

# Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 19th January, 2023.

**Present:** Cllr Robert Cook (Chair), Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Lisa Evans , Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Michael Smith and Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E.

**Officers:** Mike Greene (CE), Garry Cummings (F,D&R&DCE), Ged Morton, Julie Butcher, Peter Bell, Gary Woods (CS), Reuben Kench, Rebecca Gray (CS,E&C), Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Emma Champley (A&H), Martin Gray (ChS).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham (Chair of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee).

**Apologies:** None.

## **CAB 56/22** Evacuation Procedure

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

## **CAB 57/22** Declarations of Interest

For transparency purposes Councillor Bob Cook outlined that with regard to agenda item 5 – Minutes of Various Bodies he was a member of the TVCA Cabinet.

For transparency purposes Councillor Norma Stephenson outlined that with regard to agenda item 5 – Minutes of Various Bodies she was the Vice Chair of Safer Stockton Partnership.

For transparency purposes Councillor Bob Cook outlined that with regard to agenda item 12 – Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary Schools in September 2024 he was a governor at two of the schools.

## **CAB 58/22** Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **CAB 59/22** 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:-

SSP – 28 September 2022  
TVCA Cabinet – 9 December 2022  
TSAB – 18 October 2022

RESOLVED that the above minutes be received.

**CAB  
60/22 Procurement Plan / Higher Value  
Contract**

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval for the award of planned higher value contracts where the value exceeds the limit on officer delegated authority and which were either funded within the approved MTFP / Capital Programme or were subject to a bid for external funding.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contract listed in Annex 1 of the report be approved.
2. The relevant Director or Assistant Director be given authority to make the specific contract award decision and any subsequent contract variation, annual inflationary uplifts (where allowed in the contract terms and conditions) and extension decision in accordance with the delegations listed in Annex 1 of the report.

**CAB  
61/22 Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2028**

Consideration was given to a report on the Domestic Abuse Strategy which was developed by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group. The Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2022-28 was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 30 November 2022.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees (2017-22) ended in 2022. The Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) had overseen the development of a new strategy for 2022-28 on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The development of the strategy was informed by:-

- Review of the previous strategy
- In depth needs assessment with a particular focus on children and young people and housing.
- Review of national guidance and statutory requirements
- Local need
- Victim survivor voice,

The action plan was under development. A draft plan would be presented to the Domestic abuse steering group on the 16 February 2023.

An initial soft launch of the strategy took place in December 2022 with the Strategy being published on the SBC website. The launch of the Strategy by Cllr Bob Cook was planned for the 1 February 2-4pm at the Jim Cooke Conference Suite.

RESOLVED that the new Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-28 be noted.

**CAB 2022 Event Summary & 2023**

## **62/22 Memorial Lighting Calendar**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the return of the Council's 2022 Events Programme which had been successfully delivered after a two-year interrupted programme. In addition to Council run events, the report also reflected the return of those events delivered by third parties on Council land, including the extensive programme of community led street parties and events celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. In addition, the report provides the suggested calendar for memorial lighting for 2023.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The success of events programme during 2022 be noted.
2. The memorial lighting calendar for 2023 be approved.

## **CAB 63/22 Stockton Shared Lives Scheme**

Consideration was given to a report on the Stockton Shared Lives Scheme.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Council) had implemented a Council run Shared Lives service to meet the Council's ambitions, and those of NE ADASS, that the Shared Lives offer should be fully realised as a viable alternative to out of Borough and residential placement that offers a cost effective and quality solution to short and long-term care.

The service was running as an in-house provision supporting 4 placements with another 3 in the process of transfer. There had been significant progress with establishing the service and how it would proceed going forward however there remained some challenges and this report provided information on these issues.

The service had also completed its first Direct Monitoring Activity with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) with positive feedback.

## **CAB 64/22 Scrutiny Review of Care at Home - Final Report of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee**

Consideration was given to a report that presented the outcomes of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's review of Care at Home.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) ensures all registered Care at Home providers across the Borough are visible within the Stockton Information Directory (indicating if they are included in the SBC Framework Agreement), and that this list is accessible via the Council website.
2. A regular feature is included within Stockton News regarding the local Care at Home sector (i.e. good news story, staffing opportunities, etc.).
3. SBC / Care at Home providers consider existing, and potentially new, mechanisms to engage with local colleges / schools to promote opportunities to

work in the care sector.

4. SBC reinforce with local providers the need to ensure service-users and their families / informal carers are fully (and repeatedly) aware of how to raise an issue / complaint regarding the care they are receiving (including directly to the provider themselves or to SBC) and that this is responded to in a timely manner.
5. Providers ensure their back-office functions are adequately staffed and that appropriate mechanisms are in place to keep service-users updated on any changes to planned visits (whether these be in relation to timings or actual staff attending).
6. As far as possible, providers set a multiple-week rolling staff rota and that this is shared on a weekly basis with service-users (and, where relevant, families / informal carers).
7. SBC, in conjunction with local providers, continues in its efforts to raise the profile of the care sector within the Borough. To boost the status of care workers and give reassurance to those individuals / families seeking support, this should include lobbying for Care at Home staff to be regulated through a national register (e.g. inclusion within the Health and Care Professions Council) and investigating the feasibility of a local register.
8. Linking-in with the push for the integration of care, SBC act as a conduit to foster closer links between local Care at Home providers and NHS Trusts.
9. SBC continue to provide a platform for local providers to come together and share ideas / learning / concerns, and that those not engaging are encouraged wherever possible to join the ongoing conversation.
10. The use of 15-minute welfare calls is minimised and used only when appropriate as part of a wider package of care.
11. SBC continue to explore and deploy other options to support welfare, including tele- assist and technology.
12. Consideration be given to standardised questions for providers to issue to their clients in order to evaluate quality and performance, and for responses to be submitted to SBC as contract managers.
13. SBC varies the Call Scheduling and Monitoring element of the specification for a Care at Home and Domestic Support Service to ensure local providers offer (and issue where requested) non-electronic logbooks to document visits to an individual's home, and that this option is reflected within their service-user information packs.
14. A joint letter from the SBC Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee is sent to the relevant care minister and local MPs regarding the key findings of this review, reiterating the need for appropriate future support of the sector.
15. Regarding the national 'fair cost of care' exercise:

- a) Outcomes of this be presented back to the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee once published, along with the Council's response to the key findings.
- b) SBC reviews the balance of costs it pays both care home and Care at Home providers to ensure this remains a fair allocation in light of ever-changing demand.

**CAB 65/22 Educational Attainment for Vulnerable Pupils 2022**

Consideration was given to a report that presented a summary analysis of vulnerable pupil performance in the academic year 2021 – 2022 for all key stages and all providers in the Borough. It was informed by the latest available data, some of which was unvalidated and compared to national averages where they exist. It included performance outcomes for:

1. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding;
2. Performance by gender;
3. Black and minority ethnic children;
4. Children and young people in our care ;
5. Children with special needs;
6. Attendance and exclusion.

Key messages included:-

- Educational performance and achievement in Stockton-on-Tees remained the best in the region across almost all aspects and across phases.
- Performance and achievement in Stockton-on Tees was above available national averages across almost all aspects and across phases.
- However, attainment levels, as in the rest of the country, were down on 2019 for early years and primary children which suggested a significant impact of the pandemic, though the decline in performance was less in Stockton-on-Tees than for national, regional and statistical neighbours.
- Gaps between vulnerable students and overall attainment had widened the pandemic has had the biggest impact on more vulnerable pupils in early years and primary. This again mirrors national data and trends.
- We have a significant support and challenge offer to schools to address performance and to target interventions to close gaps.
- We will also address these issues as part of the implementation plan for the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees framework which prioritises the best start for children and young people.

**CAB 66/22 Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary & Secondary Schools in September 2024**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the admission arrangements the Local Authority (LA) was proposing, for entry into both primary (Reception) and secondary (Year 7) schools in September 2024. To comply with legislation for admission in September 2024, the report included the co-ordinated timetable, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for all Primary and Secondary Schools for that year and the LA's proposed Admission Policy

(Oversubscription Policy) for Community maintained and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for entry in September 2024.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary, Secondary, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, Academies and Free School (points 5-6 and Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.
2. The proposed PANs for Primary and Secondary schools for September 2024 (points 7-10 and Appendix 2 of the report) be approved.
3. The proposed Admission Policy for September 2024 (point 11-14 and Appendix 3 of the report) be approved.

**CAB 67/22      Playing Pitch Strategy & Outdoor Sport Strategy 2022 - 2025**

Consideration was given to a report on Playing Pitch Strategy & Outdoor Sport Strategy 2022 – 2025.

As part of the Stockton Council's (SBC) commitment to improving leisure facilities and encourage participation in sport and active leisure, the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) was designed and developed to identify investment and improvement opportunities across eight sports and different facility types. The development of the strategy had followed relevant Sport England guidance.

The PPOSS provided a strategic framework which described how playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Stockton-on-Tees can meet the needs of existing and future residents of the Borough. It would be used to prioritise and target resources, to stimulate investment into sport and physical activity, and provide an evidence base to support decision making.

The format of the strategy followed guidance set out by Sport England, ensuring that it was acceptable as a basis for planning recommendations where they affect playing pitches and where Sport England would be a statutory consultee.

The PPOSS was specifically written to fulfil the following objectives:-

- provide an updated understanding of supply and demand for playing pitches across each site in Stockton-on-Tees
- set out the current and future picture of playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision across the Borough as a whole, and also within specific neighbourhoods
- identify the key issues that impact on the delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities

This new strategy will update the existing document (2015) and build on the interim review work carried out in 2019, which maintained our framework and helped secure investment in sports facilities.

A copy of the PPOSS was attached to the report The aim of the PPOSS was

the continued existence of an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities which provided opportunities for all residents.

The 2015 Strategy (updated in 2019) assisted the Council in securing investment in a number of facility improvements. These included;

- The provision of a new 3G AGP at Stockton Town FC and the conversion of the sand based AGP at Northfield Academy to 3G
- A new World Rugby compliant 3G AGP to support rugby in the area – located at Billingham RUFC
- The relocation of Stockton RUFC to a new home ground
- The refurbishment of sand based AGPs to support hockey clubs at Eggescliffe School and Norton Sports Complex
- Improvements to the quality of several football and rugby pitches through investment into enhanced maintenance via the Pitch Improvement Fund
- Significant investment into the improvement of cricket grounds and training facilities.

Officers would work through the Action Plan and bring forward proposals for improvements or new facilities as resources become available, including those resources that arise from new property development.

**RESOLVED** that the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (POSS) and Action Plan be approved.