

# Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/08



Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Contents

	Pages
<b>Foreword</b>	3
<b>Part One</b> Introduction to Scrutiny at Stockton Council	5
<b>Part Two</b> Report of the Select Committees:	
Adult Services & Health	7
Arts, Leisure & Culture	8
Children and Young People	9
Corporate & Social Inclusion	10
Environment	12
Housing and Community Safety	13
Regeneration & Transport	14
<b>Part Three</b> Committee Membership 2007/08	15
<b>Part Four</b> Contacting the Scrutiny Team	17
<b>Part Five</b> How can I get involved?	18

## Foreword

As Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Committee, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2007/2008 Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report.

The Report explains how overview and scrutiny operates at Stockton and outlines the work of the Council's Select Committees during 2007/08.

Following a review of how Stockton's new Scrutiny arrangements were working, a Scrutiny Improvement Plan was introduced during 2007.

Key achievements included:-

- Increase in the number of Scrutiny Committees from 6 to 7 to reflect the need to split the responsibility for 'Environment' and 'Regeneration & Transport' into two separate committees;
- Reduction in the number of members on scrutiny committees from 13 to 9 so as to allow members to devote more time to specific reviews and encourage specialisms to develop;
- Scrutiny reviews prioritised on an Authority wide basis, reflecting the corporate priority;
- Promotion of greater independent challenge through co-option of expert witnesses (e.g River Based Leisure; Waste Management Reviews);
- Establishment of a database to monitor implementation of outstanding scrutiny recommendations;
- Review of approach to consultation considered for each review based upon existing information held; or future consultation planned by Corporate Consultation Team;
- Promotion of Scrutiny through the Council's website and other ways to engage the public,
- Use of small Task & Finish Groups to carry out specific reviews alongside the wider Committee;
- Scrutiny topic suggestions invited from both external consultees, partners/health partners and the general public;
- Consideration of the emerging role of the Council's Scrutiny function in Local Area Agreements;
- Strengthened scrutiny of performance management and budgetary information on a quarterly basis by the Executive Scrutiny Committee.
- Improved communication between Select Committee and Cabinet Members when drawing up recommendations.
- Ongoing consideration of national and regional developments, including closer working arrangements regionally regards the sharing of best practice and work programming;
- Strengthened working with PCT regarding health scrutiny issues and presentation of recommendations to PCT Board.

The past year has also seen the publication of specific legislation designed to strengthen the role of scrutiny and the powers of Overview and Scrutiny Committees nationally; notably the White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities", the implementation of the Police and Justice Act and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act. An extension of scrutiny powers is proposed in two main policy areas. Firstly, the "place shaping role" of a Council whereby an Authority will be able to oversee relevant aspects of the work of named agencies which are covered by a statutory duty to co-operate; and secondly a Councillor's community leadership role whereby he/she will be able to refer a call for action.

The Police and Justice Act requires every Local Authority to have a committee to review or scrutinise decisions made by the Local Authority in connection with the discharge of their crime and disorder

functions and to make reports or recommendations to the local authority. A local Authority or other body must consider and have regard to the report or recommendations and respond to the committee indicating what if any action it proposes to take. This Council's Housing and Community Safety Select Committee has now been appointed to fulfil this role.

We await with interest further guidance and regulations on this legislation to be provided by the Secretary of State in Autumn 2008 and look forward to the continued development of Overview and Scrutiny during 2008/9.

**Councillor Bob Gibson**  
Chair,  
Executive Scrutiny Committee

**Councillor Colin Leckonby**  
Vice Chair, Executive Scrutiny  
Committee



## Part One

# Introduction to Scrutiny at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny has the following broad functions:

- Policy development
- Policy review & Scrutiny
- Holding the Cabinet Executive to account
- Investigating Issues of local concern
- External scrutiny



Scrutiny enables Councillors to review decisions, policies and performance that affect the Borough. Scrutiny is a Councillor-led process which helps to ensure that the Council's services and policies meet the needs of local people according to the Council's own aims and standards. The scrutiny process not only provides a means of reviewing the Council's own achievements against its planned targets but can also examine services provided by other public organisations on issues causing public concern. It provides the opportunity for Councillors to champion the issues of local concern to residents and participate in the development of new policies.

The Council has an Executive Scrutiny Committee which has a co-ordinating role, and seven Select Committees which provide the opportunity for Members to examine the various functions of the Council under different themes. Councillors can question how decisions have been made, consider whether service improvements can be put in place and make recommendations to achieve this.

Committees carry out the bulk of their work through in-depth investigations or 'scrutiny reviews'. This is when a committee will spend a period of time examining a subject by questioning Cabinet Members, council officers, other organisations and service users. Consultation exercises and site visits may also be carried out together with consideration of independent research.

Once all the evidence has been collected, a select committee is then in a position to make appropriate recommendations in relation to the subject being scrutinised. The evidence and subsequent recommendations are collated into the form of a report. When the committee has agreed the final report, the Chair of the committee presents the report to Cabinet (the Council's main decision-making body) for their consideration.



# Current Committee structure

## Executive Scrutiny Committee

Acts as an overall co-ordinating body for scrutiny within the Council, and is responsible for managing the scrutiny work programme. The Committee is also responsible for dealing with 'call-in' of Cabinet decisions; this is when six or more non-executive Members of the Council request that a Cabinet decision be given further consideration before implementation takes place.



Chair  
Councillor  
Bob Gibson



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Colin Keckonby

## Seven thematic Select Committees

### Arts, Leisure & Culture



Chair  
Councillor  
Jean O'Donnell



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Andrew Sherris

### Children & Young People



Chair  
Councillor  
David Harrington



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Mick Eddy

### Adult Services & Health



Chair  
Councillor  
Ann Cains



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
John Gardner

### Corporate & Social Inclusion



Chair  
Councillor  
David Coleman



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Mick Womphrey

### Environment



Chair  
Councillor  
Maureen Rigg



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Mike Smith

### Housing & Community Safety



Chair  
Councillor  
Alison Trainer



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Julia Roberts

### Regeneration & Transport



Chair  
Councillor  
Maurice Perry



Vice-Chair  
Councillor  
Dick Cains

These Select Committees are made up of 9 Councillors and each one reflects the political balance of the Council. In addition, some committees have co-opted representatives who represent external interests and use their experience to bring a wider perspective to committee debate. Parent governor and diocesan representatives have voting rights when the committee is considering education matters.

Full details of Committee membership can be found at <http://www.stockton.gov.uk/yourcouncil/egenda/>

## Part Two

## Adult Services and Health Select Committee

2007-8 proved to be an interesting year for its members as it undertook reviews of wide interest as well as local concern.

The Committee began the year examining the effects of alcohol consumption as chronic liver disease and cirrhosis are the diseases that contribute to the greatest level of average years of life lost for both men and women in Stockton Borough. North Tees Primary Care Trust has highlighted alcohol related harm as a main concern since 2005 following the launch of the National Alcohol Strategy which focused on binge and chronic drinking.



With information regarding the extent of problems caused by the amount of alcohol consumed locally as well as identifying gaps in service provision the Committee was able to meet and discuss with health professionals at all levels of the NHS as well as those in the voluntary and community sector, and council officers in order to develop recommendations to assist the development of the partnership approach being taken in tackling this issue.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to not only present the findings to Stockton Council's Cabinet but also to the PCT Board who were also being asked to accept the recommendations that could be implemented by the PCT.

The Committee was then asked by the Cabinet to undertake a short review to assist the determination of the future service provision of Parkview Residential Care Home in Thornaby, given National Guidance and the Council's local policy.

The Committee gathered the majority of its evidence in a full day session so that opponents to the possible closure of Parkview Care Home could hear the evidence of officers before presenting their own case. In an attempt to involve as many people as possible the venue was specifically chosen as the closest to those most likely to be affected by this review.

The Committee also visited a number of residential care homes in the Borough, including Parkview, before reporting its findings to the Cabinet. The decision by Cabinet on 13 March 2008 was for a closure programme to be prepared for Parkview and that officers were asked to explore the possibility of replacing Parkview Home with an Extra Care facility (housing designed with the needs of frailer older people in mind and with varying levels of care and support available) on the same site.

As well as feeding back its views as part of the Healthcare Commission's Annual Healthcheck of health providers in the Borough, the Committee monitored its earlier review of NHS dentistry. Whilst a number of issues have been or continue to be resolved the major issue regarding fluoridation was yet to be consulted on by the North East Strategic Health Authority.

**Councillor Ann Cains**  
Chair, Adult Services &  
Health Select Committee

**Councillor John Gardner**  
Vice Chair, Adult Services &  
Health Select Committee

## Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

This year the Committee has concentrated its efforts on examining the leisure facilities based on and around the River Tees. Since the construction of the Tees Barrage, a range of water-based leisure and sporting activities have been established along the banks of what is now a clean, international standard stretch of river.

The Committee was interested to find out what could be done to improve the situation even further. The Committee dedicated the year's work programme to this subject and heard from a wide range of people and organisations involved in the provision of river-based leisure.

It is clear that excellent partnership work is already taking place between those groups and organisations interested in the Tees and that the river is established as a popular leisure destination. However, the Committee believe that the Tees Navigation is not yet used to its full potential and so have made recommendations in order to help move towards this.

These include measures designed to make sure that activities on the river are more 'joined-up', and its attractions and events are developed and promoted more widely. Access to the river needs to be improved and the Committee gave its support to the 'River Tees Park' project which will improve things in this regard.

It was clear that many people who contributed to the review thought that the Tees may be suitable for a form of 'water bus' as can be found in other areas of the country, and the Committee would like to make sure that the opportunities for the Borough in relation to the lead up period to the 2012 Olympics are maximised.

We are pleased that Cabinet agreed with the Committee's recommendations and that an action plan will now be drawn up. The Committee is committed to the system of checking on progress of previous reviews. During 2007-08, the Committee monitored the results of the reviews of Preston Hall and Park, and the Borough's Festivals.

Members of the Committee had recommended that a masterplan for Preston Hall and Park was developed, including improving the display of collections and the layout of the Park. This is now continuing to move forward and has been out to public consultation during the year. The masterplan has been used as the basis for two bids for funding to develop the Park and Hall.

The Festivals review has prompted closer working between Stockton Council and the Billingham Folklore Festival management team. In addition, following the Committee's recommendations, work has been undertaken to improve resident ethnic minority participation in the Stockton International Riverside Festival, and improved information regarding public transport and facilities for those with disabilities.

We have had an extremely positive year and look forward to a productive 2008-09.

**Councillor Jean O'Donnell**  
**Chair,**  
**Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee**

**Councillor Andrew Sherris**  
**Vice-Chair**





## Children and Young People



The Council's Children, Education, Social Care (CESC) Department, having been involved in a number of scrutiny reviews, asked the Committee to assist the development and adoption of a corporate parenting strategy. It was decided to carry out a review of corporate parenting in two stages, the first dealt with issues about the strategy whilst the second reported on the effectiveness of the partnership working.

This was an important review because Looked After Children have historically been significantly disadvantaged by their experiences within the care system and are the most vulnerable group within the Borough. Statistics showed that Stockton's Looked After Children are more likely to come into care at a younger age, the main reason for that being neglect. In addition, there are particularly high incidences of domestic violence and drug related issues that contribute to children being brought into care.

The Committee report was able to highlight to all levels of the Council and Primary Care Trust that as Corporate Parents everyone in the organisations when planning their actions and decisions should consider "If this were my child I would ...."

The Committee followed the review by investigating the decline in pupil numbers and the effect this would have on school places especially as more than 1000 primary school places in Stockton Borough had been removed in the last two years. In addition consultation was to begin about Building Schools for the Future (BSF), a long-term capital programme to transform educational opportunities by refurbishing or replacing secondary school buildings.

The overall aim of the Committee was to help with the determination of school need and location based on the changing demographic nature of Stockton Borough as well as testing the accuracy of information used for formulating consultation for the BSF programme. The Committee found that there should be better sharing of information between Council departments to ensure increasingly accurate data is used when planning for future school places.

Teenage pregnancy remains an issue in the borough and continues to be monitored by the CYP Select Committee but as ever it proves a difficult subject to resolve. The Committee's review of bullying recommended that Stockton's schools work with the Anti-Bullying Officer to achieve accreditation status annually which was launched during the anti-bullying week in November 2007.

**Councillor David Harrington**  
Chair,  
Children & Young People  
Select Committee

**Councillor Mick Eddy**  
Vice Chair  
Children & Young People  
Select Committee

## Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee

The Committee's Work Programme was split into two parts during the past year.

In the first part of the year, the Committee carried out a review to find out whether the Council subsidy provided for the running of the Billingham Forum Theatre represented value for money. This was a timely exercise as the future of the Forum Building itself was also under separate consideration.



The Committee was provided with comparison of both subsidy and occupancy levels for other local authorities; and was able to compare the variety of theatre programmes on offer. The estimated economic benefits generated by additional visitor spend in the Borough through patronage of the theatre was noted; as was the findings of the Parliamentary Select Committee that argued that 'the importance of maintaining diversity of theatre for people from any and every background required public subsidy'.

Overall the Committee concluded that the current subsidy level represented value for money and that the current contractor had achieved a balanced programme of entertainment. However, the Committee felt that there was room to develop and improve the programme offer but acknowledged that the uncertainty regarding the future of the Forum Building and the short term extensions of the contract had created difficulties for the present contractor in booking shows and also made it difficult for the Council to work with the contractor to influence longer term improvements and a strategy for the management of the theatre.

Following agreement in principle by both Stockton and Darlington Borough Councils to work together jointly across a range of resource service provision, the Committee also participated in a joint review group with members from Darlington to consider the Outline Business Case and the Gate 1 Review for the proposed Darlington and Stockton Partnership. The Gate 1 Review had been undertaken to establish that the business case for the project was robust, that it met the business need, was affordable and achievable with all appropriate options explored and likely to achieve value for money.

Members also discussed the number of staff who would be affected by the proposals and how both Councils would manage the staffing issues which would arise.

During the second part of the year, a Task & Finish Working Group was established by the Committee to carry out a review of the Community and Voluntary Sector; and in particular its governance arrangements, its relationship with the Council, funding arrangements, advice, training and support offered, member representation and how existing relationships can be enhanced to the wider community and voluntary sector. The Working Group is scheduled to present its findings in June 2008.

This year also saw the Committee strengthen its monitoring arrangements through the receipt, and challenging, of progress made against previous scrutiny review recommendations; such as those contained with its review of Sickness Absence, Consultation, and Meeting Venues. With regard to the latter review, practical measures to make meeting venues more accessible, such as including better information for travelling to venues and providing maps with meeting agendas, have now been introduced. The maps also provide information on the available public transport, and the Committee are

keen to remove any other potential barriers to making meeting venues more accessible and are continuing their efforts in this regard.

We look forward to continuing our good work in 2008/2009; and have identified a review of the Council's Older People Strategy as part of our work programme for the year. By doing so, we hope to be able to review ways in which all services of the Council contribute towards the strategy with a view to ensuring that planning for the changing needs of an ageing population are embedded within mainstream services.

**Councillor David Coleman**

**Chair,**

**Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee**

**Councillor Mrs Lynne Apedaile**

**Vice-Chair,**

**Corporate & Social Inclusion Select Committee**

## Environment Select Committee

Over the last year, the Committee has undertaken two reviews both of which have built on previous reviews. The 'management of memorials' formed the second phase of a review of the Council's Cemeteries and Memorials – the first looking into the 'future development of cemeteries'. The matter was identified for review as it was felt that there was a need to ensure that the Council was providing a safe environment for everyone visiting the Council's cemeteries and to ensure that the Council's policies in relation to this were up to date and enforceable.



The Committee was acutely aware of the sensitivity of the issues involved in this scrutiny review, but also recognised that the Council has faced problems in respect to the management of memorials. For example, the small fences that some people install around graves can create a tripping hazard and make access to some graves difficult. The Committee therefore recommended that these should be removed in future. The Committee also felt that kerbs from older, 'traditional-style' graves, many of which are prone to subsiding at erratic and unsafe angles, should also be removed. Additional items which are sometimes left on graves were also considered as part of the review and the Committee recommended that the Council's Cemetery Regulations be revised to allow for a small, personalised area on each grave.

The Committee has also monitored progress on the first review of cemeteries, and was pleased to hear from officers that progress with actions resulting from recommendations including the extension of existing burial spaces, identification of new burial land, and raising awareness about the full range of burial options were on track and being implemented.

Our second review looked closely at waste management and recycling. The review was undertaken partly in response to new national targets for reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill by increasing the amount of recycling. The Committee's recommendations aimed to chart a course between achieving these stretching targets, balancing the costs to residents, and also maintaining the extremely high satisfaction rates currently enjoyed by the service.

We were particularly glad to have received such a high public response to our consultation, which gave an overwhelming endorsement of the service while expressing a strong desire to see the recycling collection expanded to cover cardboard and plastic. The Committee therefore recommended that the kerbside recycling scheme should be extended to include these materials. Alongside this expansion of recycling, the Committee felt it appropriate for the collection of side waste to be discontinued as soon as possible. Finally, the Committee considered that a waste awareness and education strategy would be beneficial in order to provide more information to residents on recycling, reducing waste and the proper disposal of waste.

**Councillor Maureen Rigg,**  
Chair,  
Environment Select Committee

**Councillor Mike Smith**  
Vice Chair,  
Environment Select Committee

## Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

During 2007-08, the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee have looked at the Council's Neighbourhood Enforcement Service, Choice Based Lettings and the sensitive issue of Traveller site provision.

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Service (NES) was established in 2006 and replaced the Council's Community Wardens scheme. The Service concentrates on dealing with environmental crime (e.g. littering, fly tipping etc) and anti-social behaviour as part of the Council's wider commitment to tackling crime and disorder. The Service was funded until the end of March 2008. The Committee took the opportunity to review the first year's operation of the Service in order to inform any decisions made on its future.

During the review, Members heard from members of the public, Enforcement Officers and partners including the Police. Members also went 'out and about' on patrol with the Service in order to gain a feel for the type of work that is carried out.

The Committee praised the work undertaken by the NES and supported the continued provision of the Service. Members suggested ways in which the Council could explore ways of accessing support from partners such as the DVLA, and contributions for additional local services from Parish and Town Councils. As a direct result SBC has gained significant benefits from DVLA.

We identified some further improvements to the Service including increased publicity and administration support, and also the potential for the Service to include an out of hour's noise control service. We were pleased that Cabinet accepted our recommendations and since the review took place, the Council has agreed a budget package which will enable the Service to continue.

Stockton Council is committed to providing a Traveller transit site within the Borough. The Committee were tasked with identifying a location for a site on land within Council ownership. After consideration of planning policy, site visits and consultation, we were unable identify a suitable site and recommended that the Council would need to consider sites outside of Council ownership.

In 2007 the Committee completed a review of Choice Based Lettings. This is a new method of allocating social housing, allowing applicants to exercise choice through 'bidding' for suitable, advertised properties. The Council has agreed to a CBL scheme in principle and work is ongoing in order to develop a Tees Valley sub-regional scheme. As a result of a review of Anti-Social Behaviour issues in 2006, Tristar Homes have now implemented an out of hours ASB reporting service for their tenants. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the progress of agreed recommendations from previous reviews.

The Committee have also continued to receive annual updates on local police performance from the District Commander. Finally, the Committee acknowledges the support received from the Scrutiny Team, who have provided invaluable support and guidance throughout our reviews. The Committee look forward to continuing its work during the coming year.



**Councillor Allison Trainer**  
Chair, Housing and Community Safety

**Councillor Julia Roberts**  
Vice Chair, Housing and Community Safety

**Tristar**   
HOMES

## Regeneration & Transport Select Committee

Over the last year the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee has completed two reviews: 'employability' and the Council's 'sustainable school travel strategy'.

The review of employability was wide-ranging and Members received evidence from a number of external stakeholders including Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council. We considered many issues as part of the review including how to improve the employment rate for those living in

wards with the worst labour market position and those claiming key government benefits and the support required in entering employment for those considered the 'hardest to help'. A number of recommendations arose from the review, including measures to develop the Council's own employment and training practices, promotion of the Stockton Employability Consortium and its work, an examination of new sources of funding, and developing partnership working around employability.

The second review focused on Stockton's sustainable school travel strategy. The Committee looked particularly at the implementation of 'school travel plans' amongst the borough's schools and the effect they are having in reducing the number of cars used for the 'school run'. The Committee learnt that Stockton is currently below the national average for the number of schools with travel plans and felt that more could be done to promote school travel plans to encourage take-up. We also identified a great deal of commitment to sustainable school travel at a number of schools however, and therefore recommended that a monitoring and accreditation programme be implemented in order to better understand what measures schools have put in place, what effect these are having, and to recognise those schools that are committed to developing sustainable school travel.

The Committee also monitored the progress of previous reviews, including the review of street lighting which were aimed at reducing energy costs. The Committee learnt that as the result of an initial dimming trial experiment, similar experiments are to be developed. In addition to this, other innovative lighting technologies are also being researched as part of the 'invest to save' programme. The first phase of a 'data verification' exercise has also been completed, which has assisted in determining the age of street lighting columns in the borough, and progress has been made on analysing costs and benefits of the different investment schemes highlighted as part of the review. We will be undertaking further monitoring of all our reviews in the coming year.

The Committee has found the reviews undertaken in the last year interesting and has learnt a great deal about the subjects throughout the process. This has occurred because of the positive working relationships with the services involved and we wish to thank all those who assisted with the provision of evidence. For 2008/09, the Committee looks forward to focussing on its review of highway network management.



**Councillor Maurice Perry**  
Chair,  
Regeneration & Transport  
Select Committee

**Councillor Dick Cains**  
Vice Chair,  
Regeneration & Transport  
Select Committee

## Part Three

**Committee Membership 2007/08****Executive Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Gibson (Chair)	Councillor Mrs O'Donnell
Councillor Narroway (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Perry
Councillor Mrs Cains	Councillor Mrs Rigg
Councillor Cains	Councillor Sherris
Councillor Coleman	Councillor Smith
Councillor Eddy	Councillor Mrs Trainer
Councillor Harrington	Councillor Womphrey
Councillor Leckonby	Councillor Woodhead
Councillor Mrs Nesbitt	

Diocesan co-opted representative: Mr Frank  
 Parent Governor co-opted representatives: Mrs Mustafa

**Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee**

Councillor Mrs O'Donnell (Chair)	Councillor Mrs Earl
Councillor Sherris (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Mrs Nelson
Councillor Mrs Aggio	Councillor Mrs Walmsley
Councillor Cains	Councillor Womphrey
Councillor Dixon	

**Children and Young People Select Committee**

Councillor Harrington (Chair)	Councillor Frankland
Councillor Eddy (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Miss Inman
Councillor Broughton	Councillor Lewis
Councillor Mrs Cains	Councillor Sherris
Councillor Coleman	

Diocesan co-opted representative: Mr M Frank  
 Parent Governors co-opted representatives: Mr P. Beach and Mr R Cash  
 Non Voting Co-opted Representatives:

Mr D Campbell, Mr G Davies, Mr R G Lupton and Mr B Percival

**Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee**

Councillor Coleman (Chair)	Councillor Mrs Fletcher
Councillor Mrs Womphrey (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Larkin
Councillor Mrs Cains	Councillor Mrs O'Donnell
Councillor Cockerill	Councillor Rix
Councillor Eddy	

## Environment Select Committee

Councillor Mrs Rigg (Chair)  
Councillor Smith (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Cains  
Councillor Larkin  
Councillor Rix

Councillor Stoker  
Councillor Walmsley  
Councillor Womphrey  
Councillor Woodhead

## Adult Services and Health Select Committee

Councillor Mrs Cains (Chair)  
Councillor Gardner (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Mrs Apedaile  
Councillor Beall  
Councillor Cockerill

Councillor Mrs Craggs  
Councillor Dixon  
Councillor Javed  
Councillor Nesbitt

## Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

Councillor Mrs Trainer (Chair)  
Councillor Mrs Roberts (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Baker  
Councillor Mrs Earl  
Councillor Gibson

Councillor Javed  
Councillor Narroway  
Councillor Mrs Nesbitt  
Councillor Woodhead

## Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

Councillor Perry (Chair)  
Councillor Cains (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Mrs Craggs  
Councillor Faulks  
Councillor Fletcher

Councillor Kirton  
Councillor Mrs Nesbitt  
Councillor Salt  
Councillor Smith



## Part Four

## Contacting the Scrutiny Team

The Scrutiny Team provides independent support and advice to the Executive Scrutiny Committee and the seven Select Committees. This support includes undertaking consultation activities, work programming, research and report writing.

If you would like more information on our work or the scrutiny process in general, please feel free to contact the team.

**Nigel Hart**, Acting Team Leader  
01642 528158  
nigel.hart@stockton.gov.uk

**Graham Birtle**,  
01642 526187  
graham.birtle@stockton.gov.uk

**Peter Mennear**  
01642 528957  
peter.mennear@stockton.gov.uk

**Daniel Ladd**  
01642 528159  
daniel.ladd@stockton.gov.uk



**Judith Trainer**, Team Leader  
01642 528957  
judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk



**Sarah Connolly**  
01642 528957  
sarah.connolly@stockton.gov.uk



Further information on scrutiny at Stockton Council, including completed scrutiny reports, can be found on our web pages. These can be accessed at the following address:

[www.stockton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

If you have a general query regarding scrutiny you may also wish to email us using:

[scrutiny@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@stockton.gov.uk)

Part Five

# How can I get involved?

We welcome public involvement in the work of the scrutiny process. Many reviews include a good deal of public consultation which enables Councillors to consider the views of interested parties when making recommendations. One of the largest consultations was 'Start Talking Rubbish' and this helped residents from across the Borough to have their say during the Environment Select Committee's review of Waste and Recycling Management.

Views were gathered by placing questionnaires in Stockton News and at information stands in public reception areas, issuing press releases, and holding discussion groups. There was an excellent response rate to the questionnaire with over 3000 surveys being returned. The Committee took all these views into account when making recommendations to bring about significant changes to the Council's methods of dealing with waste and recycling.

Select committee meetings are all open to the public and information on the current work of a committee is displayed on our website. If you have any experience of or an interest in any of the topics under review, you can get involved by contacting a member of the scrutiny team.

You may also have an issue that you feel a Select Committee should look at as part of its work. All requests will be considered and a decision will be made on the most appropriate way forward.

Please note that scrutiny is not the correct forum for dealing with individual complaints about Council services. Scrutiny reviews are conducted as in-depth investigations at the end of which recommendations are put forward to the decision making bodies of the Council and other relevant authorities. In some cases it may be more appropriate to forward your concern on to a ward councillor or the service concerned. There is no guarantee that all requests will be investigated by a select committee although you will always receive an explanation of what action has been taken.



If you have any suggestions please complete the attached form and send it to the following address:

**Scrutiny Team**

Democratic Services  
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council  
PO Box 11  
Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
STOCKTON-ON-TEES  
TS18 1LD

Alternatively please email your suggestions to: [scrutiny@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@stockton.gov.uk)



Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

.....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Suggested topic for scrutiny review

.....

.....

.....

.....

If you would like this information in any other language or format  
for example large print or audio please contact 'Nigel Hart'  
on 01642 526193.

欲要這份資訊的其它語言版或其它版式例如大字體印刷/錄音帶，請  
致電 01642 526193 接洽 '多元化隊' (Nigel Hart)

اگر شما این اطلاعات را به زبان یا شکل دیگری مثلا چاپ بزرگ یا بصورت صدا  
میخواهید لطفا با تیم دایورسیتی (گوناگونی) [Nigel Hart] با شماره 01642 526193 به تماس شوید

إذا كنت ترغب الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغات أو بأشكال أخرى على سبيل المثال  
بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بالشریط المسجل فالرجاء الإتصال 'دايفرستي تیم' [Nigel Hart]  
على هاتف رقم 01642 526193

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ces informations dans d'autres langues ou sous un  
autre format, par exemple, en gros caractères / version audio, veuillez  
contacter l'équipe "Nigel Hart" au n° 016 42 52 61 93

اگر آپ ان معلومات کو کسی بھی اور زبان یا انداز، مثلاً بڑے پرنٹ/آڈیو ٹیپ وغیرہ میں حاصل کرنا چاہیں، تو 'ڈایورسٹی ٹیم'  
(Nigel Hart) کو اس نمبر پر فون کیجئے 01642 526193

نه گهر جهزت لئ يه نه م زانباريه به دهستت بکه وئت به زمانه کانی تر يان به شيوه به کی تر بؤ نمونه  
چاهي گه وره/يان به تيبی تو مارکراو نکايه په يوه ندي بکه به 'تیمی دایفیرستی' [Nigel Hart]  
له سه ر ژماره ی ته له فون 01642 526193

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਣਤਰ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ/ਸੀ ਡੀ 'ਤੇ  
ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 'Nigel Hart' ਨੂੰ 01642 526193 ਨੰਬਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

## Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/08

[www.stockton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/scrutiny)