

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 24th January, 2019.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Chair); Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson and Cllr Michael Smith.

Officers: Neil Schneider (CE), Julie Danks, Margaret Waggott, Peter Bell, Gary Woods, Peter Mennear (DCE), Beccy Brown, Ged Morton (HR&L), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Richard McGuckin (ED&D), Dale Rowbotham (CS), Reuben Kench (C,L&E).

Also in attendance: Cllr Louise Baldock (Vice Chair of People Select Committee); Cllr Derek Brown (Chair of Place Select Committee), Cllr Dave Wilburn (Chair of Crime and Disorder Select Committee), Cllr Carol Clark, Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Norma Wilburn.

CAB Welcome and Evacuation Procedure 104/18

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

CAB Declarations of Interest 105/18

Councillor Bob Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 - Stockton Riverside College Annual Report as his grandson attended Bede Sixth Form College.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Hate Crime as he was a member of Catalyst.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 - Targeted Action Areas - Report on Progress as he was a Director of Thirteen Group and he was a member of Catalyst.

Councillor Mike Smith declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 12 - Economic Climate Report as his employer was named within the report.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 12 – Economic Climate Report as he was a Director of Thirteen Group.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 14 - Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan as he was a Director of Thirteen Group. Councillor Steve Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

CAB Minutes 106/18

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 12 December 2018 and 13 December 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 12 December 2018 and

13 December 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CAB Stockton Riverside College Annual Report

107/18

Consideration was given to a report on the Stockton Riverside College Annual Report.

Stockton Riverside College (SRC) continued to be a good college as judged by Ofsted in December 2017 and, in terms of Higher Education, by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in May 2018.

The report presented the College's position as well as future aspirations. The report also covered a review of College performance and summarised challenges faced by reduced funding, an uncertain political landscape and the introduction of new initiatives.

Detail was provided on the merger with Redcar & Cleveland College, which was finalised on 1 August 2018, financial sustainability and student recruitment. The report drew attention to the important role of partnerships at the college and the significant work undertaken with Employer engagement, apprenticeships and inclusivity.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) regarded SRC as a strategic partner and continued work with them on a range of initiatives.

SRC had an outstanding reputation for creative and performing arts courses, with outcomes consistently above national rates. In the same sector, SBC commissioned, hosted and presented an outstanding programme of distinctive cultural events, frequently bringing companies into the area for technical and creative services with significant contract values.

SRC and SBC were exploring how to use events to provide learning and training opportunities in technical and creative roles to nurture local talent, increase capacity in the sector and support new businesses and employment in the sector.

Mark White (Chair of SRC Governors), Lesley Graham (Campus Principal) and Richard Poundford (Vice Chair of SRC Governors) were in attendance at the meeting and were given the opportunity to address the meeting.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The progress of the college and the on-going partnership between the College and the Council be noted.

CAB People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Digital Optimisation

108/18

Consideration was given to a report that presented the outcomes of the People Select Committee's review of Digital Optimisation.

RESOLVED that:-

1. A review of My Stockton with regards content and layout be undertaken.
2. Work be undertaken to understand why too few of the Borough's residents are using the Council's digital services (in line with the Local Government Digital Service Standard).
3. Digital service options on the Council's home page be made more visible / explicit (e.g. 'sign up for My Stockton').
4. Information on where to get WiFi or access to a computer within the Borough be provided on the Council's website (as per Wigan Council's website).
5. SBC should ensure that senior management are able to recognise the potential benefits for digital services across all departments and ensure this is reflected in the culture of the Council.
6. Consideration be given to expanding the role of the Council's Digital Services Group to develop SBC Digital Champions within each directorate and to engage with the community.
7. SBC embraces the iDEA (The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award) concept, both within the Council itself, and for residents young and old.
8. Appropriate skills be developed and resources prioritised within the Council's workforce to design, progress and implement digital services.
9. A digital skills development section is included within Council staff appraisals (individual and team requirements).
10. Consideration be given as to how, in addition to those areas with the highest number of customer transactions, further digital solutions can be identified and implemented in those Council services with the greatest spend (Adults and Children's Services).
11. Collaboration between service areas, ICT and communications and web teams continues to ensure a joined-up approach, as well as fostering wider learning through regular liaison and joint working with other Local Authorities, both regionally and nationally.
12. The Council's Digital Services Group provides leadership and opportunities for collaboration for the Council to deliver greater value through digital service delivery.
13. Bids for funding of digital projects continue to be submitted, where appropriate, to build on the Council's current digital offer.

CAB **Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Hate Crime**
109/18

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Crime and Disorder

Select Committee findings and recommendations following the Scrutiny Review of Hate Crime.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Stockton Hate Crime Group be recommended to incorporate the following actions into the Hate Crime Action Plan:
 - (a) targeted awareness raising and promotion of the support available for:
 - groups with protected characteristics (in particular disability, LGBT)
 - frontline staff
 - younger men
 - schools, colleges and universities
 - (b) encouraging reporting through:
 - greater publicity for successful prosecutions
 - the development of an on-line form, which would enable users to report hate crime from any location
 - reviewing the role and profile of Third Party Reporting Centres in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - working towards reducing the barriers to reporting
 - (c) recruiting and developing capacity of community advocates;
 - (d) continuing to scrutinise hate crime incidents and their classifications;
 - (e) reviewing the impact of the Prejudice Driven Behaviour Policy and Trans-Inclusion Policy and Guidance for schools in 12 months;
 - (f) continue to review the membership of the Stockton Hate Crime Group to ensure representation from all key stakeholders and groups.
2. Stockton schools be encouraged to take advantage of the range of awareness raising and support packages available.
3. The Council continue to recognise and support the important work of Show Racism the Red Card.
4. A letter be sent to Stockton MPs to seek their support in calling for further research into how best to tackle online hate speech.

CAB 110/18 Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling)

Consideration was given to a report that presented the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's review of Bring Sites (Recycling).

RESOLVED that:

1. On the basis of the data available, the proposal to reduce the number of Council-run bring sites to seven (as identified within the final report), with the projected savings re-invested into improving the remaining sites be endorsed.
2. A communication plan be devised to inform residents and Councillors of this decision and the implementation period, highlighting the location of the remaining bring sites and reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.
3. Robust data-gathering continues for the remaining Council bring sites to monitor the effects of reducing the existing level of provision.

CAB 1111/18 Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2020 - 2035 (JWMS)

Consideration was given to a report on the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2020 - 2035 (JWMS).

Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2020-2035 (JWMS) public consultation period had ended. The final version on the Strategy, following Members approval, would be published by the Tees Valley councils.

The Tees Valley authorities; Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC), Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC), Middlesbrough Borough Council (MBC) and Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) had an existing waste treatment solution under contract with Suez (formerly SITA) until 2020. The arrangement was put in place as part of a joint procurement between the four local authorities which made up Cleveland County in 1995 and led to a 250,000 tpa (tonnes per annum) Energy from Waste (EfW) incineration facility being built by Suez at Haverton Hill. The facility came online in 1998 and had been in operation for over 20 years. Darlington Borough Council (DBC) had a separate waste disposal contract.

The Tees Valley Authorities excluding Darlington Borough Council delivered approximately 180,000 tonnes of municipal waste into the Haverton Hill site. This was the non-recyclable residual waste collected both at the Kerbside and at our Household Waste Recycling Centre. The local authorities paid a gate fee for the processing of each tonne of waste which was delivered to the plant. The waste was in turn converted to energy which was fed in to the national grid.

The contract with Suez for waste disposal ran to 2025 which was agreed by Members as part of the 2018 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Darlington Borough Council's contract was coterminous and ends 2025.

In order to plan for the future and place the Tees Valley in the strongest position, a strategic outline business case had been developed to progress options for post 2025. Key to this was providing not only a long-term solution for dealing with waste but also to contribute to local economic growth, and supporting the circular economy.

The Tees Valley JWMS 2020-2035 had been shaped by National Policy that reflected the aims and objectives of the existing strategy which aimed to deliver a high quality, accessible and affordable waste management service that contributes to:

- Economic regeneration, including employment and a more circular economy;
- Recognising waste as a resource to maximise income;
- The protection of the environment and natural resources; reducing the carbon impact of waste management.
- Delivers customer satisfaction;
- Reduces the amount of waste generated by householders and the Councils;
- Increases reuse and recycling;
- Then maximises recovery of waste; and;
- Works towards zero waste to landfill

RESOLVED that the publication of the final version of the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2020-2035 (JWMS) be agreed.

CAB 112/18 Targeted Action Areas - Report on Progress

Consideration was given to a report on Targeted Action Areas (TAA).

Approval was granted in November 2017 to implement an area based, targeted intervention approach which would provide a visible, neighbourhood management presence to some of the boroughs more vulnerable local communities in the central Stockton and the Victoria area in Thornaby. Both were areas which experienced high concentrations of low value private rented housing, high numbers of empty properties and were hotspots for crime and anti-social behaviour.

The report updated Members on progress made to date in the implementation of targeted action area approach providing examples of positive interventions and outcomes achieved and details how partners including the police, Fire Brigade, Registered Housing Providers and council service teams had come together to work proactively with local communities to improve on the ground service delivery and address key local concerns.

Maps indicating the localities of the two Targeted Action Areas were attached to the report.

A photo montage was attached to the report which demonstrated the visual impact of the “Clean-Up” initiatives. A table within the report provided an example of the positive outcomes of ‘Clean-Ups’ and the broad range of partner involved.

The TAA initiative was an evolving project and the Council was in the early stages of the projects development / implementation.

A number of the early actions had been implemented to demonstrate the commitment of the Council and its partners to address local community concerns. Moving forward detailed action plans were being developed, each action would be intelligence lead and would identify how each partner could deliver sustained improvements (working both individually and collaboratively) to both localities.

The need to embed community engagement was also a key next step. It was proposed to develop two area based community partnerships which would include members / representatives from the local community, VCSE representatives and broader stakeholders including local ward members.

Whilst only at an early stage, all partners had also recognise that building community resilience and 'legacy' planning would be a key success measure of the TAA project.

Finally, to measure the impact and success of the TAA initiative, consideration was being given to the development of a performance framework. In order to seek ongoing support from partners it was vital that the Council was able to demonstrate the value (and potential cost savings) of delivering services at a bespoke local level.

Positive engagement with PLuSS representatives had commenced and collectively they were working with representatives from the Housing Service to explore alternative models to Selective Licensing. To give sufficient time for these alternatives to be explored and for meaningful engagement to take place the proposal to introduce Selective Licensing in North Thornaby and Central Stockton had at the time of this meeting been postponed.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The successful actions and initiatives which have been piloted to date which will inform the ongoing development of the Targeted Action Area project.
2. The ongoing collaborative meetings with the PLuSS (Private Landlords Supporting Stockton) private sector landlord group (as detailed in para 16 of this report).
3. In response to the above, the decision to progress with Selective Licensing of private rented housing in Central Stockton and North Thornaby has at this time been postponed, this will allow for a period of positive engagement with private sector landlords (via the PLuSS partnership) to explore potential alternative options.

CAB 113/18 Minutes of Various Bodies

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:-

Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board 18 December 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings detailed in the appendices be approved / received, as appropriate.

CAB 114/18 Economic Climate Report

Consideration was given to the Economic Climate Report.

The report, and subsequent quarterly updates, provided Members with an update on information published in Stockton's Local Economic Assessment 2017 as well as key recent economic announcements.

The report highlighted:-

- A table within the report provided an update on the latest estimates and data trends relating to indicators associated with Stockton-on-Tees as a place
- Strategic Updates
- Business Announcements / Intentions
- Strategic Locations
- Training & Skills
- Available Employment Land
- Housing Stock and Prices
- Case Study - Sustainable Economic Development and Regeneration in the central Stockton area

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The work being undertaken be supported.

CAB **Memorial Lighting Calendar**
115/18

Consideration was given to a report on the Memorial Lighting Calendar.

The extensive use of coloured or controllable lighting in our urban spaces had made it possible to light buildings, open spaces and key features in a particular colour for a time-limited event. In response there had been an increase in the number of requests received from members of the public, charities and community groups to use the lights to commemorate or celebrate specific events. In order to ensure that the use of lights to mark an event had impact it was important to limit the number of occasions on which the Council did so.

Lighting was increasingly being used to demonstrate sympathy with those who had experienced a disaster such as a major fire, earthquake or mass shooting. In such situations the subject was emotive and it was difficult to judge whether or not a local civic memorial lighting response was appropriate.

The report set out a suggested guideline for the use of lights as a memorial to events or causes and incorporates a list of fixed annual commemorations that the Council believed should be acknowledged through the use of the lighting. The annual list would be published and reviewed annually in November each year.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The memorial lights guidance as a basis for determining which events should be marked by use of Council controlled lighting in the Borough be

approved.

2. The list of recommended national and international days be approved which will form the 2019 list of memorial lighting and which will then be reviewed annually.

CAB 116/18 Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan

Consideration was given report that updated Members of the process undertaken in the preparation of the Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan (STLP) and the conclusions and recommendations of the report received from the Planning Inspector appointed to undertake the examination of the STLP which identified that the STLP (subject to recommended Main Modifications) was sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption.

In addition, the report informed Members of the statutory procedures for the adoption of the STLP, following which there was a six-week period when it could be challenged in the High Court under section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

To adopt the STLP the Council must as soon as reasonably practicable complete the following statutory procedures:

- The Inspector's Report, the STLP and supporting documentation, the Adoption Statement and Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement will be made available during normal office hours in the places where pre-submission documents were made available (that is, our principal office, which is Stockton Central Library and Customer Service Centre Council and local libraries);
- Publish the documents referred to above on the Council's website;
- Inform stakeholders who have asked to be kept informed of the adoption of the STLP and let them know where the documents can be inspected; and
- Send a copy of the Adoption Statement to the Secretary of State.

The legal date of adoption of the STLP was the date it is adopted by Full Council. Under section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, there was a period of six weeks from this date within which any person aggrieved by the document may make an application to the High Court on the ground that:

- The document is not within the appropriate power;
- A procedural requirement has not been complied with.

Grounds for being aggrieved do not include disagreement with policies contained within the STLP.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. The conclusions of the Report on the Examination of the STLP received from the Planning Inspectorate (see paragraph 8 of the report) be noted which recommended that, subject to modifications, the Local Plan can be adopted.

- 2. The STLP as attached at Appendix 1 of the report (including all modifications) and Policies Map (Appendix 2) be adopted.**
- 3. The Core Strategy (2010) policies and saved Local Plan (1997) and Alteration Number 1 (2006) policies be superseded upon the adoption of the STLP.**
- 4. The comments made at Planning Committee 16th January 2019 be noted.**