

## Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 12th March, 2015.

**Present:** Cllr Robert Cook (Chair); Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy and Cllr Michael Smith.

**Officers:** N Schneider (CE), J Danks, B Brown, L King (R); R McGuckin, R Kench, P Diggins, G Clingan(DNS); J Humphreys, L Hanley, D McConnell, S McClug, J Wright, L Brown, D Coulton (CESC) P Kelly (PH); M Waggott, J Trainer, P J Mennear, G Birtle P K Bell (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Maurice Perry (Chair of Regeneration and Transport Select Committee), Cllr Kevin Faulks (Chair of the Adults Services and Health Select Committee), Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Chair of the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee), Cllr Nigel Cooke (Chair of the Environment Select Committee), Cllr Derrick Brown (Housing and Community Safety Select Committee), Cllr Mick Stoker (Chair of the Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee), Cllr Mrs Carol Clark (Chair of the Children and Young People Select Committee).

**Apologies:** Cllr David Coleman, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Steve Nelson and Cllr David Rose.

### **CAB**    **Declarations of Interest** **138/14**

Councillor Harrington declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 – Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements as his goddaughter would be attending one of the schools named within the report.

Councillor Faulks declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 – Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements as he had objected to the proposed admission zone changes.

Councillor Harrington declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 – Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary in September 2016 as his goddaughter would be attending one of the schools named within the report.

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 – Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary in September 2016 as he was a governor of one of the schools named within the report.

Councillor Faulks declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 – Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary in September 2016 as he had objected to the proposed admission zone changes.

Councillor Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 9 – Scrutiny Review of the Effects of Arts Leisure and Culture on Wellbeing as he was the Chair of Eastern Ravens.

Councillor Smith declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 14 – Economic Climate Update as the company he worked for was named within the report.

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 17 – Local Authority Representatives on School Governing Bodies as he was named within the report. Councillor Cook withdrew from the Chair

during consideration of the item. Councillor Beall was in the Chair during consideration of the item.

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 18 – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015-2016 as his wife was a registered child minder.

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 20 - Welfare Reform Update: Quarter 3 2014/15 as she was the Chair SDAIS.

**CAB  
139/14 Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 12th February 2015 and 19th February 2015 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**CAB  
140/14 Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements  
(Phase 1)**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements.

The report presented the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements, undertaken by the Children & Young People Select Committee during the Municipal Year 2014/15. The topic was identified for review at Scrutiny Liaison Forum and included in the 2014/15 Work Programme by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

The review sought to ensure that the process and criteria for identifying priorities for 2014/15 had been transparent and robust in addition to ensuring that the statutory public consultation was carried out appropriately. It was also agreed that the Children & Young People Select Committee would consider the consultation feedback and scrutinise the outcomes and report to Cabinet on recommendations in March 2015, prior to lodging with Secretary of State in April 2015.

The Children & Young People Select Committee were satisfied that the proposals going forward for Cabinet approval had taken on board feedback from schools and parents and acknowledged that there were number of outstanding issues which needed to be considered and welcomed involvement in further work later in the year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**CAB  
141/14 Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary Schools in  
September 2016**

Consideration was given to a report on the procedure for admission of pupils to primary & secondary schools in September 2016.

The report outlined the admission arrangements the Local Authority (LA) was proposing for primary and secondary schools in September 2016. In order to

comply with legislation for admissions in 2016, the report included the full Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements and Admission numbers for Primary and Secondary Schools for that year.

The report included reference to the Children and Young People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements (Phase 1), including the recommendations arising from the following two proposals. Both of which were approved to go out to public consultation by Cabinet on 4th December 2014:-

- (i) The proposed admission zone changes to primary schools in Ingleby Barwick
- (ii) The proposed changes to admission zone arrangements for secondary schools in the South of the Borough

The new School Admissions Code (SAC) which came into force on the 19 December 2014 outlined the overall principles behind setting admission arrangements. It stated that:-

'Admission Authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective. Parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated.'

To ensure equity and fair access, the Admissions Code 2014 stated that in drawing up admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide on the allocation of school places are:

- clear in the sense of being free from doubt and easily understood;
- objective and based on known facts. Admission authorities and Governing Bodies must not make subjective decisions or use subjective criteria;
- procedurally fair and are also equitable for all groups of children and actively promote equity across all social groups and communities;
- enable parents' preferences for the schools of their choice to be met to the maximum extent possible;
- provide parents or carers with easy access to helpful admissions information;
- comply with relevant legislation, including infant class sizes and equal opportunities, which have been determined in accordance with the statutory requirements.

When changes were proposed to admission arrangements, admission authorities must consult on these changes by 1 March in the preceding year. Where the admission arrangements had not changed from the previous year there was no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there had been no changes during that period.

As changes were proposed for 2016, the LA consulted a range of key partners and stakeholders including Schools, Governing Bodies, neighbouring authorities, Diocesan representatives, parents / carers and the general public. In addition a number of consultation events were held across the south of the borough to brief the public on the proposals. The full consultation document was

displayed on the Stockton-On-Tees website inviting comments on the proposed changes to the Admissions Policy and School Admissions arrangements for entry in September 2016. Full details of the consultation process were available within the report of the Children and Young People Select Committee – Scrutiny review of School organisation and admission arrangements (Phase 1).

Attached to the report was a copy of the Stockton on Tees Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for admissions in 2016/17 which included the timetable.

Also attached to the report were the details of the proposed Admission Numbers for September 2016 in Community, VA, Academies and Free School and showed the proposed increase in school admission numbers across the Borough.

The proposed Admission Policy for 2016/17 would give priority to applications for admission to a Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary or Secondary school if that school was oversubscribed. Details were attached to the report.

Members approved the following recommendations relating to the agreed proposals which had been subject to public consultation between the 15th December 2014 and the 28th February 2015.

Members wished their thanks be put on record to the officers that had carried out the consultation process.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The proposed changes to the School Admissions Code be agreed.
2. The proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary, Secondary, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, Academies and Free School be agreed (point 1 and Appendix 1);
3. The proposed admission numbers for Primary and Secondary schools for September 2016 be agreed (point 2 and Appendix 2).
4. The proposed Admission Policy for September 2016 be agreed (point 3 and Appendix 3);
5. The existing primary admission zones for Ingleby Barwick be retained.
6. The existing admission zone arrangements for Egglecliffe School be retained.

**CAB 142/14 Scrutiny Review of Transition from Primary to Secondary**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Transition from Primary to Secondary.

The overall aim of the review was to ensure that transition arrangements from primary to secondary school were effective enough to ensure that students

maintained their academic momentum into Year 7 and therefore make more progress across Key Stage 3 and 4 so that outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 improved.

There was a growing body of research which associated the transition of pupils from one phase to another with underachievement. Galton et al (1999) suggested that two in every five pupils failed to make expected progress in the year after moving to secondary school supporting the hypothesis that there was an academic dip post transition. In 2013, Stockton progression rates for primary pupils were in line with or exceeding national averages. For secondary aged pupils, progression rates were well below national averages.

Children & Young People Select Committee Members had visited the following Stockton schools to speak with staff and pupils:

- Egglecliffe School
- Junction Farm Primary School
- Our Lady and St Bede RC Academy
- St Cuthbert's RC Voluntary Aided Primary School

Discussion with the full Select Committee also took place with Conyers School and Wolviston Primary School staff and pupils at the Select Committee meeting on 14 January 2015.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Secondary and primary colleagues pay due cognisance to each other's expertise through sharing practice and planning, classroom visits and collaborative training:
2. All schools / Academies be encouraged to sign up to a Transition Guarantee to seek to ensure:-
  - every secondary school to attend at least one moderation of primary work in the summer term
  - cross phase items are considered at least three times at Collaborative Network meetings per year
  - all schools to use the Sprint Tracker to record pupil attainment and coverage of the curriculum in maths, reading, writing and Science and this to be passed to schools at point of transition
  - all schools to adhere to the 'Moving Forward' transition package of protocols and pro-formas
  - a consistent approach to scoring attainment to be agreed
  - all primary schools to be informed of the KS4 outcomes for their pupils
  - agreed dates for a Borough wide transition week
  - the implementation of a transition project for all pupils
3. Implementation of the Transition Guarantee be overseen through the existing challenge, monitoring and support structures of the Local Authority; challenge to schools and academies for the extent of their implementation of the Transition Guarantee be through the School Improvement Framework (as a trigger in the Challenge and Support Criteria); monitoring will occur using the School Improvement Adviser programme; support will be offered through the

**CAB 143/14 Task and Finish Scrutiny Review of Child Sexual Exploitation**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Task and Finish Group findings following the Scrutiny Review of Child Sexual Exploitation.

On 9 October 2014, Cabinet considered an update on CSE as part of a regular report on social care activity and performance. At that meeting Cabinet requested that a Children and Young People Select Committee Task and Finish Group be established to review how robust the Council and Multi Agency Partners' procedures were with regard to children deemed to be at risk of child sexual exploitation and that the review involved all partner agencies. Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed to add the review to the Scrutiny Work Programme and a Task and Finish Group was appointed from the Children and Young People Select Committee.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) had been identified by children's charities and highlighted in the national press as a growing problem. Furthermore the Jay report (and more recently the Casey report) into the Rotherham child sexual abuse scandal criticised the Metropolitan Borough Council for failings in the handling of abuse. This had in turn led to Local Authorities reviewing their own and partnership arrangements for identifying and dealing with the problem.

It was noted that the local media had quoted some wrong figures with regard to children at risk of CSE. The figure was not 61 children but a culminated figure of 42 during 2013/14 and a monthly average of 24.

Members noted the view from the Children and Young People Select Committee Task and Finish Group that further work was required in relation to VEMT arrangements and the need for feedback from children to assess the quality of the Council and partners response. It was requested that this be reported back to Executive Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible for the work to be prioritised urgently.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The number, membership and accountability arrangements for the VEMT groups / SLSCB be reviewed to ensure that all appropriate agencies and providers are represented, avoid unnecessary duplication and any conflicts of interest and that the outcome of the review be reported back to Children and Young People Select Committee as part of the forthcoming review of the LSCB.
2. The LSCB consider formal mechanisms for sharing information from the VEMT groups including how best to raise awareness with the wider voluntary and community sector, including the Faith Community.
3. Consideration be given to developing early support services for children at risk of CSE as part of the Early Help Strategy and Implementation Plan.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Board be asked to consider and commission

appropriate prioritised services for children at risk of CSE.

5. Awareness raising activities be developed for children and young people in respect of social media and healthy relationships as well as work with parents and via schools.
6. The LSCB ensure that a multi-agency co-ordinated training strategy be developed to:
  - Map out current provision
  - Identify any gaps
  - Identify who should receive training, frequency of training and assurance mechanisms
  - Introduce mandatory safeguarding training for Elected Members (including CSE)
7. CSE should feature in regular performance reports to Cabinet and Children and Young People Select Committee as part of quarterly performance updates.
8. Information about the prevalence of CSE be included within the JSNA together with appropriate commissioning decisions and priorities.
9. Work is commissioned, accepting the challenges, to obtain feedback from children as part of further assurance work.
10. The revised VEMT Strategy and Action Plan and strengthened performance and quality assurance framework be subject to further scrutiny together with the internal audit of CSE case files and the outcome of benchmarking work against the Ofsted thematic report recommendations as part of the scrutiny review of the LSCB.
11. The report be submitted to the LSCB for their consideration.

**CAB 144/14 Scrutiny Review of Home Care**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Adult Services and Health Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Home Care.

The review considered the commissioning and provision of home care across all client groups.

Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Council review the NICE Quality Standards for Home Care and check against local practice when published (expected mid-2015), ensure consideration be given to including them in the next specification, and report back on this work to Adult Services and Health Select Committee as part of the monitoring process.

2. The Council consider the fee level ahead of the 2015 commissioning process to ensure it supports a sustainable high quality service, within the available resources.
3. a) The Council work with commissioned providers to ensure that wherever possible zero hour contracts are not used, taking into account best HR practice, to ensure due consideration is being given to the use of minimum guaranteed hours contracts for staff;  
b) The Council consider providing a guaranteed minimum level of home care hours to providers, taking into account expected demand and activity levels, whilst ensuring service users are able to exercise their choice of provider.
4. Participation in the Home Care Quality Standards Framework process to be made a contractual requirement for home care providers in the next contract.
5. The outcomes from the Home Care Quality Standards Framework be reported to Adult Services and Health Select Committee on an annual basis, as part of the framework for monitoring the quality and safety of local care services.
6. The Council take forward discussions with the Regional Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and regional Care Quality Commission (CQC), in order to ensure that Local Authorities receive early notification of any issues of concern identified during CQC inspections of Adult Social Care providers, and ensure that consistent procedures are in place across the region.
7. The Council examine procurement options so that not all of the commissioned home care service is procured at the same time. This would mitigate risks by increasing: stability in local service provision, the scope to support other models / pilot approaches, and the opportunity to develop a greater range of providers in the Borough.
8. a) The Council should continue to work with and engage the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to further develop its services in this area of provision, including non-personal care support where appropriate, and this should include facilitating the development of mutual service providers in the Borough;  
b) emerging good practice examples of VCSE sector provision be reported to the Committee as part of the six-monthly monitoring process.
9. as part of the monitoring process, an update on all the issues identified in the report and recommendations be reported to Adult Services and Health Select Committee in six months.

**CAB 145/14 Scrutiny Review of the Effects of Arts, Leisure and Culture on Wellbeing**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Effects of Arts Leisure and Culture on Wellbeing.



The report presented the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of the Effects of the Arts, Leisure and Culture on Wellbeing undertaken by the Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee during the Municipal Year 2014/15. The topic was identified for review at Scrutiny Liaison Forum and included in the 2014/15 Work Programme by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

The review sought to understand the impact of arts, leisure and culture on wellbeing and if this provides the case for future commissioning of arts in health initiatives.

As there was significant evidence associated with the physical activity and physical wellbeing, the review had sought to focus in particular on the effect of arts and cultural activities on mental wellbeing.

The Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee considered national and international research and also considered local case studies at themed meetings focusing on children, older people and place.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Policies which see continued investment in cultural and arts activities aimed at community level wellbeing be endorsed and every effort be made to retain sufficient professional expertise and capacity to deliver or advocate for such programmes.
2. A modest budget be allocated to “seed fund” community based arts and cultural projects on a non-recurring basis and that Health and Wellbeing Board agree a criteria for allocation of resources with a focus on reducing social isolation and improving mental health and wellbeing.
3. The Health and Wellbeing Board work with the CCG to encourage all GP practices to sign up to social prescribing and seek to expand the menu of options for social prescribing.
4. Arts and cultural options to be routinely considered across partners when commissioning preventative and mental health services.
5. Through implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:-
  - a. better use be made of arts and cultural activities to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of local people;
  - b. ensure that local planning policies continue to support historic places and healthy living environments.

**CAB 146/14 Scrutiny Review of Licensing and Public Health**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Licensing and Public Health.

The Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee explored the

opportunities for addressing the health concerns of Stockton Borough residents through the licensing regime and considered designating special policies across specific areas of the borough i.e. Cumulative Impact Zones (also known as saturation zones) to deal with a proliferation of particular outlets including premises licensed to sell alcohol.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The planning department work with the public health team to draft policy for consideration of appropriate hot food takeaway locations in the borough to be included planning documents.
2. Preliminary consideration of public health's strategic goals should reflect the promotion of the four licensing objectives and that the DPH and public health team:-
  - engage with the licensing authority when the Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) is reviewed and what the review process will be
  - conduct a health-impact assessment of alcohol in the local area or a specific study to assess if problems arise from the cumulative impact of licensed premises; or, where one has been completed, assess its relevance to licensing
  - engage with and collect the local views of the community and wider public health community
  - investigate the health data for the area, including the wider public health and local alcohol profiles for England (LAPE)
  - engage the health and wellbeing board (HWB) in the consultation process to identify issues that would benefit from the support of licensing
  - reference the SLP in alcohol harm-reduction strategies and other key local public health documents to ensure public health and licensing are aligned
3. Stockton Borough Council lobby its local MPs in support of the Directors of Public Health campaign for public health issues to become an objective in licensing to which the Council carries out its functions under the Licensing Act 2003.
4. Appropriate and relevant Balance report findings are taken into consideration during the review of Stockton Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.
5. Stockton Borough Council consider, where necessary, introducing a "Cumulative Impact Zone Policy" in relation to where the number, type and density of licensed premises are concentrated and serious problems of nuisance and disorder may arise or have been shown to arise at licensed premises, outside licensed premises or otherwise connected with such premises.
6. SBC Trading Standards Department continue to monitor the position of the price of local alcohol sales and to take appropriate action when alcohol is sold for less than cost of duty plus VAT.
7. Stockton Borough Council lobby its local MPs in support of the Directors of Public Health and Public Health England's campaign for the introduction of a national minimum unit pricing of alcohol.

8. Stockton Borough Council support the Local Government Association campaign for the introduction of locally-set licensing fees allowing local authorities to recover the actual cost of applications.

**CAB  
147/14**      **Scrutiny Review of Neighbourhood Policing**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Neighbourhood Policing.

The review considered the impact of the ongoing budget reductions and recent Cleveland Police restructure on the operation of neighbourhood policing in Stockton Borough. A number of the recommendations were for Cleveland Police.

Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan would be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations would be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

RESOLVED that:-

1. As part of its overall consultation and engagement strategy, Cleveland Police and the Council ensure a consistent approach to communications, including:-

a) a consistent approach to the use of social media by local neighbourhood teams, using the good practice that exists in the Force;

b) the Council's Community Safety Manager and Police keep under review information sharing with the Council to ensure it remains effective and any changes in key contacts are communicated in a timely manner;

c) a recommendation to all Members that they keep up to date with changes in their local areas, including by accessing Cleveland Police's 'My Neighbourhood' website. A link to this should be included on the Council's intranet.

d) following the election, all Members consider what, if any, additional, appropriate methods of communicating with their local police team are required.

2. Cleveland Police provide annual updates on the policing of Stockton Borough to all Members, and this take place using the existing update session when the Police and Crime Commissioner consults all Members on his Budget and Plan;

3. a) the increased range of responsibilities of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams be noted, and that work to define and explain the revised role of neighbourhood policing be supported;

b) all Members recognise the recent changes, and use their key role in communities to explain the role and capacity of local police teams.

4. a) the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee notes and values the work of the Community Safety Team, and Members should continue to receive regular ASB patrol updates from the community safety team and maintain links with their local ASB officer;

b) the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee notes and values the work of the Safer Stockton Partnership, and the importance of maintaining representation from all appropriate bodies.

4. The excellent partnership working between the Council and Cleveland Police be recognised and supported.

6. a) Cleveland Police regularly monitor and share with partners the Public Confidence Survey results and other related consultation feedback;

b) Work be undertaken by the Police and Crime Panel to further understand changes in public confidence, expectations, and fear of crime issues.

**CAB 148/14 Scrutiny Review of the Future of Countryside Sites**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Environment Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Countryside Sites.

The main issues and overall aim of this review was to consider:-

- How can the Council build on its strong track record for developing and managing country parks, nature reserves and other countryside sites? What facilities, assets and activities should be developed and maintained, to maximise the community, environmental and economic value of these sites?
- Given the increasing budgetary pressures, what alternative management arrangements could be put in place for the Council's existing countryside sites, and how might the Council encourage greater partnership working between the public, private and third sectors to ensure the sustainable management of these sites in the future?
- How can these sites be developed, managed and promoted on an area-by-area basis for nature/activity-based tourism and recreation?

RESOLVED that:-

1. An overall strategic plan and updated site management plans for countryside sites be prepared, reflecting the Council's broad strategic objectives and aim to target capital and revenue resources effectively in light of revenue restrictions.

2. External funding for physical improvements to countryside sites be sought where these are in line with the Council's strategic objectives and taking into account implications for future revenue funding.

3. The Council continue to explore opportunities for external partners to carry out management functions and deliver associated services at countryside sites.

4. Where resources allow, the Council and its partners continue to encourage community and volunteer involvement in countryside sites, helping to support the positive management and development of these assets and benefiting the individuals involved.
5. All the council's countryside sites be promoted and, where possible, used to host a range of recreational, cultural and educational activities, maximising economic, social, health and environmental benefits.
6. Explore the possible use of modern technology to enhance visitor experience at, or about, the various countryside sites e.g. QR codes on information boards and signs that allow mobile devices (phones, tablets) to deliver additional information.

**CAB 149/14 Scrutiny Review of Road and Footpath Investment Opportunities**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Road and Footpath Investment Opportunities.

Surveys indicated that footway and highway maintenance remained high on Stockton Borough residents' agenda, both in terms of what single one area the Council need to improve upon (42% - Residents Survey 2012) and what was the most important factor in determining whether a location is a good place to live (22% - Residents Survey 2012).

The Regeneration and Transport Select Committee was asked by Cabinet to consider the priorities for additional funding allocated for roads and footpaths with the aim of determining:-

- Where the investment should be targeted.
- What additional resource can potentially achieve.
- The level of investment required in future years.
- What else could be achieved?

RESOLVED that:-

1. Officers develop a business case to determine the viability and value of purchasing a vehicle to deliver a velocity patching service in-house or in collaboration with other Tees Valley local authorities.
2. The consideration of a high profile marketing campaign to highlight the work of the Council in its repair of footpaths and highways as well as to improve the reporting of potholes.
3. The Council publishes an article in Stockton News to inform residents of the alternative repair techniques being used and the levels of savings being achieved as an authority.
4. A 6-year highway maintenance programme be formulated to reflect the

new funding period.

5. Officers liaise with other local highway authorities to identify areas of best practice that may develop further efficiency opportunities.

**CAB  
150/14**      **ECONOMIC CLIMATE UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report that provided Members with an overview of the economic climate, outlining the effects that this was having on Stockton Borough, and the mitigations already in place and those being developed in response to this.

Following the recession in 2008 Stockton Council's ambition remained the same; to create a borough that was more confident, vibrant and successful than ever before; where business and people prosper and grow. To do this the Council must understand the nature and extent of opportunities and challenges that exist within Stockton's economy.

The monthly update report enabled a focused account to be made of any recent changes to economic circumstances (both positive and negative), the direct impact that this may be having on the Borough, and the responses and mitigations either in place or being developed to support businesses and residents. Attached to the report was a summary of those changes and responses.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and the work being undertaken be supported.

**CAB  
151/14**      **Xentrall Legal Agreement**

Consideration was given to a report on the ongoing success of Xentrall Shared Services, and sought approval at the end of the initial 10 years in 2018 to further extend the operational period of the partnership on a continually rolling basis.

Xentrall Shared Services, the Stockton and Darlington partnership, was established in May 2008 and was almost seven years through the original ten year partnership agreement.

In establishing the partnership the Councils established an administrative arrangement called "Xentrall Shared Services". The administrative arrangement specifically meant the delivery of Shared Services provided through a public / public shared service partnership of both Councils, with the Shared Services provided by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to both Councils, under powers delegated to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council by Darlington Borough Council.

The administrative arrangement was governed by the Executive Board, namely the Director of Resources (Stockton) and Director of Resources and Neighbourhood Services (Darlington), and was managed by two Heads of Service (Head of Transactional Services and Head of ICT and Design & Print). The Partnership Consultative Panel, the respective lead Cabinet members from each Council, monitor performance and act as "Champions" of the Shared

Services within their respective Council.

The administrative arrangement commenced on 1 May 2008 for a period of ten years and was due to end on 30 April 2018 unless otherwise terminated or extended. The period of ten years may be extended for such further period as may be determined by the mutual agreement of the Councils. The administrative arrangement provides for termination of the partnership with twelve months' notice.

The ongoing success of the partnership in achieving savings as well as sustaining service performance and improvement was reported to both Cabinets in the Xentrall Annual Report. The original business case identified a number of efficiencies and benefits to be delivered resulting in initial savings of £7.4m over the original ten year period. Xentrall had delivered all of these plus additional efficiencies and benefits and was on target to make £13.6m savings over the same ten year period.

The Executive Board and Partnership Panel had discussed and agreed that the partnership should continue in its current form beyond the end of the original ten year partnership agreement.

It was recommended Cabinet approve a revision to the original ten year partnership agreement thereby making it a perpetual agreement with no defined end date.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The ongoing success of the partnership in achieving savings as well as sustaining service performance be noted.
2. The role of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council be re-confirmed as host authority for the partnership and the delegation of functions from Darlington Borough Council be accepted.
3. A revision to the original ten year partnership agreement be approved thereby at the end of the initial period in 2018 making it a rolling agreement with no defined end date, but retaining the existing 12 month notice termination clause.

**CAB**     **Minutes of Various Bodies**  
**152/14**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below were submitted to Members for consideration:-

Safer Stockton Partnership – 16th December 2014  
Tees Valley Unlimited – Leadership Board – 28th January 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted.

**CAB**     **LA Nominations**  
**153/14**

In accordance with the procedure for the appointment of school / academy governors, approved as Minute CAB 27/13 of the Cabinet (13 June 2013), Cabinet was invited to consider the nominations to school / academy Governing Bodies listed in the attachment to the report.

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made to the vacant Governorships subject to successful List 99 check and Personal Disclosure:-

Billingham South Primary School - Cllr Robert Cook (Lab)  
Durham Lane Primary School - Mrs M Dale (School nomination)

**CAB 154/14      Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015-2016**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined how the Local Authority (LA) was meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and included information about the supply of and demand for childcare, details on any gaps in provision and an action plan on how they would be addressed.

The Childcare Act (2006) and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – September 2014, required Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as far as was reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who were studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

The Children and Families Act 2014 repealed the duty on the local authority to prepare assessments on the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area at least every 3 years and replaced this with the duty to report annually to elected council members on how they were meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. There was also a requirement to make this report available and accessible to parents.

As part of the changes there was no longer a requirement to undertake consultation to support the Assessment.

Local authorities were responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication.

In addition, local authorities were required by legislation to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and the associated priorities for 2015-2016 be approved.
2. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan for 2015-2016 be approved.

**CAB      CSC Activity and Performance 2014-15**



**155/14**

Consideration was given to a report on Children's Social Care Activity and Performance.

In light of the Ofsted inspection of child protection in January 2013, it had been decided to review the content and format of future children's social care reports to Cabinet.

In addition to a range of measures to illustrate the pressures experienced by the service, a number of performance indicators would also be included so that Cabinet could more closely monitor the impact of these pressures on performance and outcomes for children.

As a way of achieving this, the use of a 'process model' was approved by Cabinet on 13 June 2013.

Given the importance and profile of these issues it had been agreed that the new activity and performance reports are brought to Cabinet on a bimonthly basis ie every alternate Cabinet.

The report was based on the available data at the end of quarter 3 (31 December 2014).

RESOLVED that:-

1. The continued workload pressures and associated activity in the children's social care system and the consequent impact this is having on both performance and budget be noted.
2. Further update reports be received on a quarterly basis in order to continue to monitor children's social care activity and performance.

**CAB Welfare Reform Update - Quarter 3 2014/15**  
**156/14**

Consideration was given to a report that presented an update on Quarter 3 monitoring of the outcomes / impact of Welfare Reform, a summary of actions undertaken to mitigate against circumstances arising from the implementation of the act and details of the work undertaken to date on the refresh of the Brighter Borough for All Tackling Family Poverty Framework document.

Measures used to track impact were attached to the report. Measures were shown as having a direct or indirect link to the implications of the act. Satisfaction measures were detailed under a separate category. Children's activity data and the economic climate update reports, received regularly by members should be considered alongside this welfare reform monitoring arrangements.

Additional funding of £70,000 had been allocated for the last 2 years to provide capacity in the Welfare Rights Team and SDAIS. It was proposed, given the level of demand this continues for a further year. Longer term arrangements would be addressed through the review of Advice and Information services, the outcome of which would be presented to Members in June 2015.

The work was extremely labour-intensive and could not be accommodated within existing resources. On the basis of the success of the pilot, £40,000 was requested from the Welfare Reform Fund for a temporary period of 12 months to carry on the work. Monitoring of outcomes would be provided via future Welfare Reform reports.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The Quarter 3 performance monitoring outcomes and observations be noted.
3. Members receive a more detailed report on the rollout of Universal Credit following a DWP meeting in March 2015.
4. £110,000 be approved from the Welfare Reform budget : to continue to address staffing requirements in Welfare rights and SDAIS as identified in paragraph 19; to support of the 12 month LCTS pilot detailed in paragraph 51
5. The Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty document be refreshed and presented to Cabinet for approval in the summer 2015.

**CAB 157/14 Stockton Youth Assembly - End of Term Report**

Consideration was given to a report that presented an update on the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) since its formation in September 2013.

A new model for Youth Participation in Stockton was agreed by Cabinet to replace the former Shadow Youth Board with a more representative Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) to provide a way for young people to contribute to matters affecting them and give the Council a youth perspective when planning and developing services. Members were appointed to the SYA for a two year term of office, and 19 young people were appointed as SYA members, representing eight schools, sixth forms and colleges across the borough, universal youth clubs, young carers, looked after children, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD). Members also included Stockton's Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) and Deputy MYP. At the first meeting Jessica Belch, MYP, was appointed as Chair of the Assembly, with Ciaran Poole, the Deputy MYP, appointed as Vice-Chair, and the SYA developed their own Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure for meetings.

On 17 July 2014, Cabinet received an interim report which summarised the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly since the first Borough-wide Debate took place on 30 September 2013. The Borough-wide Debate brought together the SYA members, Elected Members, and key officers to discuss the key policy areas that most affected young people.

As the two year term of office had ended, the SYA had produced an End of Term report outlining the huge amount of work that they have carried out, and a

copy was attached to the report.

At the July Cabinet meeting the work the SYA had carried out in shaping council services for the future, debating future needs, and engaging with the Councils Scrutiny Process was noted.

As noted in the July Cabinet report, the SYA had increased participation of young people from all communities across the borough in Council Services. The SYA had helped to make sure the Councils communicate effectively with young people and thereby ensuring that young people's voice was heard. The SYA had also engaged on a national level through the Make Your Mark campaign and on a regional level through the course of their development.

The SYA had a presence on the SBC website, which signposted young people to agendas and minutes of the SYA and contact information for the MYP and Deputy. The site would continue to be developed with content relating to SYA activity, and in a format likely to promote effective engagement with young people.

The MYP, Deputy MYP and SYA Members term of office ends in February 2015. Copies of the end of term report had been sent to all schools, sixth forms and colleges across the borough, and also youth clubs, Eastern Ravens Trust etc. to promote the SYA members work.

An election for the MYP and Deputy MYP took place in February and appointments for representatives to the SYA were being sought. Following this process, both the Local and Parliamentary Elections would take place, and the Council's AGM would be held on 3 June 2015. As previously agreed at Cabinet on 17 July the SYA Borough Wide Annual Debate would be held in June 2015 to coincide with the Councils democratic procedures and set its priorities for the following two years.

Members noted the good work of the SYA and the young people and officers that had been involved in the Assembly.

RESOLVED that the work of the SYA be noted.