

Report of:	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Culture and Communities - Councillor Mieka Smiles Director of Environment and Community Services - Geoff Field,
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Submitted to:	Executive - 13 July 2021
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Subject:	Final Report of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel - Community Cohesion - Service Response
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Proposed decision(s)

That the Executive

- a. Notes the content of the Scrutiny Report and the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel (attached as appendix A)
- b. Approves the Service Response - Action Plan (attached as appendix B)

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan

Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration

Ward(s) affected

All

What is the purpose of this report?

2. This report provides an overview of Culture and Communities Scrutiny into the Councils Community Cohesion approach and the service response – Action Plan to address the recommendations within the report.

3. Why does this report require a member decision?

3.1 This report covers the approach across the whole of Middlesbrough and therefore requires a member decision.

4. Report Background

4.1 Culture and Communities Scrutiny Committee aimed to examine community cohesion in Middlesbrough and what work was being undertaken by the Council and its partners to support and develop this.

4.2 The report focused specifically on the following:

- Making Middlesbrough look and feel amazing
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour head on
- Ensuring Middlesbrough has the very best schools
- People - We will work with local communities to redevelop Middlesbrough's disadvantaged estates, and introduce locality working with our partners, placing services at the heart of communities.
- Place - We will make Middlesbrough look and feel amazing, working closely with local communities to make sure that our roads, streets and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe, and revitalising unused buildings and heritage assets.
- Business - We will create positive perceptions of our town on a national basis, improving our reputation, and attracting new investment, visitors and residents.

4.3 The terms of reference are set out in section 4 of the report

4.4 Conclusion is at section 113 of the report and

4.5 Recommendations are set out at section 121 as per below:

- That the Council develop a Community Cohesion Strategy for Middlesbrough that:
 - Ensures all aspects of community cohesion work is co-ordinated and monitored.
 - Informs the Council's existing social regeneration agenda and is monitored through existing performance reporting processes.
 - Is in place by the end of 2022/23.
- Given recent staffing changes, as well as the discontinuation of funding for key projects after 2021 and the uncertainty brought about the Covid-19 pandemic, the

Council should look to ensure the current Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager is sufficiently supported via a robust staffing structure beyond 2021.

- That the Executive consider including Middlesbrough in the Refugee Resettlement Scheme.
- To assess progress against its objectives, the Panel should receive an update on the progress of Place Based Working no later than November 2021.

4.6 Action plan addressing the recommendations is attached as Appendix B

5. What decisions are being asked for?

That the Executive

- a. Notes the content of the Scrutiny Report and approves the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel (attached as appendix A)
- b. Approves the Service Response – Action Plan (attached as appendix B)

6. Why is this being recommended?

- 6.1 So that the Council can respond to the findings of the Scrutiny Report and its Recommendations

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

- 7.1 The Council will be able to respond to the recommendations proposed by Scrutiny in a systematic and measured way

8. Legal

- 8.1 Legal advice has been sought through the development of the consultation and the recommendations in this report comply with statutory guidelines.

9. Financial

- 9.1 None

10. Policy framework

- 10.1 This report will not impact on the Policy Framework

11. Equality and diversity

- 11.1 Following the approval a equality impact assessment will be completed to assess the impact of any measures on the community.

12. Risk

- 12.1 failure to implement the recommendations may have an impact on community cohesion and we will miss opportunities to improve the service.

13. Actions to be taken to implement the decision

- 13.1 Delivery of action plan as set out in Appendix B

Appendices

Appendix A – Culture and Communities Scrutiny Report

Appendix B – Service Response – Action Plan

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