

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	Corporate Director for Regeneration and Housing - Richard Horniman
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Executive Member for Development - Cllr Theo Furness
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive
<b>Date:</b>	10 June 2026
<b>Title:</b>	Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel – Barriers to Regeneration
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	A successful and ambitious town
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Non-Urgent Report

**Proposed decision(s)**

That Executive:

- NOTES the report of the Place Scrutiny Panel into Barriers to Regeneration and the accompanying recommendations; and
- APPROVES the action plan prepared by the service in response to the recommendations.

**Executive summary**

The Place Scrutiny Panel has undertaken a review into the topic of 'Barriers to Regeneration in Middlesbrough'. The review concluded with a range of recommendations being proposed that have been included in a corresponding action plan showing the service response.

The Council will be bringing forward transformative plans in September as part of the development of a Place Strategy, Town Centre Strategy and Investment Prospectus, and the recommendations will also be used to influence the direction of those proposals.

## 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Executive of the recent scrutiny review entitled 'Barriers to Regeneration' and to set out the action plan developed by the service in response to the recommendations made by the panel.

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	Removing barriers to regeneration would enable greater success in attracting and growing businesses to increase employment opportunities
<b>A healthy Place</b>	Removing barriers to regeneration would enable greater success in protecting and improving our environment and reducing poverty
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	Removing barriers to regeneration would enable greater success in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
<b>Delivering best value</b>	Removing barriers to regeneration would enable greater success in ensuring robust and effective corporate governance in relation to partner regeneration organisations

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Executive:

- NOTES the report of the Place Scrutiny Panel into Barriers to Regeneration and the accompanying recommendations; and,
- APPROVES the action plan prepared by the service in response to the recommendations.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Place Scrutiny Panel has proposed a series of recommendations for removing barriers to regeneration. These have been considered by the service and where appropriate, actions have been proposed to address them. Approving the identified action plan would enable the Place Scrutiny Panel's recommendations to be taken forward in a comprehensive manner.

## 4. Background and relevant information

4.1 In summer 2025 the Place Scrutiny Panel commenced a review entitled 'Barriers to Regeneration' using the following terms of reference:

- a. To establish what the Barriers to Regeneration are in Middlesbrough
- b. To identify good practice from other local authorities in relation to attracting businesses to the area

- c. To investigate what measures are in place to make people feel safer in our town centre and neighbourhoods
- d. To gain an understanding of current legislation available to local authorities to tackle anti-social behaviour

4.2 The Panel considered evidence across a range of area and determined a series of recommendations that comprised the following:

- a. Carry out a survey of college and university students, to gain feedback to see if people who had come from different places across the country and now studied in Middlesbrough could suggest ways of improving Middlesbrough, from their own life experiences from where they were born.
- b. Elected Members and Officers to actively promote and talk up the town - many positive things are happening in Middlesbrough but they are often overlooked and overshadowed by the negative. This could be achieved through a positive marketing campaign and press releases.
- c. Support and deliver more town centre events with a strong emphasis on cultural activity to drive footfall and encourage people that live local and further afield to travel into the town centre.
- d. Redevelop Linthorpe Road to create a more compact retail centre to naturally increase footfall. The increased activity could make the town centre feel more vibrant and safer.
- e. Increase the number of Neighbourhood Safety Wardens to provide a reassuring presence and help to build confidence in the town centre.
- f. Work in partnership with businesses to ensure compliance with street-drinking regulations and discourage related activity around their premises.
- g. Increase green spaces and create a new attraction in the town centre, such as a winter garden, which could entice visitors to travel into the town centre and provide significant health (mental & physical), environmental (cleaner air, less heat, better drainage), social (community building, recreation), and economic (higher property values, tourism, jobs) benefits.
- h. Work in collaboration with Tees Valley Combined Authority to improve transport links into the town centre and outer areas of Middlesbrough to ensure key points of interest are easily accessible. This could be achieved by introducing a park-and-ride facility and improving bus services.
- i. Increase Middlesbrough Town Hall/Box Office opening times to improve accessibility and user satisfaction and potentially function as a dual-purpose information hub.
- j. Strengthen our relationship with Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) further and work together towards the common goal.

- k. Apply for an extension to funding from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioners Cleveland Unit for Reducing Violence (CURV) or seek alternative funding for the Night-Time Economy Pilot Project, which is currently due to end in March 2026.

4.3 A copy of the review report is included as Appendix I.

4.4 Following the review, the Regeneration Directorate considered the recommendations and how these could best be delivered. An action plan has been prepared to outline the proposed response. This has been included as Appendix II.

4.5 The Council will be bringing forward transformative plans in September as part of the development of a Place Strategy, Town Centre Strategy and Investment Prospectus, and the recommendations will also be used to influence the direction of those proposals.

## 5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 The Place Scrutiny Panel comprises ward members, but no specific member consultation has been undertaken regarding the action plan.

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

### *Do nothing*

6.1 The recommendations made by the panel provide clear direction to the service, and the majority are deliverable without incurring additional resources. There is no reason why the service cannot implement the majority of the recommendations.

### *Deliver all recommendations*

6.2 Some of the recommendations would be difficult to deliver and would only provide limited benefit (such as extending the opening of the Town Hall Box Office) so each recommendation has received individual consideration.

## 7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including Social Value)	As outlined in the action plan, all actions are funded from existing budgets where Council resources are referenced and there is no impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Actions which reference external funding are subject to confirmation of this funding and a further report will be brought to Executive when required. Recommendations relating to redevelopment plans for the town centre and increased green spaces would require significant funding and will be addressed in a further report to Executive in the future.
Procurement	No work is being procured directly as a result of the action plan. Individual projects may require procurement further down the line, and this may be subject to further Executive approvals.

Legal	There are no additional legal commitments contained within the action plan. Individual projects may require legal input further down the line, but this would be subject to additional Executive approvals.
Risk	The Council's risk profile is not affected by this report. Some of the recommendations could lead to additional financial risk, but these would be subject to further Executive reports before such risk was incurred.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	Although the actions do not directly impact upon these, the overall benefit of removing barriers to regeneration would potentially increase cohesion.
Reducing Poverty	Although the actions do not directly impact upon these, the overall benefit of removing barriers to regeneration would potentially reduce poverty.
Climate Change / Environmental	There is no direct impact from the proposed actions.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Although the actions do not directly impact upon young people, the overall benefit of removing barriers to regeneration would potentially increase opportunities, in line with the stated direction of making the town the best place for young people.
Data Protection	There is no direct impact from the proposed actions.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Deliver the Barriers to Regeneration Action plan	Corporate Director for Regeneration and Housing	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2026

### Appendices

1	Place Scrutiny Panel – Barriers to Regeneration Final Report
2	Barriers to Regeneration – Service Response Action Plan
3	

### Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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