I have also attended a meeting of the Green Strategy Action Group. I have also attended the Environment Scrutiny panel twice. Externally, I held a meeting with Brian Simpson, the Director of Middlesbrough Environment City and attended a meeting of the Cleveland Emergency Planning Joint Committee. I also visited the Active Travel Hub in Cleveland Centre.

I continue to meet residents to assist with Environmental issues across the borough.

THE TIME AHEAD

1: Highways Infrastructure - Traffic Signals/UTMC

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2023/24:

Marton Road / Aldi (programmed in for completion in February 2024)

Borough Abingdon Rd (Programmed Oct half term)

Marton Road / Corporation Rd (Programmed in for completion in February 2024)

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2023/24:

Ormesby Road / Balmoral Road (Programmed for completion November 2023)

CFL / Alexander Terrace (Programmed for completion in December 2023)

Wilson St / Sainsburys (Programmed for completion November 2023)

Low Lane Shetland Close (Programmed for completion in December 2023)

Borough Road / Emerald Street (Programmed for completion in March 2024)

2: Highways

Verge replacement and footway improvement works programmes have been developed and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2023/24. We have completed 9 of the planned 13 schemes this year. We have completed 12 of the planned 23 Footway Works.

3: Transporter Bridge

The Transporter Bridge structural assessment is ongoing. The Stage 1 analysis is already beginning to indicate several areas of overstress that are likely to need additional investigation. We are awaiting a revised scope of works from consultants Atkins.

4: A66

A66 Newport Interchange Bridges: This involves repairing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing of the whole bridge deck to tie in with other planned resurfacing on A66. Eastbound has been completed.

Concrete testing will be carried out on Hartington Interchange Bridges with a design phase to follow and repairs to be carried out in 2024.

A66 Station Viaduct - Column 20B - Contractor Volker Laser have started to construct their site compound and works are imminent to replace the column head and bearing and repair the beams around the future Stack development.

Name: Peter Gavigan

Date: 25th October 2023.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Nicky Walker

DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023

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.

Update on Members' Enquiry System

2. Following the recent session which was open to all members and which sought views on improving the system for dealing with members' enquiries, I wanted to provide an update on progress that has been made on the current system. It is still planned to replace that with a new improved system in July 2024.
3. The following is a summary of the short-term improvements that have been already implemented in relation to the member enquiries process:
 - The automated acknowledgement email of submitted service requests / enquires has been refined to manage sender expectation of how enquiry will be progressed i.e., issued out to appropriate service to pick up and action.
 - Reinforced messaging has gone out to service staff to confirm the expectation that a response / resolution to enquiry will be provided (and where this is not possible, an explanation will be given), 5 working days from the service receipt of enquiry.
 - Supporting guidance has been issued to services to outline expectations in format and tone of responses to enquiries i.e., no use of technical

language / references, polite, professional, etc. and responses will be monitored monthly.

- Crib sheets have been developed for each service area to support the Customer Centre team to ensure requests / enquiries reach the right team, the first time or to answer the enquiry directly at first point of contact.

4. Further planned improvements are as follows:

- The member enquiry workflow / process (customer end-to-end journey) is to be mapped out to manage the service enquiry / requests (target date end October 2023).
- Schedule briefings on service areas for members (dates to be arranged)
- A step-by-step process / toolbox talk for all service staff dealing with service requests / enquiries to be developed and implemented (target date end of November 2023).
- Development of a forward work plan for Area Care service, to support the Customer Centre team in first point of contact responses (target date end of November 2023).
- All members to be provided with access and training on how to use GIS mapping system.
- New service request / enquiry system to be implemented in July 2024.

Council Papers and Business Cards

5. There was an unusually large volume of papers associated with the last council meeting, leading some to suggest that these should be provided on an opt in basis rather than automatically to all members. The section 151 officer issued spending controls in July this year, including ensuring that all expenditure made is absolutely necessary. It is important that members play their part as much as we can in driving down costs, as well as considering the environmental impact of printed papers. I recently had discussions with the Monitoring Officer on this subject, following which an email was sent to all members on 27 July.
6. Members have been asked if they still require hard copies of papers for full council meetings and if they do, if they still feel they need them to be delivered by courier. The current practice is that papers for full council meetings only are automatically delivered to all councillors.
7. For the remainder of meetings agendas and reports will continue to be provided electronically only.
8. Where there are specific reports, or parts of reports that members do feel they need to have in hard copy they do have the option of printing themselves either using their home printer or printers at council buildings, saving on officer time as well as other printing costs.

9. Where the provision of hard copies has been requested, members have been asked to consider picking them up at Fountain Court, rather than having them delivered by courier.
10. The option of reducing printing costs further by limiting the printing of longer reports is also being considered.
11. Members had all previously been offered business cards, in line with what had previously been standard practice. All who had requested cards have now been asked to consider if they consider it essential to their role to have them provided by the Council, and to inform Democratic Services accordingly if they do.
12. Thank you to members who have responded so far on the above issues and to those who have made other suggestions around saving on these costs which are in the process of being considered.
13. Where members have not responded it has been assumed they do not require hard copies of council papers to be printed and delivered.

HIGHLIGHTS

Household Support Fund

14. I recently was invited to do a BBC Tees interview to promote the Household Support Fund to residents in Middlesbrough who may be eligible for assistance. This fund is an externally government funded initiative, but individual local authorities design their schemes to meet the needs of their residents.
15. The latest phase of the schemes in Middlesbrough offer support to residents in receipt of benefits who may not have received help from this fund previously but have also been designed to include residents who may be may be working and/or not receiving benefits but struggling with day to day living expenses due to spiralling costs. Members may wish to communicate these schemes to their residents.
16. The two schemes which I referred to on the BBC Tees interview, and for which applications are still invited are:
 - Households not in receipt of benefits whose gross income is less than £30,000 (for a single adult) or £50,000 (for couples) – with or without children and have savings of less than £6,000.
 - Families in receipt of benefits, with children who haven't yet received payments linked to income-related free school meals.

17. Two further schemes were launched on Monday 07 October 2023 and are currently being promoted by the Council. All councillors were sent an email providing details of these, which are for:

- Residents without children who are receiving benefits. They can apply for a voucher to help with essential costs, amounting to £100 for a couple or £75 for a single person.
- People who have recently started work, after a period of unemployment, who may be eligible for £250 to help with the transition into work.

18. Since the fourth phase of the Household Support Fund was launched in April, the Council has made direct payments to residents totalling more than £900,000.

19. More than 22,000 supermarket or energy vouchers have been issued and people in crisis have been supported with furniture and electrical appliances.

20. I would like to thank officers for their excellent and comprehensive work in designing these schemes. Some authorities have adopted an approach of keeping their schemes very simple and condensed. I'm sure members would like to join me in support for our officers who have been keen to go that extra mile to offer as much support to as possible to far wider groups including those struggling with the cost of living but who usually would not qualify for assistance due to not being in receipt of state benefits.

21. Members may also wish to share with their residents this link from the council website which details a range of support offered to assist those struggling with the cost of living.

[Cost of living | Middlesbrough Council](#)

Council Tax Leaflet

22. At a recent all member briefing on another subject, the issue of how we communicate to residents where the money the council spends comes from and how it is spent was raised. I therefore thought it may be helpful if I share the leaflet (below) relating to the 2023/24 budget and council tax. A hard copy of such a leaflet used to accompany the Council Tax bills, but to save costs this is now provided online.

23. I should point out that this is based on gross expenditure of the council, excluding schools funding and if the net revenue budget were used it would result in different percentages.

24. When an executive member previously I introduced this leaflet with the aim of communicating to the public, in a simple format on a single sheet where the money comes from to fund council spending and how it is spent on services. I

have found it useful myself as a ward councillor when residents ask what their council tax is spent on. However, I would welcome any suggestions from members as to how this could be improved.

25. I have asked for such information to be placed on a more prominent and accessible place on the website after the budget is set next year.



THE TIME AHEAD

2nd quarter Budget Challenge sessions

26. I have referred in my earlier reports to quarterly budget challenge sessions attended by both key officers and executive members from the different directorates, which I chair. These will be held in relation to the 2nd quarter over a series of meetings during w/c 23rd October 2023. These are in addition to the directorate challenge sessions chaired by the Interim Director of Finance and feeding into the Leadership and Management Team (LMT) overview sessions chaired by the Interim Chief Executive. Together this forms a more robust approach to budget monitoring and challenge with executive members and officers working together.

27. The outcomes of these sessions will be incorporated in a report on the Quarter Two 2023/24 position due to go to the Executive on 21 November 2023

Finance Training

28. A reminder for members who have not yet attended a Finance Training session, delivered by Cllr Graham Chapman, LGA Regional Member Peer. there will be a 'mop up' session on Friday 20th October at 4.30pm at the Collaboration Zone, Fountain Court. An email reminder was issued regarding this on 17th October.

29. As I stated in my last report, I would encourage anyone councillor who has not already attended this training to do so. This is particularly important bearing in mind the financial position we face and the challenging decisions that will have to be taken by all councillors as part of the budget setting process.

Councillor Nicky Walker
Executive Member for Finance and Governance

25 October 2023

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR THEO FURNESS

DATE OF MEETING: 25 OCTOBER 2023

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

HIGHLIGHTS

TVCA Transport Committee meeting

1. *Discussions included the Bus Improvement Plan.*

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which includes £100s of Millions of investments over the next 5 years to improve all transport infrastructure throughout the Tees Valley.

Teesside Airport Board meeting

2. Future plans for the airport and how to make it sustainable so it can be an economic driver for the whole of the Tees Valley going forward.

Wilkinson Closure at Captain Cook Square

3. Confirmation was received from DWP local team on 12 September to advise that the official notification of administration from Wilko's had been received. Their forward plan is to contact all the Northeast stores (in order of closure) to offer staff their statutory redundancy support. This includes information around benefit support, retraining, writing cv's etc. DWP have advised there are 33 staff employed by the Middlesbrough store. ⁱ The store officially closed on Sunday 8th October 2023 and work is underway to seek an alternative tenant for the site.
4. Alongside the DWP support, the Council, through its employment hub, can offer staff at risk employment and free training and will be approaching the Middlesbrough store manager to discuss directly.
5. Revenues and Benefits service are aware and will offer any residents affected the usual support and advice around claims and benefits available to them.
6. There are numerous retail, hospitality and leisure employment opportunities available in the town and wider region which will be highlighted to Wilko's staff via the employment hub.

Tollesby Shops Opening

7. *One stop has opened its doors in the largest unit at the newly built Tollesby shops. There is further space for three commercial units and this is actively being marketed for appropriate use of commercial units and there are 24 high-quality flats above*
8. *The new development of an historically dilapidated site creates an excellent amenity for local residents as well as new accommodation opportunities for the local community.*

Levelling Up Partnership

9. *Middlesbrough council area has been selected as levelling up Partnership area which will see over £20 million in grant money.*
10. *Having been identified as an area of need by Government, Middlesbrough Council has been working alongside the Department for Levelling Up Homes and Community (DLUHC) to develop a series of projects to be delivered by 31st March 2025, to address Middlesbrough's greatest areas of need in terms of socio-economic, health and educational outcomes; the bulk of the funds must be expended by March 2024, making the timescales particularly urgent.*
11. *The provisional programme includes interventions which:*
 - a) *bring public services closer to residents;*
 - b) *improve services and conditions for vulnerable people;*
 - c) *support youth services in Middlesbrough;*
 - d) *tackle ingrained health inequalities; and,*
 - e) *invest in a large expansion in skills infrastructure.*
12. *A final programme proposal will be presented by DLUHC in October 2023 with Executive considering the detailed programme in a report on 21 November 2023.*

THE TIME AHEAD

Executive decisions

Asset Review November 21st

13. *The council are looking at all the property and land that is within its ownership and looking to be more strategic and focused in what we do.*
14. *The process will identify surplus and underused Council land and property assets and the exercise will focus on how an evolving Council structure can deliver effective services from fewer or more accessible sites.*

15. *As a consequence of this exercise, it is highly likely that surplus land and assets will be identified for disposal. Income from asset disposals will support the Council's transformation programme and will provide critical finances to support the authority's challenging financial position.*

Local Plan December 20th

16. The Local Plan Executive report has been deferred for one month to ensure that the aims and strategic objectives are aligned precisely between the conclusions and recommendations of the Asset Review report (21 November 23) and any potential implications this may have for the Local Plan report and subsequent that goes out for public consultation exercise.

Stack

17. Due to unforeseen issues with the remedial works under the A66 this has caused the opening of the stack to be delayed into the new year.

18. Despite specialist surveys prior to the works, the true scale and complexity of the column repairs to the A66 were only made fully apparent when access to the site was granted and additional issues were exposed, beneath the surface layers.

19. The recent industrial pipe spillage demonstrates the disruption which a blockage to the A66 can cause. It is important to stress that the A66 remains safe and accessible throughout these particular maintenance works, and short delay to STACK caused by this maintenance is essential to ensure that this critical transport artery remains flowing and unhindered for the long term.

NAME: Councillor Theo Furness

DATE: 25 October 2023

ⁱ MCLS team have visited the store and the managers and provided their support and guidance, offering retraining opportunities and links to new jobs within the town. DWP will be offering their national package of support in the usual way across the NE in order of store closure. MCLS will be undertaking a pop up presence 'jobs on tour' roadshow in October in all of the main shopping malls (including the Parkway) to promote jobs and support on offer. It is understood that several staff have already gained employment at B&M Middlehaven.



EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
4 Oct 2023	Executive	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	The purpose of this report is to request permission to undertake a consultation (a requirement of schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) with both the public and the major precepting authorities in respect of proposed changes to the Council's Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme with effect from 1st April 2024. Executive approval is required to commence consultation on changes to the 2024/25 scheme ahead of the final decision being made by Council at the budget setting meeting on 28 February 2024.	Yes
4 Oct 2023	Executive	Town Centre Funding and Community Safety	For decision around a reviewed approach to town centre funding and community safety.	Yes



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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
18 Oct 2023	Executive Member for Regeneration	Lock Down Protocol	Policies, plans and strategies, which are not part of the financial and policy framework.	Yes

SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Fees and Charges Review	To present a review of Middlesbrough Council's Fees and Charges	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Asset Review	A decision is required to determine the future options for a number of Council assets, that may include disposal.	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Digiwise Project - Foster Care and Supported Lodgings Wifi and Internet Use Policy	Adoption of council wide policy and approval of recommendations to be agreed for all residential and foster care settings.	No
21 Nov 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Captain Cook Square - Business Case	Requirement for update on current position, along with options for maximising the commercial options for the strategic viability of a key Council asset.	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Newham Hall - Disposal Option update - Part B	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Newham Hall - Disposal Option Update	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Houses in Multiple Occupation Article 4 Direction	To agree that an Article 4 Direction be put in place to require smaller HMOs, that are currently part of the permitted development regime, to be subject to a planning application.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Draft Local Plan	To seek approval of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	On Street Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Points	To approve the acceptance of funding granted from On-street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS) for the value of £211,082 to provide up to 160 electric vehicle charging points, utilising existing lamp columns, in partnership with supplier Ubitricity.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Green Strategy	To seek approval of Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy Year Three action plan.	Yes
17 Jan 2024	Executive	Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-25	Presentation of the refreshed and updated Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-26.	Yes
17 Jan 2024	Executive	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park – Phase 2 Funding Agreement	Executive to approval an additional 1.5 million pounds of capital which will be repaired through retention through business rates of the enterprize zones site.	Yes
13 Feb 2024	Executive	Tees Valley Waste Report	To seek approval for MBC to enter with seven other councils a Special Purpose Vehicle company in order to manage the Tees Valley energy recovery facility that will be responsible for the disposal of Middlesbrough municipal waste.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
(Date TBA)	Executive	Adult Social Care Reform Update	To update Executive of local progress against central government's Adult Social Care reform agenda and the planned commencement of inspections of Adult Social Care by the Care Quality Commission in 2023	Yes