

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th December 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Business Support and Engagement

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to the final report that presented the outcome of the Place Select Committee review of Business Support & Engagement.

RESOLVED that:-

1). The Council raises awareness of the existing information system enabling current and prospective business owners to search for available property and land, and ensures that those using this facility know where to go for further advice, guidance and support;

2) The Council strengthens communication of its business support offer via dedicated social media platforms;

3) A review of local business networks (including Stockton Business Forum), and how these can best operate in the current and post-pandemic environment, be undertaken;

4) Consideration be given around developing support for businesses which are run from home (e.g. encouragement of 'co-working spaces' where people who work on their own could come together to chat / brainstorm);

5) There is an increased awareness and understanding of the business needs of groups with protected characteristics, particularly with regards the impact of COVID-19 on sectors that employ significant numbers of people from these groups (e.g. taxi drivers, hospitality);

6) The Council evaluates its existing retail support programme:

a) to ensure it fits with the current and likely future needs of local businesses;

b) to consider widening the programme to businesses based outside of

Town Centres;

c) to consider similar support packages for non-retail business (e.g. start-up support in view of the anticipated rise in such ventures);

7) A future update on the SBC Business and Enterprise Team's intended work around employment, education and skills with schools, colleges and universities be provided to the Council's Children and Young People Select Committee;

8) A future update be provided to the Place Select Committee around the Inclusive Growth agenda, and how this has impacted upon the people of the Borough.

3. Reasons for the Decision

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019-2020, though as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the evidence-gathering was paused during the review which had an impact on the originally intended timescales for reporting to Cabinet. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Place Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight - Tuesday 29th December 2020

Proper Officer
22 December 2020