

## Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 18th September, 2018.

**Present:** Cllr David Harrington(Chairman), Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Lauriane Povey (Sub Cllr Lisa Grainge), Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr David Wilburn, Peter Snowden.

**Officers:** Julie Danks, Judith Trainer, Sarah Whaley, Gary Woods (DCE)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Mrs Neelam un Kabir, Katie Slack

### **ESC Evacuation Procedure**

**18/18**

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

### **ESC Declarations of Interest**

**19/18**

Councillor Norma Stephenson O.B.E declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 'Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Group' as she was a tenant of Thirteen Group.

### **ESC Minutes from the Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting which was held on the 17th July 2018.**

**20/18**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee which was held on the 17th July for approval and signature.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

### **ESC Role of Co-opted Representatives**

**21/18**

Members considered a report which detailed the statutory role of Co-opted Representatives.

The report detailed the statutory requirements for Co-opted Representatives on Scrutiny Committees. The provisions pre dated the Leader and Cabinet model, and subsequently were incorporated within provisions regarding entitlement to attend and vote at Scrutiny Committees when considering education matters.

It was highlighted that the Councils Constitution reflected the statutory provisions and relevant extracts were contained within the main report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

### **ESC Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group (Final Report for information)**

**22/18**

Members considered the final report of the Place Select Committee Scrutiny

Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group.

Whilst Members were critical at the beginning of the review regarding communication between Members and Thirteen Group, Members had learned that Thirteen Group had gone through substantial change and reorganisation at patch level. There was now a patch manager for each area of the Borough which had proved beneficial in terms of who to contact for assistance.

Members of the Committee shared their recent experiences when liaising/engaging with Thirteen Group. An improvement was reported by Councillors, and it was hoped that this would continue for future relationships.

It was explained that at the start of the review Members of the Place Select Committee were keen to base the review on tenant's views, however it was established that Thirteen Group had an array of ways (including independent surveys) in which they captured that information on a regular basis, therefore the existing information Thirteen Group had was used. Thirteen Group were very cooperative throughout.

The Chair congratulated Members and Officers for the good work which had been undertaken to produce such a comprehensive piece of work in a very short period.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**ESC  
23/18**      **Forward Plan**

Members considered the Council's Statutory Forward Plan for 1st September 2018 - 31 December 2018.

**ESC  
24/18**      **Select Committee Chairs' Updates**

Members considered the Select Committee Chairs' Updates.

Adult Social Care and Health;

In relation to Adult Social Care and Health, Councillor Norma Stephenson took the opportunity to congratulate Tees, Esk and Weir Valleys NHS Foundation Trust for making the decision to withdraw their intention to outsource some of their services which would have impacted on staff terms and conditions of employment.

People Select Committee;

Vice Chairman of the People Select Committee, Councillor Louise Baldock gave Members a further update of evidence gathered for the review of Digital Optimisation as the attached update pre dated the last People Select Committee meeting. Stockton Borough Council Staff had attended a recent meeting of the People Select Scrutiny Committee to explain how the Council communicated with residents. Traditionally residents would have contacted the Council either by visiting or via the telephone, however there was now a growing number of residents using on-line forms to engage with the Authority. It was highlighted that Revenues and Benefits would be attending the next People

Select Committee meeting to give a similar overview.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

**ESC  
25/18**      **Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme**

The Chair had no updates to provide at this time.

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme. It was agreed that the item 'Constitution Update' be moved to 15th January 2019 Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.

**ESC  
26/18**      **Scrutiny Developments**

There were no updates.