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## Select Committee Work Programme Suggested Review – Pro Forma

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

**Review of ‘Child’s journey -putting children and young people at the heart of assessment, planning and decision making’**

To challenge how effectively we plan and deliver services across the whole of Children’s Services which are based on the views, and lived experiences of children.

To test out how effectively we do this at a number of levels:

1. At the level of individual children and young people – how we involve them in decisions and processes which impact on them – do we seek their views; how effective we are at this; and how effectively we use views as part of assessments planning and decision making;
2. At the level of service design and commissioning – how we seek out the views of children and young people about specific services, and whether we could be doing more to support, engage and develop the roll of young people as not simple receivers of a service, but as co designers and commissioners of services.
3. Strategically – how effectively we engage and involve children and young people in setting strategic direction and priorities for Children’s services and for the Council as a whole.

The Committee would undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

At an individual level:

1. What is our current approach, what are we doing well and what areas do we feel we need to improve on?
2. What tool and techniques do we use?
3. How well do we engage?
4. Can we demonstrate the impact on decision making?

At an operational / service level:

1. What do we do now?
2. What else could we do?

At a strategic level:

1. What mechanisms exist?
2. How well are they engaged?
3. How can we ensure that children and young people at the heart of future strategy and 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 review will challenge our current effectiveness in ensuring that we are consistently placing the child at the centre of our decision making. It will therefore contribute to the strategic objective of enabling children and young people to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.

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|---|---------------------|
| <b>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</b>   |                     |
| As above.   |                     |
| <b>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</b>  |                     |
| <p>The review would explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effectively we are seeking and listening to the views of children and young people;</li> <li>• How we analyse and draw intelligence from data to inform strategic decision making</li> <li>• How we ensure that we always place the views of children and their journey and lived experience at the centre of assessment, planning and decision making</li> </ul> |                     |
| <b>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</b>  |                     |
| No  |                     |
| <b>Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)</b>   |                     |
| <p>The review supports all of the Council's agreed policy principles.</p> <p>The Council Plan 2017-20 includes the key objective for Children's Services of working collaboratively, effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>Children's Services Strategy 2017-2020 includes a specific commitment to listening to the voice fo the child and those who we work with, as part of a focus on feedback.</p>   |                     |
| <b>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</b>   |                     |
| Ensuring that we plan and deliver services across the whole of Children's Services which are based on the views, and lived experiences of children.   |                     |
| <b>Signed:</b>  | <b>Date: Jan 18</b> |
| SMT   |                     |
| <p>Please return to:</p> <p>Judy Trainer<br/> Scrutiny Section<br/> Democratic Services<br/> Municipal Buildings<br/> Church Road<br/> Stockton on Tees<br/> TS18 1LD</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk">judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk</a><br/> Tel: 01642 528158</p>   |                     |

**Select Committee Work Programme  
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

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

**Care Leavers**

The development of an effective care leavers offer to reflect Council's duties under the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The suggestion is to undertake a reporting in review of the work which will be led through the MALAP and proposed Corporate Parenting Board. This will include proposals for ensuring care leavers are in education, training and employment.

The Performance and effectiveness in ensuring that care leavers are able to access education, employment and training opportunities.

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INFORMATION.

**Public interest justification:**

Medium – this is not a very visible public issue, but is very important for young people affected

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

The Council has specific duties and has the ability to transform lives of care leavers through its offer of support to them, which goes over and above statutory duties.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

Meet the requirements of a new duty

Clear link to wider corporate parenting priorities

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

No other reviews are taking place.

The work will be led by the (to be formed) Corporate Parenting Board. The reporting in review will provide the opportunity for challenge and scrutiny.

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

Protecting the vulnerable  
Promoting equality of opportunity

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Challenge to and endorsement of the proposed care leavers offer.

This new offer sets out the Council's statutory and discretionary offer for care leavers. It will be developed through MALAP and the Corporate parenting Board with the involvement of care leavers.

CYP Select receiving this as a reporting in review would enable effective challenge and oversight.

**Signed:**

SMT

**Date:**

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**Looked after Children – Whole Life Care**

Post 18, looked after children tend to be out of our care with only very limited support.

The difference between looked after children and anyone else post 18 can be quite striking. Everyone else still gets some sort of support from parents and extended family (i.e. free child care/ advice on emotional matters). This is totally missing from many looked after children's experience.

The child care element for example can limit dramatically education and employment opportunities.

The review would examine the support looked after children should receive for whole life, in order to improve life chances and social mobility.

Many foster parents, for example, continue to be back up for many children and the review could look at how they are supported to do this; and also many families in Stockton don't have the capacity to become foster parents, but could become excellent life time mentors, with correct support.

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INFORMATION.

**Public interest justification:**

Support for looked after children is a high profile issue.

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

Looked after children are more likely to achieve their full educational, social and economic potential with the correct support.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

There is a potential after a period of time that over the life cycle this could be cost neutral, by reducing pressures on other areas of social services etc.

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

Not known

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention, particularly those people in our communities who are subject to, or at risk of harm, people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and those who are financially excluded or whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

- Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention, specifically in relation to tackling health inequalities, meeting the skills gap and improving access to job opportunities, tackling fuel poverty, improving education and training opportunities, access to affordable housing and financial and digital inclusion.
- Developing strong and healthy communities through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.
- Creating economic prosperity across the Borough

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

The review would make an assessment of whole life care and how this could be achieved.

**Signed:** Cllr Dennis

**Date:**

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW**

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

**Under-representation of the BME Community in the Workforce**

The Council has been working for a number of years to increase the representation of the BME community in the workforce at the Council. It is a stated aim of our People Strategy that we want to "Recruit and retain a diverse and talented workforce". We aim to have a workforce that reflects the diversity of our residents, customers and stakeholders and we recognise that promoting equality benefits public services for all.

We monitor the workforce profile regularly and complete an annual Workforce Equality Information report as part of our work to assess the effectiveness of our actions to increase the diversity of our workforce and also to meet our duty under the Equality Act 2010. The annual Workforce Equality report forms part of the Council's broader duty to promote equality under the Act and provides a summary and analysis of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's workforce against protected characteristics.

The workforce in the annual report is part of a range of management information about Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's workforce which is considered by Senior Management Team as well as other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Trade Unions, Councillors, and Human Resources). In the latest report to covering the period April 2016 – March 2017 – we reported that the number of BME employees as at 31 March 2017 was 74 (2% of the workforce) this remains fairly constant compared to 2016 (72 employees 2% of the workforce). The report also shows that 2% of our new starters declared themselves from a BME origin.

SBC continues to promote vacancies within the BME community through Community Engagement and we continue to support the retention of our BME workforce, particularly through the BME staff forum. However we would like to make more progress with the aim for the diversity of our workforce to be representative of the diversity of the borough.

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**Public interest justification:**

Failure to act against discrimination and promote equality of opportunity will disadvantage those from the BME community. we are also of the view that a workforce that represents the demographic profile of the borough will have a positive impact on service delivery.

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

A workforce that represents the demographic profile of the borough will have a positive impact on service delivery and on the community in the borough.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

As above.

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

None that we are aware of. The HR team and the BME staff forum are working on this area however we feel that the focus and evidence calling powers of a Scrutiny Committee review would assist in this work.

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

Promoting equality of opportunity

Developing strong and healthy communities

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Improved processes for recruiting and retaining BME employees. Increased representation of the BME Community in the workforce.

**Signed:**

Beccy Brown

**Date: 31/1/2018**

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**Hate Crime**

A closer look into the issue of hate crime. Explore what measures and processes SBC and its partners have in place to raise awareness amongst key agencies and the wider communities (including communities from LBG&T (lesbian, bi-sexual, gay and trans communities) People with disabilities, faith & belief and BME (black minority ethnic) communities to identify and tackle hate crime. Also to understand the reporting, recording and actions of hate crime cases.

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**Public interest justification:**

It has been nationally, regionally and locally recognised that the issues of hate crime continues to grow yet the true extent of hate crime within communities is not known due under reporting. There have been a number of reports and consultation documents to support the issues of under reporting of hate crime within communities.

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

Hate crime can have a significant impact on the health & well-being of established residents, new communities, adults and young people. Wider issues impacts on community cohesion, sense of belonging and engagement / integration within different communities.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

This would not directly explore saving and efficiency; however this would build confidence within communities and more efficient way of partnership working arrangements.

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

No

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- **Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention**, particularly those people in our communities who are subject to, or at risk of harm, people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and those who are financially excluded or whose circumstances make them vulnerable.
- **Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention**, specifically in relation to tackling health inequalities, meeting the skills gap and improving access to job opportunities, tackling fuel poverty, improving education and training opportunities, access to affordable housing and financial and digital inclusion.
- **Developing strong and healthy communities** through the provision of mainstream and

preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Increased awareness and understanding for hate crime issues and explore restorative justice programmes.

**SMT**

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| <p><b>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</b></p> <p><b><u>Children in Need</u></b></p> <p>A task and finish look at child in need plans and processes, in response to the Joint Targeted Area Inspection undertaken in November 2017.</p>   |
| <p>NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>   |
| <p><b>Public interest justification:</b></p> <p>Although not a highly visible issue for the public, our work s area is influenced by feedback from families who are involved with us, and also is linked to the priorities in the Children’s Services Strategy which sets out our ambitions to work restoratively with families.</p>   |
| <p><b>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</b></p> <p>Impacts on vulnerable children and families across Stockton. The Council has options available to it on how it can safely reduce its involvement with families, especially in child in need.</p>   |
| <p><b>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</b></p> <p>Management of cases under child in need is a key component in the overall welfare system for children and young people.</p> <p>Inspections have suggested that in some cases our plans are not as robust as they should be, and that there are issues about notifications to other agencies.</p> <p>We are undertaking work in this area, linked to Signs of safety tools in response.</p> <p>We want to bring this work to the Committee for discussion and endorsement.</p> |

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

There is no other work going on in this area

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

This is especially focused on protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Endorsement of our approach to the management of CIN cases, and a greater understanding of the roles of partners, especially in the context of Signs of safety.

Main areas are:

- Understanding thresholds and decision making
- The reasons for a high proportion of CIN cases closing within 3 months (and if cases could have been managed through early help)
- Our approach to step down of cases to early help
- Quality of plans
- The role of partners in managing risk

**Signed:**

SMT

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**HOMELESSNESS IN VULNERABLE GROUPS**

There has been recent concern in relation to suitability and location of temporary accommodation for vulnerable groups, including hostel accommodation for the vulnerable.

This housing related support service had been commissioned to support people with vulnerabilities to access housing related support.

A review would assess the outcomes of these services on individuals.

In general terms, homelessness is caused by a complex interplay between a person's individual circumstances and adverse 'structural' factors outside their direct control, and is commonly associated with:

- the break-up of a marriage or relationship;
- the loss of a job, leading to the repossession of a home or inability to pay rent; or
- an addiction to, or abuse of, prescribed or illegal drugs or alcohol, or even gambling.

People can be classed 'vulnerable' for a variety of reasons including old age, having physical or learning disabilities, mental health problems, fleeing domestic abuse and violence, or spending time in care, prison or the armed forces.

The Homelessness Reduction Act, due to come into effect in April 2018, requires Councils to provide services to all at risk of becoming homeless, on top of those with a priority need such as families with children and those who are vulnerable.

Some additional national funding has been made available to address the new burdens on local authorities for the first two years of the Act's implementation.

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**Public interest justification:**

There has been recent media activity in relation to conditions and impact of one of the services commissioned.

Areas of high deprivation within the Borough - unemployment and low income households, and higher numbers of children in poverty than the national average. Continuing impact of Welfare Reforms on vulnerable residents.

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

Concentrations of vulnerable people living in temporary accommodation can negatively affect their wellbeing and that of the surrounding area.

Significant resources can be invested in addressing issues surrounding vulnerable groups and temporary accommodation, including both the Council and emergency services.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

Nationally, according to Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) statistics (released on 14th December 2017), on 30th September 2017 the number of households in temporary accommodation was 79,190, up 6% from 74,750 at the same date last year, and up 65% on the low of 48,010 on 31st December 2010. Local Authorities took action to prevent and relieve homelessness for 52,190 households between 1st July and 30th September 2017, down 1% on 52,880 in the same quarter of 2016.

Locally, the Council already delivers a preventative approach to supporting customers at risk of homelessness. However it is still anticipated that there would be an increase in demand and those seeking our support, following the introduction of the new Act.

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

Unaware of any other reviews taking place in relation to this issue specifically with a focus on the vulnerable.

The Council's Housing Services are however currently undertaking work to understand and prepare for the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

A report is due to be considered by Cabinet in 12 months after the implementation of the Act to assess the impact (c. April 2019).

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention: people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Developing strong and healthy communities: providing preventive services that are available where needed.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

An assessment of what housing related support services are commissioned by the Council in relation to vulnerable groups

An overview of demand and trends

An assessment of the effectiveness/outcomes of such provision

**Signed:** SMT

**Date:** January 2018

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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| <p><b>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</b></p> <p><b>‘Setting the Bar’ - Consultation</b></p> <p>The Council is considering the introduction of a licensed premises award scheme for Stockton Borough which promotes a thriving, safe, night-time economy supporting improvements in the management of licensed premises and promoting responsible drinking in Stockton.</p> <p>This includes consideration of national schemes with a view to the development of a bespoke scheme for Stockton in consultation with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible Authorities</li> <li>• PubWatch</li> <li>• Premises licence holders</li> </ul> <p>It is proposed to consult the Select Committee during the development of this scheme.</p> |
| <p>NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.<br/>PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>   |
| <p><b>Public interest justification:</b></p> <p>The scheme would seek to have a positive impact on community safety by delivering safe and vibrant licensing economy.</p>  |
| <p><b>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</b></p> <p>The scheme would seek to have a positive impact on the social and economic well-being of the area.</p>   |
| <p><b>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</b></p> <p>There is currently no similar scheme in place.</p>  |
| <p><b>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</b></p> <p>None</p>  |
| <p><b>Which of the Council’s four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Developing strong and healthy communities</b> through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.</p>  |



➤ **Creating economic prosperity** across the Borough

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

A bespoke accreditation scheme for Stockton.

**Signed:** SMT

**Date:** January 2018

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**Select Committee Work Programme  
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

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

**Bring Site Recycling**

These are areas in car parks and on streets, at which local authorities or third parties, provide containers for the public to deposit recyclable materials.

To review current provision across Stockton Borough.

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INFORMATION.

**Public interest justification:**

Stockton Borough Council currently spend over £16,000 per year to J&B Recycling to service the 19 bring sites within the borough.

Materials accepted at these sites are:

- Paper
- Glass
- Cans
- Cardboard
- Plastic bottles
- Textiles
- Tetra-Pak (Cardboard Drinks/Food Cartons)

Information from the collection company has highlighted a number of these bring sites are being under used with the tonnage collected reducing year on year.

Anti-Social behaviour, including arson, and fly-tipping is also becoming increasingly linked to bring sites. Last year around £2,000 was spent on replacement containers due to arson and unknown costs relating to the, on occasions, daily visit to these sites by our street cleansing operatives.

Other local authorities have a significantly lower number of bring sites with one authority only operating one.

Middlesbrough Council operate 1 bring site

Darlington operate 3 bring sites

Hartlepool operate 3 bring sites

Redcar & Cleveland operate 3 bring sites

The current location of the 19 Stockton Borough Council managed bring sites are:

- Asda Stockton
- Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park
- Elm Tree Shops
- Harper Parade
- Newtown Resource Centre
- Oakwood Centre
- Portrack Lane Hotel

- Sainsbury's Yarm
- Somerfield Stores
- Teal Arms
- Tesco Billingham
- Tesco Eaglescliffe
- Tesco Ingleby Barwick
- Tesco Stockton
- The Glebe Shops
- The Smiths Arms
- Thornaby Sports & Social
- Thornaby Town Centre
- Wynyard Woodland Park

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

As the bring sites are becoming increasingly under used and misused, with unwanted items being fly-tipped at a number of the 19 bring sites, it is hopeful that the impact of any reduction in sites be minimal.

Stockton Borough Council also provides a kerbside collection to all households in the borough of materials which can be disposed of at these sites.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

It is hopeful that savings of up to 50% could be achieved by reviewing the 19 bring sites within the borough whilst continuing to deliver an effective area based service for the residents of the borough.

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

No other reviews I am aware of however other local councils have undertaken a similar exercise and have reduced bring site numbers significantly (as can be seen above).

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

A more efficient and effective bring site offering for residents to recycle their waste away from home, whilst also reducing the workload on the street cleansing service, anti-social behaviour team.

**Signed:** SMT

**Date:** Jan 18

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|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</b></p> <p><b>River Tees Economy</b></p> <p>Explore opportunities and work undertaken to develop river based economy and associated uses along the River Tees. Identify priority areas for further support and development.</p> |
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| <p><b>Public interest justification:</b></p> <p>Development and importance of River Tees has been a long standing aspiration for the Council. River Tees remains a high quality asset that can stimulate development and act as an attraction for public use, access and potential development and investment.</p>                                |
| <p><b>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</b></p> <p>Existing body of work underway exploring opportunities to increase usage and access to the river tees alongside potential economic benefits</p>   |
| <p><b>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</b></p> <p>To be identified as part of outcome of existing body of work and eventual scrutiny review</p>  |

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| <b>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</b><br>Ongoing feasibility into developing river based leisure opportunities  |                     |
| <b>Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)</b><br>Developing strong and healthy communities<br>Creating economic prosperity   |                     |
| <b>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</b>  |                     |
| <b>Signed:</b> SMT   | <b>Date:</b> Jan 18 |
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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**Water Safety**

The National Water Safety Forum has published its report “A future without drowning: The UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016 – 2026”

The report is seeking to address the following targets:

- Every child should have the opportunity to learn to swim and receive water safety education at primary school and where required at key stage 3
- Every community with water risks should have a community-level risk assessment and water safety plan
- To better understand water related self-harm
- Increase awareness of everyday risks in, on and around water
- All recreational activity organisations should have a clear strategic risk assessment and plans that address key risks

The overall aim of the review would be to raise awareness of the Strategy across the Council and with key partners and secure commitment to conduct risk assessments to ensure that plans are in place to address the targets.

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 review will have a positive impact on public safety.

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

The review will have a positive impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

To be assessed as part of the review.

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

None

**Which of the Council’s four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- **Developing strong and healthy communities** through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Assurance

**Signed:** Cllr Jim Beall

**Date:** January 2018

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**Roadside Advertising**

Over the last couple of years there has been a notable increase in the amount of unauthorised advertising material being placed on, or adjacent to the highway. This varies from fly posting on the back of road signs, to trailers specifically designed to be left on, or adjacent to the roadside and has led to increasing concern within the Council, and from the general public. The removal of unauthorised signing can be controversial as the removal of signs can generate adverse comments from businesses and event's organisers. The organisers of smaller events in particular often feel aggrieved as the display of signs and or flyers in the locality are often the only publicity for their events.

The control of advertising on or adjacent to the highway covers many different service areas (highways, planning, enforcement etc.) and each service tackles the issue as they deem appropriate. The proposed outcome of the review would be for the Council to adopt a coordinated approach to the control of roadside advertising allowing, where appropriate and safe to do so, legitimate roadside advertising while controlling, efficiently and effectively, inappropriate roadside advertising.

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**Public interest justification:**

Members of the public tend not to be aware of the legal position in regards to advertising signs and can be confused about the process for authorisation and therefore may not be aware they are committing an offence or causing a problem.

In certain circumstances the inappropriate siting of roadside advertising can constitute a safety hazard.

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

One of the Council's four key policy principals is creating economic prosperity and the appropriate advertising of business's and events can assist with achieving this aim.

Promotion of local events can assist with social inclusion however inappropriate roadside advertising can also be harmful to the local street scene environment.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

The control of advertising on or adjacent to the highway covers many different service areas (highways, planning, enforcement etc.) and each service tackles the issue as they deem appropriate. This can lead to different departments tackling issues inconsistently and multi handling the same complaint. A coordinated approach should set out clear responsibilities and avoid double handling issues with any complaint being dealt with efficiently using the appropriate control mechanism.

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



While individual services manage this issue on an individual basis there are no other coordinated reviews currently taking place.

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

One of the Council's four key policy principles is creating economic prosperity and the appropriate advertising of business's and events can assist with achieving this aim.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

The proposed outcome of the review would be for the Council to adopt a coordinated approach to the control of roadside advertising allowing, where appropriate and safe to do so, legitimate roadside advertising while controlling, efficiently and effectively, inappropriate roadside advertising.

**Signed:** SMT

**Date:** Jan 18

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**Equality and Diversity**

The public sector equality duty was created by the Equality Act 2010 and replaces the race, disability and gender equality duties. The duty came into force in April 2011 and covers age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. In summary, those subject to the general equality duty must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups

The overall aim of the review would be to examine the progress the Council has made to make the equality duty integral to the exercise of its functions and the extent to which it has

- Eliminated against **unlawful discrimination**
- **Advanced equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- Fostered or **encouraged good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.  
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**Public interest justification:**

Failure to act against discrimination and promote equality of opportunity will disadvantage those with protected characteristics. Also the local authority has a legal responsibility and a duty under the Equality Act 2010.

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

Failure to act against discrimination and promote equality of opportunity will have an adverse impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. Also to highlight public sector equality duty, integration and community cohesion.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

Public Authorities must:

- Publish equality information at least once a year to show how they've complied with the (public sector equality duty)
- Prepare and publish equality objectives at least every four years with an annual action plan.
- Demonstrate 'due regards' to the three needs (referred to in the overall aim of the review above)

The review would provide independent challenge and test the Council's assessment of compliance in consultation with a wide range of community contacts/groups.

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

As above

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- **Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention**, specifically in relation to tackling health inequalities, meeting the skills gap and improving access to job opportunities, tackling fuel poverty, improving education and training opportunities, access to affordable housing and financial and digital inclusion.
- **Developing strong and healthy communities** through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Assurance that the Council is complying with the public sector equality duty and is properly considering the need of people who are disadvantaged or suffer inequality.

Recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

**Signed:** Cllr Louise Baldock

**Date:** 31 January 2108

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**Select Committee Work Programme  
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</b></p> <p><b><u>Members IT Requirements</u></b></p> <p>To consider the current provision of IT support to Councillors.</p> <p>The review could examine Digital Optimisation for Elected Members with a view to identifying 'one preferred solution' for Members I.T. support, standardising the provision of equipment provided, which could be tablets, laptop etc.</p> |
| <p>NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>  |
| <p><b>Public interest justification:</b></p> <p>Good IT provision enables Members when representing their local communities.</p>  |
| <p><b>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</b></p> <p>Effective use of Councillors improves the operation of the Council, which in turn enables it to undertake its role in improving the general wellbeing of the area.</p>  |
| <p><b>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</b></p> <p>The Council is currently rolling out a programme of smarter working.</p>   |
| <p><b>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</b></p> <p>This is an area acknowledged for review and it is proposed to consider the issues further as part of a report to MAP.</p> <p>Aspects of the Council's approach to IT will be considered as part of the Digital Optimisation Review.</p>  |
| <p><b>Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)</b></p> <p>Members are integral to the setting of the Council's policy platform, and its implementation.</p>   |

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

A review of current provision

Improvements identified and greater level of uptake of the tools available

**Signed:** Cllr Norma Stephenson

**Date:** February 2018

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS**

The Council has had responsibility for the School Crossing Patrol service since Local Government was reorganised in 1996. The School Crossing Patrol service is operated to assist children to be able to get to and from school safely on foot. It is an integral part of road safety, and although most authorities provide School Crossing Patrols across the country, it is a non-statutory service. The responsibility for ensuring the safety of children travelling to and from school is a parental one.

Nationally, between 2010 and 2014, there was a cut in numbers of School Crossing Patrols of at least 992 (ITV, 2014), and an exclusive investigation by Schools Week found that more than two thirds of Councils have cut their budget for crossings in the past three years, leaving many schools to cover the cost of keeping pupils safe. 46% of children aged five to 10 years, and 38% of those aged 11 to 16, walk to school, although these numbers are in decline as more and more children are driven to school (DfT, 2015).

There are many ways of making sure our children can walk and cycle safely to school. Slowing down traffic, for example by establishing 20mph limits, is a powerful way to make their journeys safer. Yet School Crossing Patrollers retain a key role to play in making our streets safer, not least as they offer a friendly face that encourages active and sustainable travel.

School crossing patrols can only be provided at sites which meet the criteria in the national guidelines produced by Road Safety GB. The criteria depend on a number of factors, but primarily the number of primary school age children and the volume of vehicles at the site at the relevant times. However, concerns have been raised across the Borough in terms of the current provision of school crossing patrols, and the initiation of a review would enable the criteria used to make decisions to be examined, along with how this is applied throughout Stockton-on-Tees.

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

**Public interest justification:**

Ensuring roads are kept safe for all road-users is a priority for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, and this is particularly pertinent for children walking/cycling to and from school. Whilst increasing numbers of children are driven to their educational establishment, there remain many young people who travel on foot on a daily basis.

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

It goes without saying that child safety is of paramount importance, and the appropriate allocation of School Crossing Patrols across the Borough will provide assurance for the many children and their parents who walk/cycle to school.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

In November 2007, Stockton Borough Council instigated a review of the School Crossing

Patrol service; stage 1 of the review aligned both payments and duties of the SCP, and stage 2 was to disestablish sites that no longer fulfilled criteria or had been replaced with light controlled crossings.

In December 2010, Cabinet endorsed recommendations from the Environment Select Committee which included the closure of seven School Crossing Patrol sites where a puffin or pelican crossing were available or where the sites no longer met the criteria, six further sites identified be surveyed to assess their position against criteria and are closed if appropriate, a policy be developed to ensure S106 agreements can secure the establishment of a puffin or pelican crossing rather than introduce a School Crossing Patrol where necessary, annual surveys be conducted at all sites to determine if they meet national criteria, and annual surveys determine the number of unaccompanied children using School Crossing Patrol sites.

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

None.

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

Developing strong and healthy communities.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

To provide clarity for Members and their ward constituents around the criteria used to determine the provision (or not) of school crossing patrols, and identify any concerns across the Borough in relation to current provision.

**Signed:** Cllr David Wilburn

**Date:** January 2018

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**Parking on Grass Verges**

Parking on grass verges and the damage and resulting mess it causes is a regular source of complaints from local residents.

The review could examine:

What powers Local Authorities have under current legislation?

How does the Council enforce?

What fines can be imposed?

What other measures can be put in place to deter inappropriate parking?

Who is responsible for repairs?

What approach do other Local Authorities take?

What can developers be asked to do?

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

**Public interest justification:**

The problem is a regular source of complaints from local residents.

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

Inappropriate parking causes unsightly damage to verges.

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

The review would examine the cost of repairs, the extent to which preventative measures could reduce these costs and the scope for generating income from fines etc.

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

None

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- **Developing strong and healthy communities** through the provision of mainstream and preventive services that are available to all those who choose to access them.
- **Creating economic prosperity** across the Borough

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

Clarification of the actions that can be taken against those inappropriately parking on grass verges.

Identification of the measures that can be put in place to deter inappropriate parking.



**Signed:** Cllr Louse Baldock

**Date:** 31/1/18

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**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

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

**AFFORDABLE WARMTH**

Affordable warmth is the ability to heat a property to sufficient warmth for health and comfort without incurring financial hardship. Fuel poverty is defined as a household which needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use and to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth – in England, this is classed as 21°C in the living room and 18°C in other occupied rooms. The current definition of fuel poverty states that it is driven by three key factors: energy efficiency of the home; energy costs and household income.

Changes to the way fuel poverty is assessed were introduced in 2015 with the publication of the Department for Energy and Climate Change's 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a fuel poverty strategy for England' (March 2015). The 2015 strategy introduced the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) definition of a household as being fuel poor where:

- they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level);
- were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

Fuel poverty affects the most vulnerable residents in our communities and can have significant adverse impacts on an individual's or family's health and wellbeing, and on community spirit. Increasing fuel prices have, combined with a range of factors, led to increasing fuel poverty levels in the UK – nationally 2.38 million households were in fuel poverty in 2014 compared to 1 million households in 2004. Fuel bills began to fall modestly in 2015 after several years of significant increases, however recent trends see the price of utilities beginning to increase again.

Fuel poverty is a persistent problem that affects many of our residents. The Government's annual fuel poverty estimates of our Local Authority areas was however encouraging, with levels in Stockton-on-Tees reducing from 11.1% in 2013 to 10.7% in 2014. Warm Homes Healthy People has been delivered across the Borough since 2012 in an attempt to provide help and support to residents whose health conditions make them more vulnerable during the winter months. Cold weather can have a serious impact on health and make people more vulnerable to pneumonia, heart attacks, strokes and depression. Keeping warm and healthy during cold weather can keep illness away.

A scrutiny review of affordable warmth was undertaken in 2012-2013 by the Council's Environment Select Committee which included a number of recommendations, one of which was that an Affordable Warmth Strategy was developed following the review, and then subsequently revised to ensure it is fit for purpose. Further scrutiny is proposed to re-assess the current landscape around local fuel poverty and what is being done to reduce this.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.  
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**Public interest justification:**

There is the potential for increases in levels of fuel poverty due to a number of factors including welfare reforms, unemployment, and the continuation of rising energy costs – such things may impact significant numbers across the Borough to the detriment of individuals, families and the wider community.

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

Fuel poverty affects not only individuals and their families' health and wellbeing, but also adversely impacts community spirit. The inability to keep warm at home is more than just a comfort issue; trying to adequately heat an energy-inefficient home results in considerable unnecessary emissions and can drain a family of money (Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy - Housing Neighbourhood and Affordable Warmth Partnership (January 2017)).

**Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:**

- Nationally, 12.3% of all households (9,907) currently in fuel poverty (BEIS, 2017)
- Stockton-on-Tees remains second lowest in North East (13.3% average) however (North Tyneside is 11.1%)
- However, now 1.3% above the national average, just 0.1% above England in 2014
- Fuel poverty in the Borough remains the lowest in Tees Valley, but we have experienced the largest % point increase in last 12 months.
- Programmes for winter 2017-2018 included Warm Homes Health People, Big Community Switch and Warm Homes Fund - National Grid.
- Energy Champion Initiative from October 2017.

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

Unaware of any other reviews taking place in relation to this issue but a Scrutiny Review has been completed on this topic previously.

**Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)**

- Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention: tackling fuel poverty.

**What would you want the outcome of the review to be?**

An understanding of the current levels of fuel poverty in Stockton-on-Tees, and an assessment of the effectiveness of current schemes used by the Council to create and sustain affordable warmth, including work undertaken with relevant partners.

**Signed:** Cllr Derrick Brown

**Date:** January 2018

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