

Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday, 23rd February, 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, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (CS), Reuben Kench, Tara Connor (CS,E&C), Ann Workman, Marc Stephenson (A&H), Dave Willingham (ChS).

Also in attendance: Cllr Chris Barlow (Chair of Place Select Committee), Cllr Pauline Beall (Chair of Crime and Disorder Select Committee), Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair of People Select Committee), Cllr Carol Clark. Members of BMBF.

Apologies: Cllr Mike Smith.

CAB 71/22

Welcome and Evacuation Procedure

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

CAB 72/22

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a non-registerable interest in respect of agenda item 5 – Bright Minds Big Futures - 12 month update as he was a board member of Tees Valley Music Alliance.

Councillor Norma Stephenson declared a non-registerable interest in respect of agenda item 7 – Public Space Protection Order as a family member worked within the area that would be covered by the Order.

Councillor Nigel Cooke declared a non-registerable interest in respect of agenda item 7 – Public Space Protection Order as he was a board member of Tees Valley Music Alliance and the service was located within the area that would be covered by the Order.

CAB 73/22

Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CAB 74/22

Bright Minds Big Futures - 12 month update

Consideration was given to a report that provided a 12-month update on the Bright Minds Bright Future (BMBF) 'Big Objectives' document, following Cabinet's approval of the Big Plan. BMBF was a youth-led movement working together with the Council to make the Borough a great place to grow up.

The report was presented by representatives of the BMBF 'Big Committee'.

The Big Objectives were made up of 9 key areas which included:-

- community safety
- communications and engagement
- young people's services
- health and wellbeing
- business, regeneration, and transport
- environment and green spaces
- arts, leisure, and culture
- special educational needs (SEN) and equality and diversity

Excellent progress had been made against the above in the last 12 months. Some examples are as following:-

- Being included as a best practice project on the LGA website for their work around knife crime (May 22).
- Holding a Young Persons Environment Question Time Event (October 22).
- Securing £12,000 of funding from Virgin Money to deliver Different Altogether Project (January 2022).
- Securing £10,000 from National Lottery, Together for our Planet Funding (February 2022).
- Winners of the County Durham Community Foundation High Sheriff Youth Award (March 22).
- Winners of Young Person of the Year Space Award (July 22).
- Won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services (June 22).
- Recruited 42 young people to be SBC Corresponders at SIRF (August 22).
- Creation of Big Objectives 22/23 (July 22).
- North Tees Hospital Children's Ward Review (October 22).
- Queen's Award Celebration Event (November 22).

As noted above BMBF were the proud award winners of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022. The award was the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK and was equivalent to an MBE. The prestigious award recognised BMBF's outstanding work in the community to support young people growing up across the Borough and their work to make Stockton-on-Tees a great place to grow up. BMBF received the award at a celebration event from the Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mrs Johanna Ropner.

In addition to the above achievements BMBF members had also been contributing to a range of projects and initiatives such as:-

- Environmental work
- Social action projects
- Health & wellbeing initiatives
- SBC correspondents' coverage
- Equality and diversity
- Improving the voice of the child

The 'new' Big Committee were elected in February 2022 with their new Big Objectives agreed and signed off in July 2022. Each elected member of the Big Committee was responsible for developing their own action plan to achieve their Big Objectives which would be referred to as their Bright Ideas. Bright Ideas

would include more detailed information on how they would deliver their objectives, identifying partners, timescales and resources required and this would be used internally to monitor progress and record achievement at Big Committee meetings.

Following the elections, Katie Jenkins left for university and following an election Sally Sheridan was Chair of Big Committee:

Chair and Head of Environment and Green Space - Sally Sheridan

Head of SEN - Alex Matthews

Head of Children Services - Emma Smith

Head of Communications and Engagement - Lilly Crisp

Head of Community Safety - Vicky Nightscales

Head of Business, Regeneration and Transport - Bailey Rogers

Head of Arts, Leisure, and Culture - Elise Watson

Head of Equality and Diversity - Parul Sinha

CAB 75/22 Annual report of the Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG)

Consideration was given to a report on the Annual report of the Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG).

The Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG) brought together a range of professionals to scrutinise and advice upon event management plans/public safety. The ISAG looked at plans for a wide range of outdoor events and festivals in Stockton on Tees, focussing on events of a significant scale or complexity. All events of scale on Stockton Council land were subject to review by ISAG, and where requested ISAG would review event safety plans which were hosted on private land.

The ISAG did not take decisions on whether or not an event should go ahead but provided specialist advice and recommendations to landowners, including the Council to enable them to make informed decisions to allow an event or require changes to an event plan. The ISAG also provided practical advice and guidance to event organisers and aims to drive up the quality of event plans/safety planning.

The ISAG's independent Chair produced an annual report for information, to highlight significant findings and make recommendations for areas of further work.

The full ISAG Annual Report, including an improvement plan and dates for the anticipated ISAG meetings in 2023 was attached to the report.

CAB 76/22 Public Space Protection Order

Consideration was given to a report on a Public Space Protection Order.

The protection of public space within the town centre settings was a key priority for the Council. Whilst Stockton-on-Tees continued to have the lowest recorded crime and anti-social behaviour rate in the Cleveland Police area, significant

challenges remained around town centre environments.

Furthermore, public perceptions relating to the fear of crime and disorder continued to be poor, especially when it came to Stockton Town Centre and specifically in relation to aggressive begging and disorderly behaviour.

The report provided a background for a decision on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to be made.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the report and the considerations for implementing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) within the boundary of Stockton-on-Tees be noted.
2. Officers progress to the legal stage of the implementation of the proposed PSPO.
3. The fixed penalty notice rate be set at £100.00.

CAB 77/22 School Governor LA Appointment

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 in line with agreed procedures subject to a Personal Disclosure and DBS clearance:-

Oxbridge Lane Primary School - Richard Hasthorpe (School Nomination)

CAB 78/22 Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - Final Report of the Children and Young People Select Committee

Consideration was given to a report on the Scrutiny Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - Final Report of the Children and Young People Select Committee.

RESOLVED that:-

1. A strategic partnership approach to Contextualised Safeguarding be agreed and monitored through existing established multi-agency partnerships such as Safer Stockton Partnership, YOT Board, HSSCP and the Children and Young People's Board.
2. A consistent definition of child criminal exploitation and contextual safeguarding be developed and adopted by all Stockton-on-Tees partners.

3. Clear outcome measures be defined to measure success of interventions and approaches.
4. Support be provided for schools, in partnership with Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP), to promote understanding of contextualised safeguarding and relationships through the development and delivery of a programme of awareness raising and training supplemented with advice and guidance and clear routes into support.
5. A training and support programme be delivered to Children's Services staff to enhance understanding of contextualised safeguarding and to help recognise and support young people who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation.
6. A programme of awareness raising be developed for key partners and elected Members.
7. A community guardian programme be introduced within schools and communities across Stockton-on-Tees to provide wider community support.
8. Multi-agency capacity to support MACE approach be strengthened through the strengthening of existing arrangements to meet need.
9. An options appraisal be undertaken on how Children's Services can achieve the best outcomes for young people through improved practice and additional capacity and focus, including through the use of voices of experience. This will include options for structure and effective multi-agency working.

CAB 79/22 Scrutiny Review of Tree Asset Management - Final Report of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee

Consideration was given to a report on the Scrutiny Review of Tree Asset Management - Final Report of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee.

Cabinet thanked members of the Tree Management Service for their hard work.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) refreshes its tree and woodland management policy and procedures, and as part of this:
 - a) Reaffirms its mandatory (minimum) service requirements and where work is prioritised (e.g. high-use public areas).
 - b) Reflects within it the realistic cycle of essential maintenance of the Borough's tree stock (and that this be updated as and when required).
 - c) Emphasises a key message throughout this review regarding the planting of the correct species of tree in the right places (helping to minimise future maintenance requirements and revenue costs).
 - d) Ensures the updated policy and procedures are published on relevant Council platforms, with an appropriate communications plan to ensure the local

population can read its content and understand what future service it can expect.

e) Utilises both print (e.g. Stockton News) and electronic mediums to raise awareness of the current issues around tree management within the Borough, including responsibilities in relation to trees on private land.

2. Tree Preservation Order (TPO) planning procedures be reiterated to all SBC Ward Councillors and relayed to residents periodically via the Council's multiple communication mechanisms (emphasising the enforcement action that can be taken if processes are not followed).

3. Regular engagement continues between the SBC Tree and Woodland Management Service and other relevant Council departments (in particular the SBC Environment, Leisure and Green Infrastructure Team) regarding environmental projects and tree planting maintenance.

4. A detailed business case be produced for consideration by SBC management regarding a potential reinforcement team within Grounds Maintenance to undertake smaller scale routine maintenance, thereby allowing the existing Tree and Woodland Management Service specialist staff to focus on more technical operations.

5. Corporate funding be sourced for an ash tree survey to be undertaken as soon as possible to establish the potential extent of the looming arrival of ash dieback within the Borough, along with a plan on how this will be managed (including anticipated resource requirements).

6. Consideration be given to strengthening administrative support to the SBC Tree and Woodland Management Service to enhance communications between the team and Ward Councillors / residents regarding tree management enquiries / complaints (particularly around the responses to issues raised and plans / timescales to address them).

CAB 80/22 Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future - Report of the People Select Committee

Consideration was given to a report on the Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future - Report of the People Select Committee.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Correspondence be sent to the relevant government minister to urge that legislation is passed regarding delivering increased energy efficiency/ energy production standards on new housing through more stringent building regulations.

2. A communications package be implemented to raise awareness amongst residents of new home efficiency initiatives and grants.

3. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's (SBC) Employment and Training Hub,

and the Business and IP Centre, continue to work with external businesses and agencies to deliver 'green jobs' workshops, training and host recruitment events aimed at all levels including entry level jobs.

4. There be continued delivery of the four high-level objectives outlined within SBC's Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy. This includes an overall aim for the authority to be Net Zero* by 2032 and the wider borough by 2050.

*Net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

CAB 81/22 Scrutiny Review of Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space - Final Report of the Place Select Committee

Consideration was given to a report on Scrutiny Review of Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space - Final Report of the Place Select Committee.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Options for introducing a charge for pre-application advice for major developments, but not for households/individuals, be investigated.
2. The current response time of 15 working days for pre-application enquiries is re-evaluated to determine if it should be extended.
3. Current planning enforcement powers be reviewed and the opportunity of employing an enforcement officer explored.
4. Maps@Stockton be enhanced to provide information on those responsible for the maintenance of individual open spaces across the borough.
5. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) provide guidance to town or parish councils, where approached, and continue to liaise with developers on adoption of open space.
6. Planning conditions for maintenance of open space be reviewed and options for SBC to obtain a copy of the maintenance agreement for each new residential development is investigated.

CAB 82/22 Council Plan 2023-2026

Consideration was given to a report on the Council Plan 2023-2026.

The report presented a draft Council Plan for 2023-26.

The Council Plan set out our vision for the Borough looking forward to 2026, and the key priorities the Council would be working on in the coming year to do our part in bringing the vision to life.

The Council wanted the Borough to be:-

- A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm
- A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive
- A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed

The Council Plan was attached to the report.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Council Plan 2023-2026 be approved.