

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

DATE OF MEETING 17 July 2024

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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

DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

Education:

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

Culture:

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Education

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

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

Outwood Grange Academy Trust (OGAT)

Outwood Riverside

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

Outwood Ormesby

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

Ofsted inspection results

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

Auto Enrolment of Free School Meals

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

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

Youth Justice South Tees Youth Justice Board (STYJB)

The STYJB Plan is being presented to this full council.

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

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

12. It is a partnership and includes:

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

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

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

15. Our STYJB priorities are:

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

Youth Custody Suite

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

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

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

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

Culture

Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town Hall & Theatre

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

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

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

34. Upcoming events at the Town Hall:

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

Musinc

Open Orchestra: Digital Score Project

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

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

Coming up for Musinc:

Musinc Summer Family Fun Day – 19th August

10.30am – 2.30pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall

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

36. Tickets available from the website:

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

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

10am – 3pm

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

For: Young People aged 12-17 years

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

Musinc Schools Programme: Set Works Concert

Monday 14th October, 1.30-2.45pm

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

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

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

Musinc Schools Programme: Careers Panel

Monday 18th November, 1-2.30pm

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

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

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

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

Museums

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

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

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

Plus lots more!

Cultural Partnership

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

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

In other news

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

NAME: Cllr Philippa Storey

DATE: 17 JULY 2024