

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Corporate Director of Environment, Communities and Culture – Geoff Field
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Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member of Environment, Communities and Culture – Councillor Ian Blades
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Submitted to:	Executive
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Date:	8 July 2026
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Title:	Making Middlesbrough Town Centre Safer for People and Business
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	A successful and ambitious town
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Key decision:	Yes
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Why:	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £250,000
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Subject to call in?	Yes
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Why:	Non urgent Executive Decision
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Proposed decision(s)	
That Executive:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approves the acceptance of £1.3m Investment Zone funding together with associated match funding arrangements set out in the business case, subject to completion of the relevant Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) decision making processes and execution of funding agreements. b) Approves the delivery of the Making Middlesbrough Safer Project as outlined in the accompanying Tees Valley Investment Zone Business Case. c) Notes the partnership arrangements with Cleveland Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and TVCA. d) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director responsible for Environment, Communities and Culture in consultation with the Executive Member to finalise funding agreements and operational arrangements. 	

Executive summary

This report is being brought to Executive in accordance with the Executive functions as set out in the constitution at paragraph 10.20, specifically paragraph (h), which provides for the allocation of funding within the budgetary framework and the approval of projects with significant corporate implications, including those for which it is proposed to let a contract, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule D.

Middlesbrough town centre is the economic and cultural heart of the Tees Valley and is benefiting from significant regeneration and investment. Our ambition is for Middlesbrough to be the UK's most creative place for young people to live, learn and realise their future. The emerging Middlesbrough Place Strategy places young people at the centre of Middlesbrough's future, while focusing on creating a town where they want to study, work, socialise and build their lives. From vibrant cultural experiences to modern town centre living, better connectivity and stronger skills pathways. Through connections with business and collaboration with our award-winning local University and colleges, the place strategy sets out a starting framework on how we can offer genuine opportunities for young people. By improving safety and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, this project will support those ambitions, increase public confidence and help create the conditions for a thriving town centre economy.

This report seeks approval for the Making Middlesbrough Town Centre Safer for People and Business Project, a three-year pilot programme designed to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Middlesbrough town centre through a coordinated multi agency approach. The proposal directly supports the Tees Valley Investment Zone (TVIZ) programme and Middlesbrough Council's ambition to create a safer, more resilient and economically vibrant town centre.

It should be noted that, whilst the project has been developed in partnership with the TVCA and is proposed for funding through the TVIZ, the associated Business Case has not yet completed the formal TVCA decision making and approval processes. This process is due to conclude in August 2026. Delivery of the project and release of funding remain subject to the relevant TVCA approvals and funding agreements being secured.

The report draws upon the attached TVIZ Business Case throughout and reflects the evidence contained within it. The business case identifies crime, anti-social behaviour and negative perceptions of safety as major barriers to economic growth, inward investment and town centre regeneration. The project will enhance enforcement, prevention and support services through an expanded multi-agency hub located at Safe Haven in Middlesbrough Bus Station, additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), dedicated Neighbourhood Safety Wardens and targeted support for repeat offenders and vulnerable individuals.

An options appraisal (section 2.2 in the business case) was undertaken as part of the Investment Zone Business Case and supporting evidence pack, considering a range of potential delivery models, including maintaining existing arrangements, enforcement only interventions, prevention focused approaches and integrated partnership solutions. Following assessment against the agreed critical success factors, Option 10 was

identified as the preferred approach. This option provides the strongest balance of strategic fit, deliverability, partnership working and value for money by combining enhanced enforcement, prevention and support services through a coordinated multi-agency model. The recommended approach is expected to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve public confidence, increase town centre footfall, support local businesses and contribute directly to the wider ambitions of the Middlesbrough Place Strategy and Tees Valley Investment Zone.

The proposal will result in a three- year project and funding to recruit to the following posts to achieve the project aims set out above. –

X2 Police Community Support Officers.
X4 Neighbourhood Safety Wardens with additional CSAS powers.
X2 Neighbourhood Navigators
X1 CCTV Operative

The above posts will be Town Centre specific providing a consistent uplift in the area. Middlesbrough Council will employ the new Neighbourhood Safety Wardens and Neighbourhood Navigators. Cleveland Police will employ the new PCSOs and the CCTV Operator will be employed by Vistech via the existing CCTV/security contract with Middlesbrough Council.

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to deliver the Making Middlesbrough Town Centre Safer for People & Business Project in line with the attached Investment Zone Business Case.
- 1.2 Middlesbrough town centre is at the heart of the town's economic, cultural and civic life and is undergoing significant transformation through a programme of public and private sector investment. Regeneration initiatives, including investment in Captain Cook Square, the continued growth of the digital and creative economy, an expanding independent food and beverage offer and the town's recognised strengths in digital innovation are helping to establish Middlesbrough as an increasingly attractive destination for residents, visitors, businesses and investors. The Making Middlesbrough Town Centre Safer for People and Business Project will support these ambitions by creating a safer, cleaner and more welcoming environment that encourages greater footfall, increases business confidence, supports inward investment and ensures that the benefits of regeneration are fully realised. The project aligns closely with the emerging Middlesbrough Place Strategy, particularly its ambitions to reimagine the town centre, create healthy public spaces, support town centre life and strengthen investment and connectivity, recognising that perceptions of safety are fundamental to achieving long term economic growth and creating a thriving place where people choose to live, work, study and spend their leisure time.

- 1.3 The project contributes directly to the Council Plan ambition of creating safe and resilient communities by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, improving public confidence and supporting community wellbeing.
- 1.4 The project also supports the ambition of creating a successful and ambitious town by improving conditions for investment, supporting business confidence and strengthening Middlesbrough town centre as a destination for employment, culture, leisure and business growth.
- 1.5 The business case highlights the importance of improving town centre safety to support the wider regeneration ambitions of the Middlesbrough Place Strategy and the Tees Valley Investment Zone.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	This project will improve safety and perceptions of safety within Middlesbrough town centre, creating a more attractive environment for businesses, investors, employees and visitors. By reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, increasing public confidence and supporting a vibrant town centre economy, the project will contribute to business growth, inward investment, increased footfall and wider regeneration ambitions set out in the Middlesbrough Place Strategy and Tees Valley Investment Zone
A healthy Place	The project will support improved wellbeing by creating a safer and more inclusive town centre environment for residents, workers and visitors. Through targeted support for vulnerable individuals, early intervention and partnership working, the project will help address factors that contribute to health inequalities, social exclusion and poverty, whilst ensuring that all members of the community can access and benefit from town centre services and opportunities.
Safe and resilient communities	The project directly supports this ambition through a coordinated multi-agency approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Additional Police Community Support Officers, Neighbourhood Safety Wardens, Neighbourhood Navigators and enhanced CCTV monitoring will strengthen community safety, improve public confidence, support vulnerable individuals and encourage greater community engagement and resilience.
Delivering best value	The project will maximise external funding opportunities through the successful acquisition of £1.3m of Tees Valley Investment Zone funding alongside partnership match funding contributions. Delivery through established governance arrangements, robust performance monitoring and collaborative partnership working will ensure resources are used effectively, outcomes are achieved and value for money is demonstrated throughout the three year pilot period

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Executive:

- Approves the acceptance of £1.3m Investment Zone funding together with associated match funding arrangements set out in the business case, subject to completion of the relevant Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) decision making processes and execution of funding agreements.
- Approves the implementation of the Making Middlesbrough Town Centre Safer for People & Business Project.
- Notes the three-year pilot nature of the project to March 2029.
- Delegates authority to the Corporate Director responsible for Environment, Communities and Culture in consultation with the Executive Member to finalise operational delivery arrangements and agreements with partners.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The business case demonstrates that crime and anti-social behaviour continue to impact negatively upon Middlesbrough town centre and undermine regeneration ambitions.

3.2 The preferred option identified in the business case is Option 10 (options appraisal in section 2.2 of business case), which combines enhanced enforcement, prevention and support measures through a multi-agency hub approach. This option was selected because it provides the strongest strategic fit and best overall economic outcome.

3.3 The business case identifies that the project will:

- Achieve a targeted 5% reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour over three years.
- Improve public perceptions of safety.
- Increase footfall and support economic activity.
- Strengthen partnership working and support vulnerable individuals.

3.4 The recommendations are therefore considered to provide the most appropriate and balanced response to identified challenges within the town centre.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 The attached business case sets out that Middlesbrough town centre continues to experience significant levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. The business case references Middlesbrough Council TS1 data showing 799 anti-social behaviour incidents in 2024/25 and 3,730 recorded crimes within the town centre.

4.2 The business case also highlights that Middlesbrough ranks amongst the most crime deprived local authority areas nationally according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025.

- 4.3 The proposal forms part of the Tees Valley Investment Zone programme, which recognises that perceptions of safety and town centre conditions are barriers to inward investment and growth, particularly in digital and creative sectors linked to Teesside University and the wider town centre economy.
- 4.4 The project will build upon existing arrangements, including the night time economy pilot and Safe Haven provision at Middlesbrough Bus Station. Key interventions include:
- Additional PCSOs.
 - Additional dedicated Neighbourhood Safety Wardens with enhanced powers.
 - Extended operation Safe Haven to become the multi-agency hub.
 - Enhanced CCTV monitoring.
 - Dedicated support for vulnerable individuals and repeat offenders by creation of the Neighbourhood Navigator role.
- 4.5 The business case identifies that the intervention is intended not only to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour but also to improve confidence, strengthen business vitality and support wider regeneration outcomes.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

- 5.1 Ward Members representing the town centre area will continue to be engaged throughout project delivery.
- 5.2 Ongoing engagement arrangements will be established through regular updates, partnership meetings and reporting structures.

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

- 6.1 The business case considered a range of options, including maintaining current arrangements and implementing standalone enforcement approaches.
- 6.2 The ‘do nothing’ option was discounted because existing resources are not considered sufficient to address the scale and complexity of current issues.
- 6.3 Alternative models focusing solely on enforcement or solely on prevention were also discounted as they would not provide the integrated and sustainable approach required.
- 6.4 Option 10 was recommended because it combines protection, prevention and provision measures and achieved the strongest overall assessment against the critical success factors identified in the business case.

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

Topic	Impact
Financial (including Social Value)	The business case identifies a total project value of £1.3m funded through the Tees Valley Investment Zone

	programme together with approximately £500k in kind match funding contributions. Funding will support staffing, operational costs for the hub and associated monitoring and evaluation activity.
Procurement	The business case identifies that no significant procurement activity is currently required. Recruitment and operational delivery will be undertaken in accordance with Council policies and governance procedures.
Legal	<p>Consideration needs to be given as to whether the provisions of The Subsidy Control Act 2022 are engaged.</p> <p>TVCA being the funding provider in the Business Case set out the rationale why the funding for the project is unlikely to constitute a subsidy as all Limbs A to D of assessing whether the funding meets the definition of a subsidy do not apply. It is noted TVCA completed a legal checklist which was reviewed by TVCA legal team in reaching that conclusion and the rationale supporting it. Based on the information in 3.1 of the business plan and the checklist referred to Middlesbrough legal services has no information or finding to depart from the conclusions the funding is not a subsidy.</p> <p>Legal funding agreements will be required to be entered into between TVCA and Middlesbrough Council, Middlesbrough Council and OPCC for the funding for the PCSOs and formalities will be required to provide for CCTV officers through its current contract processes.</p>
Risk	The project addresses significant community safety and economic risks associated with crime, anti-social behaviour and declining confidence in the town centre. Key risks include sustainability of future funding, recruitment challenges and operational coordination between partners.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The project is intended to improve community safety and accessibility for residents, businesses, visitors and vulnerable individuals. Equality impacts will continue to be monitored through delivery.
Reducing Poverty	Improving safety, confidence and economic activity within the town centre is expected to contribute positively to employment, business sustainability and wider socio-economic outcomes.
Climate Change / Environmental	The proposal primarily concerns operational and partnership delivery and is not expected to create significant adverse environmental impacts.
Children and Young People Cared for by	Improved safety and prevention measures are expected to have positive impacts for young people and vulnerable individuals accessing the town centre.

the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	Any personal data collected through project activity, CCTV monitoring or partnership working will be managed in accordance with relevant data protection legislation and information governance requirements.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Finalise funding agreement with Tees Valley Combined Authority	Adam Parkinson and Michelle Shelton	July 2026
Establish formal partnership and governance arrangements.	Adam Parkinson and Michelle Shelton	July 2026
Recruit additional Street Wardens, Neighbourhood Navigators and CCTV Monitoring Officer	Adam Parkinson	August 2026
Extend operation of Safe Haven located in Middlesbrough Bus Station to be the multi agency hub.	Adam Parkinson	September 2026
Implement monitoring and evaluation arrangements.	Adam Parkinson	July 2026
Provide regular progress updates to Executive and project partners	Marion Walker and Adam Parkinson	Throughout lifetime of project

Appendices

1	Investment Zone Business Case: Making Middlesbrough Town Centre Safer for People & Business (final version to follow before pre-executive)
2	Equality Impact Assessment (to follow)
3	Data Impact Assessment (to follow)

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Middlesbrough Council	Middlesbrough Community Safety Plan	2024-26
Middlesbrough Council	Town Centre Problem Solving Plan	2025
TVCA	Tees Valley Investment Plan 2019-29	2019 – 2019
Middlesbrough Council	Draft Middlesbrough Place Strategy	May 2026

Cleveland Police	Cleveland Police and Crime Plan 2024–29	2024 - 2029
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