Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Barriers to the take-up of public services by people with learning difficulties.

My main concern is that people who have learning difficulties do not get the opportunity to make full use of the services provided by the council and other public bodies. This means they miss out on activities and experiences that could help them lead more fulfilling, healthier lives and of course are not getting as a good a deal as council tax payers as they should.

I would hope that the scrutiny process could help us engage with people with different degrees of learning disability and their families and support networks and find how we could tailor services to be more attractive and responsive to them and to explore how they get to know about what services/facilities are available and how they feel they could be provided better.

Would encompass surveys of access to a wide range of services from sport and leisure to, personal social care services and how we are equipped on the "front line" to encourage and facilitate access and how we currently publicise and promote our services to this group.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification: I think it is clear that this is a group of people with additional and sometimes complex needs who would benefit from better access to services.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Improved health and well-being, increased take-up of services.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Greater insight into the needs of this group of service-users.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Don't think so.

Signed: **Date:** January 7th 2014
Michael Clark

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Barriers to employment/service take-up among people with learning disabilities.

To examine current opportunities for people with learning disabilities to find employment, support that's there but also barriers to employment – how to make workplaces more sensitive to their needs. Also examine own services and their take-up to make sure they are "friendly" towards people with learning disabilities.

Outcome would be to provide more effective support for people with learning difficulties to find work and also to ensure they are aware of and given equal access to a range of council services. Would examine how we market and promote services, identify and meet any special needs. Who articulates current needs of people with Learning difficulties – themselves, carers, support groups?

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Key group of service users who experience substantial disadvantage.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Better social, economic and health outcomes for people with learning difficulties. Better performance from managed and commissioned services.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Substantial recent changes in delivery of services.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Not aware.

Signed: Michael Clark **Date:** 29 January 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Take up of health checks by people with learning disabilities

People with learning disabilities have poorer physical and mental health than other peopl but this is to a large extent avoidable (PHE).

People aged 18 and over who have been assessed as having moderate, severe or profound learning disabilities, or people with a mild learning disability who have other complex health needs, are entitled to a free annual health check.

People with learning disabilities often have difficulty in recognising/communicating their needs, and using health services. Research shows that regular health checks for people with learning disabilities often uncover treatable health conditions. Most of these are simple to treat and make the person feel better, while sometimes serious illnesses are found at an early stage.

Adults with learning disabilities who are known to their local authority social services, and who are registered with a GP who knows their medical history, should be invited by their GP practice to come for an Annual Health Check. (NHS Choices)

The review could examine:

- Practice should have lists of people with learning disabilities in their area – is this data robust?

- what are the offer / take up rates for local practices?
- what are the issues around the level of take up? (eg support needed for appointments)
- what is the effectiveness of the check ups?
- what help is offered should a health check identify a health need?
- who monitors, commissions, and is accountable for this care?

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Support for this community is a council priority.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Better health outcomes could be achieved for a vulnerable section of the community.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Not known.
Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?): Not known.
Signed: Cllr Beall / Jane Humphreys **Date:** October 2014

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Freedom of Information Requests

The number s of FOI requests received has significantly increased over the last few years. Details of requests received, topics and categories of requesters is something that is monitored quarterly and reported to members 6 monthly.

Cabinet have requested that the impact of the FOI legislation is subject to a scrutiny review to consider ;

- Whether the legislation is being used for its original intension
- To better understand the volumes and complexity of those FOI's received by the council
- How much officer time is spent in responding to FOI's
- Whether the most effective process and use of exemptions is being applied.

The review could consider

- Volumes
- Processes
- Approach / application of the legislation
- FOI Legislation requirements
- Use of Exemptions
- Risk
- Recording and intelligence
- Benchmarking
- Information commissioner role
- Links to environmental information regulations.
- Good practice
- Options for charging
- Links to other regulations / open data requirements

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Consideration of whether officer time spent on responding to FOI requests is appropriate and best use of officer time within the boundaries of the legislation requirements.

Whether any records management learning opportunities can be gained which lead to further efficiencies.

Whether learning opportunities are being sought as a result of the information gathered to respond to the initial requests.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Publication of certain information can lead to economic benefits. There are links with FOI's and the open government/ transparency agenda which can be beneficial to the economy of the area.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Information is monitored quarterly and reported at departmental and council wide levels. A wide range of intelligence on FOI's is available which could be fed into this review.
Performance in terms of response within timescales is varied but consistently achieves at a reasonable level.
Officer time spent is not currently recorded.
Income opportunities are also not currently persued.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Reviews on process/ recording of FOI's has recently been undertaken but not from a perspective of volumes , application of legislation, use of exemptions, use of officer time, links/opportunities around publication of data sets .

Signed: L King on behalf of Resources SGMT / Cllr Corr
Date: 28.01.15

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Impact of Pupil Premium

In order to raise the achievement of all disadvantaged pupils the Government has provided pupil premium funding to schools. The funding is targeted at disadvantaged pupils from reception to year 11 and applies to all children who have been eligible for free schools meals at any point in the last six years.

Schools are required to publish details online each year on how they are using the pupil premium and the impact it is having and are held to account for the achievement of disadvantaged pupils through Ofsted inspections and performance tables.

Schools which make unsatisfactory progress are required to seek expert help by undertaking a pupil premium review. Effective practice is shared through Ofsted documentation. For example, how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement.

In the 2014-2015 financial year, pupil premium funding was be £2.5 billion. The premium was

- £1,300 per pupil of primary-school age
- £935 per pupil of secondary-school age
- £1,900 per pupil for looked-after children who:
- have been looked after for 1 day or more
- are adopted
- l leave care under a Special Guardianship Order or a Residence Order
- £300 per pupil for each Ever 4 Service Child in full time education aged 4 and over in Years R – Y11
- £300 for each pupil aged 4 and over in year groups R – Y11 who is on receipt of pensions under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War Pensions Scheme

In 2011, over £2 million was allocated to schools in Stockton-on-Tees. This rose to over £4 million in 2012, over £6 million in 2013 and £10 million in 2014/15. Schools make decisions on the allocation of this funding and it varies across schools.

In the 2014 Spring census the percentage of pupils in primary schools, including special schools, eligible for Pupil Premium funding ranged from 2.5% to 75.5% and for secondary schools the range is 11.9% to 88.8%.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:
Educational attainment is a key concern to the local community.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Increased attainment by disadvantaged pupils increases their life chances, and improves the social and economic well-being of the area.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Schools engage a variety of approaches bespoke to the needs of their own school community to improve the outcomes of their disadvantaged pupils.

The Minister of State for Schools, David Laws MP, has written to the following schools to congratulate them on the improvement in the key stage 2 results of their disadvantaged pupils since 2011:

- St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School Norton

The following schools were congratulated on the improvement in the key stage 2 results of their disadvantaged pupils since 2011 and narrowly missed qualifying for the Pupil Premium Awards this year:

- Harewood Primary School
- Prior's Mill Church of England Controlled Primary School, Billingham
- St John the Baptist Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
- Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary RC Primary School

All schools identify the following approaches as effective strategies:

- Tight monitoring and evaluation of pupil progress
- Rapid engagement of intervention targeted to precise need
- High aspirations for progress, attainment, behaviour, attendance and punctuality: "Disadvantage is never accepted as a reason for under-performance"
- High quality teaching and learning

The trajectory of pupil achievement in Stockton has improved since 2012. In 2013, results at nearly all key measures improved from 2012 and positioned Stockton with its best ever results. The gaps between the performance of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium and their peers were still too wide for pupil attainment but were narrowing, particularly at KS4 where they were at their widest.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

The Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee completed a review of Child Poverty in 2013-14. The Pupil premium was highlighted as one of the ways schools could contribute to that agenda. The review made a recommendation that:

'That the good practice underway in schools to minimise the impact of poverty on children is systematically disseminated to all schools and that all schools and academies are encouraged to implement this good practice.'

Effective practice is shared through Ofsted documentation, and School Advisor Service interventions. For example, how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement.

An example of work includes the Stockton's Pupil Premium Audit. This has been revised to include most recent information including Ofsted and system leadership documentation and re-launched to all primary and secondary schools. This resource empowers school senior leaders to rigorously self evaluate provision for disadvantaged pupils and identify precise next steps to enhance their school improvement plan and improve their outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

Signed: Cllr Jean O'Donnell **Date:** January 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Disabled Access to Shops

Raised by Cllr A Mc Coy at cabinet in autumn 2014 following a report which highlighted some of the input and achievements of the Disability Advisory group in support of access issues particularly during the refurbishment of our main town centres. Access to shops was not one that had been previously considered by the DAG but Cllr Mc Coy raised as an issue for residents and users of our Town Centres.

Outcome
To consider and understand what options and influences the council has with respect to disability access to shops and how this could be used to inform and influence policy and decision making in the future.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Those with disabilities are a community of interest to the Council. As our population demographic changes to more significant numbers of elderly and with disabling illnesses of differing levels , access to our town centres and high streets will be of a higher priority.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Improved access to our shops and premises does have an impact on peoples wellbeing and potentially the economy of our borough. It also impacts on our reputation as a council.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Specific monitoring information is not readily available as a number of the shops on our high streets are not council owned assets. Feedback is mainly anecdotal and through ward surgeries and general members contact. There are no direct statistics available from any resident's surveys undertaken.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Not known.

Signed:
L King on behalf of Resources SGMT **Date:** 28.01.15

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Parking problems around schools, particularly Primaries

Key concerns:

a) Residents cannot access their own homes/driveways and being verbally abused by drivers.
b) Safety of children who are trying to cross roads between parked cars.
c) Safety of drivers (and young passengers) trying to manoeuvre where there are cars parked across junctions, on bends etc.
d) How can Enforcement Officers / local police help deal with the problem?
e) What good practise is already happening and how can this be shared?

Possible Outcomes:

a) More "park and stride" and "walking buses" established
b) More "safe cycling" routes
c) More enforcement against repeat offenders

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Residents living near to schools suffer traffic congestion and noise on a daily basis during term time

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Encouraging children to walk / cycle at least part of the way to school will provide daily exercise and contribute to reducing obesity.
Residents living near to schools will not suffer from traffic and noise pollution

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

How well we enforce yellow lines, Traffic Regulation Orders etc. Is there more we can do? Are more resources needed?

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None known

Signed: Cllr Julia Cherrett **Date:** 12th February 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Debt write-offs.

There are a number of areas of our business where processes are in place to allow in year debt write offs.

It is suggested that as good practice, criteria/ process and permissions are reviewed in the areas of sundry type/ one off debts, to ensure procedures remain fit for purpose and write off values are monitored and process/debt recovery issues are understood.

It is suggested that the scope of this review focuses on sundry type/one-off debts i.e. the process and how much effort goes into recovering these debts before they are submitted for write-off and explore opportunities of where it might be more appropriate to insist on up-front payment before a service is provided or other precautions that could be put in place to reduce write - off levels.

The review could include understanding the :

- numbers of write offs
- financial value of time spent on recovery
- monetary values,
- different categories of write off,
- benchmarking data,
- good practice
- current practices,
- approval levels etc.

Areas such as Council Tax and Business Rates would be excluded from the scope as benchmarking shows that our write-offs and long term collection rates compare very well with others.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The process and procedures and monetary values of write offs is of interest to the public to ensure that the most appropriate procedures are in place, residents are being treated fairly with respect to outstaying debt, information channels are appropriate in the first place and best value principles are being applied with respect to potential income loss to the council.

Freedom of information requests are received on this topic asking for values of write offs annually.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Could be a positive personal impact on residents as debts owed to the council are not being collected, but equally this is income/ money owed to the council that the council do not have access to, which could be being spent on additional services.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Monetary values of write off sundry / one off debt vary annually but over a period of time could be considered significant. Time spent on debt recovery can also be significant. Monitoring of sundry / one off debt is not something routinely reported and monitored but has been the subject of FOI requests in the past.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

No specific reviews on this topic.

Budget cuts, ensuring value for money, efficiency saving programmes ; all provide a context in which reviewing this areas of work could inform a review of procedures and criteria used in determining debt write offs. Could lead to a reduction in financial loss to the council.

Signed: L king on behalf of resources SGMT.
Date: 28.01.15

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

A review to consider the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The review would consider pathways and resources, emotional and behavioural support, and any gaps in the services and responses provided.

The review would examine resources, access routes, sufficiency, and how services are informed by the JSNA.

Services in universal settings from non-specialists may include GPs and school nurses.

Tier 2 Targeted services are for children and young people with mild to moderate problems, and Tier 3 Specialist services are for moderate to several problems which may include acute presentations. Tier 2 and 3 are commissioned by CCGs with local authority partners, and included targeted services and community multi-disciplinary teams.

Tier 4 services are of a Highly Specialist nature for the most serious issues, and include day and in-patient treatment. These are commissioned by NHS England.

Children and young people may access a range of services across Tiers. Transition from CAMHS to Adult Mental Health services requires individualised healthcare planning.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The prevalence and recognition of mental health conditions in young people is growing, as is the number of children and young people in need of support and treatment.

50% of lifetime mental illness (except dementia) begins by the age of 14.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Good care for children and young people with mental health problems is vital for their development, their family, and the wider community.

Young people not in education, employment or training report particularly low levels of happiness and self-esteem.

Some mental health problems may continue into adult life if not properly treated.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

The review would need to consider the role of partners including schools and providers.

Mental health is a key issue for the Council and partners.
Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?): It is suggested that this review should take place on a Tees-wide Basis.
Signed: Jane Humphreys **Date:** January 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

GP Surgeries / Out of Hour Care / A and E

To look at providing more services in towns to achieve better care and less conveyor belt systems.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

More services and care

Interest in GP performance and A and E care continues to be high. A and E waiting times have not met mandated targets during winter 2014-15 and the NHS across the country and region has been under intense pressure.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Potential for better health care.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

This topic mainly relates to NHS services, although care in the community is an important aspect, for example, the impact of delayed transfers of care and effective care at home.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

A review on this subject was completed by ASH Select Committee during 2013-14 and the report can be found at:
http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att23018.pdf

The review considered evidence from a range of partners including CCG, two hospital trusts, ambulance service, out of hours GP providers, local GPs, adult social care, and NHS England.

Thirteen recommendations were made to improve services.

Following the review the recommendations will be monitored 6-monthly by the Adult Services and Health Committee.

The Tees Valley and Regional Joint Health Committees have committed to monitoring ambulance services on a regular basis. The Tees Valley Committee annually reviews the preparations for winter including vaccination programmes.

Signed: Cllr Gillian Corr **Date:** 12 January 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board

Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board (SLSCB) is the key statutory body responsible for overseeing and monitoring the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding children in the borough.

SLSCB will be subject to external evaluation and graded by Ofsted as part of the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspection. Consequently it is important that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, as the lead agency, takes steps to evaluate the effectiveness of SLSCB against the Ofsted inspection criteria.

SLSCB will be subject to external evaluation and graded by Ofsted as part of the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspection. Consequently it is important that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, as the lead agency, takes steps to evaluate the effectiveness of SLSCB against the Ofsted inspection criteria.

A rigorous and independent review by CYP Select Committee would enable us to assess the progress made by SLSCB to date and determine whether any additional actions are necessary in order to meet these criteria.

This review would also demonstrate that CYP Select Committee is actively committed to improving services aimed at safeguarding children in the borough.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The safeguarding of vulnerable children is a key concern for the general public following a series of high profile cases nationally.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Children who experience abuse and neglect are less likely to achieve their full educational, social and economic potential.

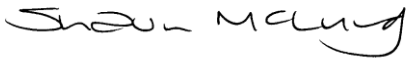
Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

SLSCB has not been subject to a specific Ofsted inspection to date, but our self-assessment would indicate that whilst there are a number of strengths, there are still some areas we need to further improve.

Ofsted Inspections will consider the role of the LSCB and make a judgement.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

This review would build on the recent task and finish review of Child Sexual Exploitation undertaken by CYP Select Committee.

Signed:    **Date:** 12 January 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Street Cleaning

1 The council budget for street cleansing is over one and a half million pounds per year.

2 We would be remiss as Members if we do not scrutinise this budget and find a better way forward.

3 Some Councils use a third party to manage the enforcement of fines for dropping litter and fly tipping and receive a percentage of the fines collected.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Cost to Council tax payers, environmental impact on street and town centres, first impressions of the area by visitors and tourists and as an educational tool to change People's behaviour for future generations.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Clean streets and shopping centres send out a message that areas are cared for invite People to visit or develop a business.

Untidy areas send out a message of neglect and are not areas people want to visit or develop a business

As we are all aware that we have a litter problem with windblown litter in country side hedgerows and seaside resorts.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Signed: **Date:** 29-01-2015.
M Womphrey.

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Choice Based Lettings (CBL): to consider the system of letting social housing properties across the borough.

Currently a number of Registered Housing Providers (RP's) are experiencing varying demand for their housing stock; which comes at a time when the role of the private rented sector is rising significantly. The purpose of this proposed scrutiny review is to:

- review the current system;
- consider the impact on the current system of the broader implications of Welfare Reform legislation;
- highlight any issues and/or concerns;
- identify any lessons that can be learnt from other housing providers (i.e. why is the private sector proving an attractive alternative at this time?);
- explore / consider alternative approaches (such as Value Based Lettings which is being operated in other regions etc.).

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.

Public interest justification:

To ensure that access to social housing is fair and equitable and that we make best use of housing stock in the Borough to address current and changing patterns of housing need and/or demand.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

To ensure housing need is addressed / ensure that void times are kept to a minimum and work to minimise the number of empty social properties across the borough.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

We are aware that RP's are seeing varying demand for their housing stock which is impacting on the number of times a void property is being offered out to potential new tenants and void-to-relet timescales.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

The Compass Choice Based Lettings Steering Group has met regularly since the introduction of CBL and monitors the scheme to ensure it is fit for purpose in meeting the needs of all stakeholders. The dramatic change in demand and supply has prompted a number of the Registered Providers in the Compass partnership to consider the viability of other approaches to allocating property. *It should be noted*: this is not in relation to the Allocations Policy but in respect to alternatives to the choice based lettings delivery.

Signed: Cllr Steven Nelson **Date:** 30.1.15

Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Review of Kerbside Collection of Household Waste Materials: to consider the current systems for the kerbside collection of household waste materials.

Stockton has arrived at its current systems for the kerbside collection of household waste materials following several major service changes over the past decade. The proposed scrutiny review would investigate whether these systems provide a good quality, cost-effective service that meets the expectations of residents.

The proposed scrutiny review would:

- review the current systems;
- highlight any issues and/or concerns;
- identify any lessons that can be learnt from other authorities; and
- consider alternative approaches.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.

Public interest justification:

To ensure that the systems for the kerbside collection of household waste materials provides a good quality, cost-effective service that meets the expectations of residents.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Systems for the kerbside collection of household waste materials that provides a good quality, cost effective service that meets the expectations of residents, would have a positive impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Stockton is well below the national average for the amount of household waste recycled (between 28% and 30% over recent years), but has one of the lowest rates of use of landfill sites (now down to less than 1%), because the great majority of our household waste is used to produce energy at the Haverton Hill EFW plant.

Stockton is served by kerbside collections of household waste on a weekly basis and household recycleable materials on a fortnightly basis These services are generally well regarded by local residents.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None.

Signed:  **Date:** 30.1.15

Paul Dobson, Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Stockton's programme of festivals and cultural events and their economic impact.

Examination of the current profile of major events in Stockton – how programme is structured, who organises (in house or commissioned) target audiences, where visitors come from, opportunities for sponsorship. Interface with other services – highways, CFYA in preparing for events.

Examine the economic benefits of events – feedback from shops, hotels, hospitality trade, assessment of importance to reputation and image/recognition for Stockton and wider Tees area. Number of "return" visits, evidence of influence on investment decisions by private companies/individuals relocating to area.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Stockton has reputation for staging major events, what future direction will we take, where is the competition. Is it changing public perception. What scope is there for supplementing/substituting sponsorship for current budget.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Linked to key economic regeneration objectives, reputation of borough and council and quality of environment, leisure/retail offer.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Successful initiative, what are challenges for future

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Not known

Signed: Michael Clark **Date:** January 29 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Suicide and self-harm, with a particular focus on young and middle-aged men

Suicide rates in North East are 11.9 deaths per 100,000 population (2012) and have improved only marginally in recent years. There has also been an increase in suicide among males aged 40-44. This is clearly a key mental health concern.

The scrutiny exercise would review current support for people at risk of self-harm/suicide, effective interventions and longer-term support for people experiencing problems. It would examine links between self-harm and drink and drug abuse, family and relationship breakdown and poverty and social isolation. It wold also try to explain the issues surrounding young males with no history of mental illness seriously self-harming and indulging in high-risk behaviour which can lead to serious illness or death.

Evidence would come from social care, CCG, appropriate colleagues in acute trusts, organisations commissioned to provide services and support groups such as Mind and Time to Change.

The proposal for this topic comes from members of the Central Area Locality Forum and myself.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The social, emotional and family impact of suicide and self-harm is devastating and we need to have effective mechanisms in place to identify people at risk and provide proper support.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Better outcomes for people with or at risk of mental illness.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Would link in to recent scrutiny recommendations for mental health support services.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Not aware of any

The Tees Valley Joint Committee was briefed on the Tees Suicide Prevention Strategy in January 2015, and circulated a report completed by Middlesbrough's Health Scrutiny Panel, with a recommendation that each area considers undertaking their own work on the issue.

Signed: Michael Clark **Date:** January 29 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

The viability of using DNA testing to trace responsibility for dog fouling, support enforcement action and increase publicity to reduce fouling and improve the environment throughout the Borough.

Key issues will be

1. The availability of an effective DNA database, which may be linked to support for re-introduction of Dog Licensing and/or microchipping.
2. Cost Benefit Anaysis including current costs, potential savings, cost of testing and level of fixed penalty notices
3. Public support
4. Legislation available to support enforcement of requirements

It is proposed that the scrutiny committee have a single meeting review to consider the viability of use of DNA testing to control dog fouling in both the short and long term.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Dog fouling is consistently high on issues of concern to the public of Stockton and indeed on a national basis in urban areas. As all ward councillors will be aware complaint levels are high as is the level of dog ownership, but there is general support from the public, including the majority of dog owners to seek a resolution to this problem, caused by a minority of irresponsible dog owners.
DNA testing potentially provides a technical solution to this problem and although not viable now may be so in the future.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Dog fouling is an issue, throughout Stockton and everyone would benefit from a holistic viable solution

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Performance in keeping Stockton clear of dog fouling is proportional to the manpower in place to clean the streets and through enforcement along with education of the public. DNA testing offers the possibility of increasing the efficiency of enforcement action which will increase awareness by the public and reduce cleaning requirements. This however needs to be offset by the viability, cost and level of enforcement required in any proposal. To be identified in a cost benefit analysis.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Dog Fouling enforcement has been subject to scrutiny review previously. In this case the review would be looking at the potential use of DNA testing to support enforcement, an area not previously considered. The microchipping of dogs will become compulsory in April 2016 and whilst this will assist dealing with stray dogs, the effect on dog fouling enforcement will be minimal. There is support for re-introducing the dog license to link to and support funding of enforcement of the microchipping requirement. Re-introducing the dog licence linked to a requirement for Dog DNA registration, may be the best way of achieving an effective, viable DNA database.
Signed: Cllr Steve Nelson **Date:** 29 January 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Examine the measures in place to prevent and identify FASD and the support for families and carers with children experiencing the condition.

Key concerns are that there is still insufficient awareness of the impact of FASD among the general public and professionals (health and social workers and teachers). Advice to parents on avoiding FASD remains confused and unclear and there is a lack of appreciation of the complex needs of children with FASD and support for them as it is a whole-life condition impacting on their social and emotional well-being, health and educational attainment.

Outcome would be better informed and targeted public health and education services, increased support for parents and guardians of FASD children and greater engagement with families to implement support strategies.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Important public health issue affecting the well-being of substantial numbers of children and services.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Better and more timely intervention, better co-ordinated health/social care/education services, savings to frontline services and NHS

'FASD is the most common, non-genetic cause of learning disability in the UK; it is a lifelong disability that has no cure but is preventable. FASD is a term given for a range of disabilities that can be caused when a baby is exposed to alcohol during pregnancy, including behavioural, emotional, physical and neurological issues.' (DPH Draft Report 2013-14)

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Not known

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):
CSI review of impact of licensing decisions and policy on public health

Signed: Carol Clark **Date:** January 30th 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

<u>Engagement of Young People in shaping/ commenting on policy and future service delivery</u>

Current difficulties in engaging young people in any consultation activity to understand their views and receive their input into planning and future service delivery.

Those who are on our viewpoint panel (and the numbers under 18 years old a few) very quickly get to 16/18 years of age and no longer participate in this form of engagement with us.

Our social media policy restricts access to this age group via social media however use of social media is their main means of communication.

Outcome would be to find some channel or reform of engagement with this age group to help ensure their views are considered and can influence policy and service planning going forward. Review would explore what options are available to us for use across multiple service areas.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

We need to understand this demographic, their current and future needs, know what services they want going forward. They are going to be our adult resident population of the future and both their needs and methods of engagements are important in our future service provision. We need to get them on board and develop a relationship with them.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The impact on future proofing our services to meet the needs of this cohort of residents is important and will impact on service provision and resources general in the future.

Meeting young people's needs by way of activity provision is something that always comes up in the top 5 priorities in residents surveys.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Generally we have difficulty in engaging this age group, despite trying different approaches we have still not found a consistent and satisfactory way of engaging with them.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Possible other review activity includes:

a) Youth Direction is going to be reviewed in the next 12 months.

b) Youth Assembly – on request from the Children and Young People Partnership, the SYA set up a Task and Finish Group to look at how the Partnership could engage with young people. Following this the SYA is trialling using twitter as a method of engaging (February 2015).

Signed: L King
On behalf of Resources SGMT. **Date:** 28.01.15

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Early Help Services

To consider the current interventions and their outcomes

Review to consider the role of partners

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Effective early intervention services are crucial for the development of children and young people for whom needs have been identified.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

The Council has an Early Help Strategy.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

This review would be helpful later in the year

Signed: Jane Humphreys **Date:** February 2015

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Consultation

A review of resident and stakeholder consultation with the potential outcome being an agreed policy and approach that takes into account the risks to the Council (reputationally, financially and politically). Key concerns relate to the way consultation is currently co-ordinated/managed across the Council and in particular linking of the approach and content of consultation documentation with the key communications.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Local residents and key stakeholders have a clear interest in the determination of Council policy and service delivery both in relation to areas where there is a statutory duty to consult as well as where there is no statutory duty but it ensures compliance with the Compact.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Resident engagement is a key objective within the overall framework of the Council Plan and has an important role to play in terms of people's perceptions of the Council.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

There aren't any direct measures of performance linked to consultation. Proxy measures such as some of those included within the regular residents survey generally indicate people feel well informed and levels of trust and satisfaction with the Council are positive, including when compared with others.

As local government budgets continue to reduce alongside increased demand and expectation with associated changes in policy and service delivery a robust approach to consultation will be required.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

The current consultation strategy is due to be reviewed.

Signed:
Cllr. David Harrington **Date:** 04/02/15

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Mental Health and Wellbeing – Promotion and Prevention

One in four of the population will experience mental ill health at some time in their lives.

Mental ill health is responsible for 21% of all illness, but only 25% of people with mental ill health receive some form of treatment. People with mental ill health often have physical health needs which may also not be being addressed.

The aim of the review would be to examine evidence and best practice, and measure local services against this.

Research shows that prevention can be effective. Local Authority Public Health services have responsibility to promote good health and wellbeing, and commission some of the early intervention services. The issue cuts across children and adults.

Key stakeholders will include the CCG, Adult Social Care, and Children's Services.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

During the Member Health and Wellbeing Development Sessions, participants raised emotional and mental health in their communities as their number one concern.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Self-reported wellbeing is above that of the region (according to PHOF data). However, in 2012/13, Stockton-On-Tees had significantly more adults with a diagnosis of depression and / or anxiety than England (7% compared to 5.8% for depression; 1.2% compared to 1% for anxiety; 14.8% compared to 12% for both) (QOF / GP survey data, 2013 REF). Stockton also has a higher rate for suicide and undetermined injury deaths than the national average, but below that of the North East (2012 data). Admissions due to intentional self-harm in >18s are highest in the most deprived wards.

(DPH Draft Report 2013-14)

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Some Public Health responsibilities transferred to Stockton Council in April 2013. The review would provide an opportunity to review current practice and opportunities for improvement.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None identified.

Signed: Councillor Jim Beall **Date:** February 2015