



**CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE  
SCRUTINY & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10:00AM  
CIVIC CENTRE, RIDLEY STREET, REDCAR, YORKSHIRE, TS10 1TD**

**CONTACT**

Mr David Boville  
(01642) 444617  
24 October 2022

**CIRCULATION**

Councillors Massey (Chair), S Jeffrey (Vice Chair), Brady, Brown, Craig, Cutler, Dowson, Head, Hixon, Moody, I Nightingale, Rider, Sandra Smith, Thomson and Watts.

Councillors Lanigan and G Nightingale (Cabinet Members - for information)

All Members of the Council (for information)

Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

The Press [except for Confidential item(s)]

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**A G E N D A**

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	<u>Pages</u>
1. Apologies for Absence.	
2. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022.	2-6
3. Declarations of Interest.	
4. Relevant Cabinet Reports.	
<b>Would Members please refer to their copy of the Cabinet Workbook for the meeting (these papers will follow).</b>	
5. Motion Tracker.	7-15
6. Action List.	16
7. Any items the Chair certifies as urgent.	

21 September 2022

## RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Resources & Governance Scrutiny and Improvement Committee was held on 21 September 2022 at the Civic Centre.

**PRESENT** Councillor Massey (Chair),  
Councillors Brady, Cutler, S Jeffrey, Rider,  
Sandra Smith, Thomson and Watts.

**OFFICIALS** D Boville, R Davisworth, R Mitchell, A Pearson,  
S Newton, C Styles and P Winstanley.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Councillor Hunt.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Craig, Dowson, Head, Hixon, G Nightingale and I Nightingale.

#### 1. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Scrutiny and Improvement Committee held on 27 July 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### 2. FINANCIAL POSITION 2022/23 – QUARTER 1

The Managing Director presented a report providing the forecasted year-end financial position of the Council as at Quarter 1 2022/23, which would be considered by Cabinet on 27 September 2022.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- There were no issues with the business rates collection position at present. The budget pressure was due to an increase in the provision for backdated business rates appeals.
- The pressure on the children's services budget was largely due to an increased demand for SEND and alternate education provision and the associated transport costs. This situation was being looked at with some urgency and possible solutions would form a part of the budget scenario planning.
- Social care reform was an area of uncertainty for all local authorities and the distribution of the proposed grant funding was still being consulted on. At this stage it was being assumed that the changes would be cost neutral due to increased funding from Government.

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- Council services were not being properly funded and residents were suffering as a result.
- Members requested a guide to how the budgets had changed as the Council changed directorate model.
- Based on advice from treasury management advisors, the Council had been undertaking efforts to consolidate its currently expensive short-term debt onto more certain long-term debt. Since 30 June 2022, of the Council's £38m in short-term debt, £16m had been refinanced as long-term. There was a balance to strike as interest rates were likely to lower should the Country enter recession.
- The Council was currently planning worst case scenarios for next year's budget. Assuming no additional assistance from Government, the Council may face up to a £15m budget shortfall.
- Members requested more narrative in future reports regarding the Council's borrowing position and subsequent pressures arising out of the repayment of that debt:-**NOTED**

### 3. **ELECTIONS ACT 2022**

The Managing Director presented a report which outlined the changes to electoral procedures introduced by The Elections Act 2022, which would be considered by Cabinet on 27 September 2022.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- There was no longer a need to have a candidates address printed on the ballot paper. However, any promotional material still needed to contain the address of the printer and the name of the candidate(s) being promoted.
- A number of forms of identification would be accepted at the polling station. Requests for a voter ID certificate would be handled centrally by Government.
- There would be a number of residents without ID who would refuse to apply for a voter ID certificate.
- The level of electoral fraud at the last election had not justified such a major shift in legislation which could disenfranchise a large number of residents who were entitled to vote:-**NOTED**

### 4. **PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Managing Director presented an update on the performance of elements of the Resources & Growth Directorate as at the end of Quarter 1 2022/23.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- There had been difficulties with accessibility at the recent

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accessibility conference that needed addressing. Kirkleatham Walled Garden was a Council property and work was ongoing to ensure it was accessible to all. The feedback regarding the event itself had been largely positive.

- The low number of appraisals that had been completed was disappointing. Every effort should be made to ensure that all annual appraisals were completed on time. Future reports should contain the actual number of appraisals outstanding as well as the percentage.
- A short narrative should be provided for areas of performance that were not on target such as appraisals and death registration.
- Officers rarely referred to equalities when presenting reports in general. Work was ongoing to promote culture change throughout the Council and this would be addressed through training. It was important for Members to be better equipped so that they could effectively scrutinise equalities issues.
- The list of equalities contacts would be circulated to Members.
- The pattern of demand for registrars' services had changed significantly post pandemic, leading to some statutory targets being missed. Temporary measures had been put in place and this seemed to be having a positive impact and this would be built on to meet future demand:-**NOTED**

5. **MOTION TRACKER**

The Governance Manager presented an update on the Motions that had been passed at the last meeting of the Borough Council.

Members agreed that, should no other local authority in the Tees Valley be forthcoming, the Council should undertake the proposed scrutiny work to monitor the ongoing situation regarding mass crustacean deaths as soon as possible. A discussion would take place between the Monitoring Officer and the Mover and Seconder of the motion as to the form this work would take:-**NOTED**

6. **ACTION LIST**

The Governance Manager presented an update on the actions arising from the last meeting of the Resources Scrutiny & Improvement Committee:-**NOTED**

7. **FINANCIAL SCENARIO PLANNING**

The Assistant Director – Finance advised that an all member briefing on the upcoming budget was currently being organised and sought Members views on which topics should be covered.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

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- The opportunity should be taken to discuss the financial future of the Council over the long-term, such as a more in-depth look at what services could be delivered jointly with other local authorities.
- The Peer Review had recommended that more forward financial planning take place outside of the development of the Medium-Term Financial Plan with a focus on financial resilience and development of a number of contingency plans for a range of budget issues.
- There were currently no joint service discussions taking place across the Tees Valley:-**NOTED**

## Resources Scrutiny Committee

### ATTENDANCE RECORD - 2022/23

Surname	First name	15.06.22	27.07.22	21.09.22	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	Total Meetings Attended / total possible
Massey	Chris	✓	✓	✓							
Jeffrey	Sue	✓	✓	✓							
Brown	Alec	Apols	RA1	X							
Dowson	Deborah	✓	✓	Apols							
Head	Malcom	✓	✓	Apols1							
Nightingale	Irene	✓	✓	Apols3							
Hixon	Andrew	✓	✓	Apols3							
Turner	Andrea	X	Apols	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Thomson	Phillip	✓	✓	✓							
Wells	Billy	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Smith	Sandra	✓	Apols1	✓							
Cutler	Graham	Apols 1	✓	✓							
Rider	Vera	✓	✓	✓							
Watts	Anne	✓	✓	✓							
Craig	Julie	✓	Apols2	Apols1							
Moody	Shaun	n/a	n/a	X							
Brady	Charlie	n/a	RA	✓							
<b>Substitutes</b>											
Brook	Adam		✓								
Cook	Carrie		✓								

Key	
✓	Attended
RA	Apologies Submitted (replacement attended)
Apols	Apologies Submitted (no replacement)
X	Did Not Attend (no apologies received)
C	Cancelled Meeting
n/a	Not a Member

Reason for Absence (NB Full details may not be provided for reasons of confidentiality)	
1	Personal Commitment
2	Work Commitment
3	Illness/Medical
4	Conflicting Council Commitment
5	Other
6	Civic Duties

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

<b>Date Of Meeting</b>	<b>Motion / action</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Action Update</b>
14.7.22	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that on the successful motion of Councillor Quartermain and duly seconded by Councillor Thomson that:</p> <p>“Redcar &amp; Cleveland Council believes that much more needs to be done to investigate the reasons for the mass death of sea creatures found on our coast in the latter part of 2021 and more recently.</p> <p>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Council also believes much more support should be given to our local fishing industry which has been adversely affected by the consequent radical reduction in fishing stock.</p> <p>Since October last year dead crustaceans have been found on our beaches along with, the possibly associated, deaths of seal pups and porpoises.</p> <p>The report of the Government Joint agency investigation into Teesside and Yorkshire Coast Crab and Lobster mortalities was published in May 2022 and concluded that as healthy crabs and lobsters were now being found the investigation was closed.</p> <p>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Council believes:</p>	PR/SN	The motion was agreed	As agreed at the last meeting of the Corporate Resources & Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee, discussions took place between Members and the monitoring officer on the best way to progress the motion. Since then, Middlesbrough & Hartlepool Borough Councils have indicated a desire to undertake some joint scrutiny work and the Council’s are currently progressing plans on that basis.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The decision to close the investigation was premature and demands that the Government re-open it as a matter of urgency to consider why the crustacean deaths</li> <li>2. The Tees Valley local authorities should work together in expressing concern to central government and commission a new independent report in the light of the inconclusive evidence. In addition, the ongoing situation should be monitored by a special Scrutiny Committee from each local authority.</li> <li>3. That the Government proposal to give support to the local fishing industry via the existing Seafood Fund is inadequate and calls on them to provide proper compensation for the lost income and livelihoods caused by this crisis.”</li> <li>4. That the possibility of creating a coastal hatchery to replenish crustacean stocks should be investigated.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>08.9.22</b></p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that on the successful motion of Councillor Thomson and duly seconded by Councillor Griffiths that:</p> <p>“This Council seeks to regulate the residency overnight in nominated streets and areas within the Borough by limiting the stay of specific vehicles.</p> <p>In general terms, these vehicles in the main are technically</p>	<p>PR</p>	<p>The motion was agreed</p>	<p>This is being considered as part of the Saltburn Transportation Strategy, being undertaken by Capita (now WSP).</p> <p>Any such scheme would need dispensation from the Department for Transport and discussions are ongoing</p>



**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

<p>known as Motor Caravans, although are better known colloquially as motor homes.</p> <p>Many residents have expressed concern about the volume of such vehicles being parked overnight in certain areas, particularly residential areas and more particularly in Saltburn, along Marine Parade and Glenside.</p> <p>This concentration of Motor Caravans has radically altered the ambience of areas in the Borough and has impacted on the use of the highway, in some cases detracting from the amenities of areas and resulting in many instances of abuse of the local environment.</p> <p>Through this motion it is requested that the Council consider enacting No Overnight Parking restrictions in nominated and agreed areas of the Borough.</p> <p>This is to be enacted through Road Traffic Regulation Orders or other relevant powers as appropriate to mitigate against the highway impact and other adverse effects.</p> <p>It is understood that the Department of Transport has issued to at least one local authority, through special directive, appropriate traffic signage which will facilitate the prohibition of waiting of motor caravans during specific hours.</p> <p>By introducing a Prohibition of Overnight Parking between nominated hours in agreed areas it is expected that the</p>			<p>with other local authorities who have gone through this process to gather information relating to the introduction of this type of restriction and to highlight any potential difficulties.</p>
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**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

	<p>concerns expressed by residents about the impact of overnight parking of these vehicles can be addressed.</p> <p>It is expected that all elected members will be consulted to seek their views and to identify agreed areas that would be subject to such Prohibition.</p> <p>It is understood that full public consultation will subsequently be required to be undertaken to assess the views of all interested parties in the Borough.</p> <p>Whilst intending to reduce the limit to where and when Motor Caravans can park, it is also expected that full support will be given to encourage Motor Caravan users to visit the Borough and utilise the nominated areas which are being provided for their enjoyment.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that subject to the outcome of any consultation as outlined above and any necessary approval being received from the Department of Transport or other appropriate body, this Council shall proceed to introduce appropriate Prohibition of Overnight Parking restrictions in relevant locations identified through the consultation process, and to do so at the earliest opportunity but, at the latest by the 1st of April 2024.”</p>			
<p><b>13.10.2 2</b></p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that on the successful motion of Councillor Barnes and duly seconded by Councillor King that:</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>The motion was agreed</p>	<p>An amended Equality Impact Assessment, featuring care experience as a consideration, will be created and utilised as part of the December 2022</p>

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

	<p><b>“Care Leavers Protected Characteristic Motion</b></p> <p>The Independent Review of Children’s Social Care headed by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 a final report and recommendations that included:</p> <p>“Government should make care experience a protected characteristic” and “New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations.”</p> <p><b>On Protected Characteristics for Care Experience – (Care Review May 2022).</b></p> <p>“Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made.</p> <p>One young person told the review that a teacher had told them “You’re smart - for a kid in care”, another young person said “I don’t want people to point out that I am in care if I don’t want that mentioned. It makes me so cross – that shouldn’t happen.”</p> <p>This stigma and discrimination can be explicit, and often comes with assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. They can also be implicit and are evidenced in the way care</p>			<p>Cabinet cycle.</p>
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**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

	<p>experience is discussed in schools, workplaces, and the media.</p> <p>At its worst this can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have children and families of their own.</p> <p>Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010). So, while there may be ways that society can help reduce stigma and discrimination, including creating greater public consciousness on these issues, just as with other areas of equality, there is a case to go further. Therefore, the government should make care experience a protected characteristic.</p> <p>Making care experience a protected characteristic would provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services, and policy makers to put in place policies and programmes which promote better outcomes for care experienced people. It will make the UK the first country in the world to recognise care experienced people in this way. As a measure, it will bolster and pave the way for a number of the recommendations in this chapter.”</p> <p><b>Care Review May 2022.</b></p>			
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**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

	<p>Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;</p> <p>Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;</p> <p>Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;</p> <p>Care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas outside of Redcar and Cleveland;</p> <p>As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority;</p> <p>All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work;</p> <p>Councillors should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society;</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies,</p>			
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**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

<p>such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics;</p> <p>This Council therefore resolves: -</p> <p>That it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination;</p> <p>That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;</p> <p>That future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic;</p> <p>That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;</p> <p>That this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic. To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.</p>			
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**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS – MOTIONS/ACTION TRACKER**

	<p>For the Council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.”</p>			
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Scrutiny & Improvement Committee – Action list

Actions from 21.09.22 meeting		
Action	Officer	Update
Members requested a guide to how the directorate budgets had changed as the Council changed directorate model.	PW	To be included as part of the Quarter 2 Financial Position Report due to be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet in December.
Members requested more narrative in future finance reports regarding the Council's borrowing position and subsequent pressures arising out of the repayment of that debt	PW	This would be included in future finance updates.
Future performance updates should contain a short narrative for areas of performance that were not on target such as appraisals and death registration.	ML	This would be included in future performance updates.
Members agreed that, should no other local authority in the Tees Valley be forthcoming, the Council should undertake the proposed scrutiny work to monitor the ongoing situation regarding mass crustacean deaths as soon as possible. A discussion would take place between the Monitoring Officer and the Mover and Seconder of the motion as to the form this work would take	SN	Discussions had taken place as requested. Subsequently Middlesbrough & Hartlepool Borough Councils have indicated a desire to undertake joint scrutiny work on the matter.
The Assistant Director – Finance advised that an all-member briefing on the upcoming budget was currently being organised.	PW	The Member Conference on Budget Planning has been arranged for Monday 7 November 2022 at 10am in the Council Chamber.