

APPENDIX 4

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

<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Contextual Safeguarding</p> <p>Our response and approach to the issues of contextual safeguarding, child exploitation and the issue of youth violence. Increasing concerns about threats to young people from organised crime groups, and in the context of national trends about youth violence as well as the continuing focus on child sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation.</p> <p>Mirrors national focus on the increasing threat to young people from factors outside the home.</p> <p>Developing model with Hartlepool and Cleveland Police to respond in the form of a MACE (Multi agency child exploitation) hub.</p> <p>This review will examine the issues and factors which are leading to a focus in this area, evaluate our response and help to steer the work of the MACE hub.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Increasing national issue of contextual safeguarding and threats to the safety and wellbeing of young people outside the family home.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Increasing risk to children and young people from a range of forms of exploitation. Young people being sexually exploited remains a national and local issue. Exploitation by organised criminal activity a more recent threat. Against a background of concerns over youth violence including the carrying of knives.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Currently setting up a new approach with Hartlepool BC and Cleveland Police to develop a new approach.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>No other relevant reviews. Links to Safer Stockton priorities.</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>Links to the priority of: 'Making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm'</p> <p>Specific priority in the Council Plan refresh 2022/3</p>

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

- Oversight of the issue
- Review of our response
- Recommendations for future action

Signed: Cllr Lisa Evans

Date: 13/02/22

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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?

Preventing violent and coercive behaviour in youth relationships

As most young people have smartphones and can be in constant contact with a person they are in a relationship with, there is an increase of young people engaged in toxic and controlling relationships which they believe is normal behaviour. These intense early relationships in young adulthood can lead to unhealthy adult relationships and domestic abuse.

A key outcome would be to educate young people on healthy relationships (including consensual sexual relationships) and support national campaign empowering girls to stop abuse (info in photo attached).

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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

Public interest justification:

Protecting young people and supporting them to lead healthy, adult lives is important for the wider community.

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

Domestic violence is a serious social issue and preventing young people from engaging in behaviour which could lead to violent and abusive relationships into adulthood will improve the well-being of residents in Stockton.

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

Not known.

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

Not know.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Supports goal of the Borough being a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm.

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

Work with stakeholders to help educate young people on healthy relationships.

Signed: Lauriane Povey

Date: 18/02/2022

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

Access to GPs and other primary care

Some years ago we covered the issue of access to GP's. Since the start of the pandemic there has been a significant change in how the public contacts and gains access to their clinicians.

My concern is that people feel unsure about contacting their GP. They are no longer sure whether they will see a GP or alternative professional or indeed whether they will have to engage with a machine on-line and answer questions.

I feel there are folk that have very personal issues that do not want to discuss on the phone their issues and are ignoring coming forward because of this, possibly to their detriment.

I know from experience getting through the switchboard is difficult and frustrating, and observed two women at my surgery speaking to the receptionists saying they could not get through online or on the phone to get a doctor's appointment. They were nearly in tears.

Talking to folk many state they are having issues getting to see a doctor.

I would like the scrutiny to find out whether these are significant issues, whether this is actually happening on a large scale and what is being done to improve matters.

I would like clear guidance up in every surgery that gives simple guidance on contacting your doctor.

I would like the online service to be simple and a phone service fit for purpose, not one that cuts you off after 45 mins and tells you lines are closed over lunchtime.

Many folk work, that is their only available time!

If GP's are finding that their workloads are too heavy and they are unable to see all patients that want to be seen then a clear appropriate service should be put in place that allows them to see those patients clearly needing attention more urgently.

At the moment this seems hit and miss.

This review is not about GP bashing. I am enormously grateful to GP's and primary care for the work that they have done. It is about trying to find a better system for seeing your GP. I don't think some surgeries are aware of how much discontent there is out in the public world about the trials of getting to see a GP.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification: Public lack of understanding of health demands on GP's and frustration getting to see a health professional.
Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area: As above
Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area: N/A
Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?): Not known
How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan? Health of local citizens
What would you want the outcome of the review to be? As above
Signed: E Cunningham Date: 17/2/22
<p>Please return to:</p> <p>Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section Democratic Services Municipal Buildings Church Road Stockton on Tees TS18 1LD</p> <p>Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158</p>

Select Committee Work Programme

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<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Children’s mental health and the transition</p> <p>The pandemic has had a detrimental effect on children’s mental health. Increased stress and anxiety has obvious demands on mental health services and possible delays in support. Is there a shortfall in professional help in schools and what is the extent of provision from the Council and the NHS. What systems are in place to ensure “joined up services”, has the support for schools been reduced over time.</p> <p>Outcomes desired:- To ensure the Council and members have a better understanding of the perceived or real shortfalls in support for the mental health wellbeing of our children Throughout their school life and into transition into secondary, further and higher education</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Increase in home schooling has led to more parents spending time with their children and noticing changes in behaviour. When returning to school notable differences in behaviour in some is eluded to by parents and staff. Educational Psychologists consultation waiting times maybe unknown to members or the public in general. There appears to be growing concern among many about the mental health and wellbeing of pupils. Coupled with this is the alarming rise in suicide and self-harm attributed by some as the effects of social isolation from their peer group.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Early interventions can impact on later more intense costly and time consuming treatments. Skilled analysis can enhance the child’s attainment and behaviour preventing the need for specialist educational placement. This may lead to family break up, anti-social behaviour and a more vulnerable group of young people.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Early intervention may reduce demands on social services and demands on provision for looked after children.</p>

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):	
How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan? To hopefully review the changes as proposed last April in children's services and help develop a healthy more cohesive society.	
What would you want the outcome of the review to be? Improve where necessary the provision of mental health services in schools and the community as a whole. Also to ensure as far as possible a more joined up and holistic approach to the mental health of our young people.	
Signed: 	Date: 18/02/2022
Please return to: Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section Democratic Services Municipal Buildings Church Road Stockton on Tees TS18 1LD Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158	

**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?

Adoption of Open Space on New Developments

Due to Councils not adopting open space land on new developments, developers are either maintaining it themselves or handing it to a maintenance company to manage and charge the occupiers of each house on the development the cost of maintaining it, yet other residents elsewhere also use it, but don't contribute towards it up-keep. In the past this would have been included in the Council and paid for by everyone on the Borough. This would mean that the open space is maintained by an accountable public body to high standards.

The introduction of onerous terms by Government in 2002-03, which councils across England have to follow, (25 years annual maintenance to be paid upon adoption by the developer to the Council) have meant developers are reluctant to pay such sums and maintain the open space themselves and it doesn't get handed over. Residents contact local councils for action when there are issues with maintenance, but the issues are relayed to the developer. The process lacks public accountability and results in land not being maintained to the high standards provided by Local Authorities or large Town Councils.

This is a widespread national issue in England, and also across the Borough of Stockton on Tees. This leaves some sections of the population having to pay for land maintenance to a company at rates of around £200 per year, whilst the rest of the population pays a smaller amount through Council Tax, an amount also paid by those residents paying maintenance companies.

The current system (caused by the issues raised above in 2002-03) lacks taxation equality and fairness. It leads to poorer maintenance standards with no accountability through public bodies. As a result, areas can look scruffy which reflects badly on the Borough as a whole.

This scrutiny review application is to try and see what can be done Borough wide either through SBC or the Town & Parish Councils to resolve the issues above, with all options kept open.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

Denewood and Meadowbrook, The Rings, Ingleby Barwick, where residents of the former have just been served with an annual bill for 2022 of £209 per household. The latter are already paying over £100 per household per year. The Denewood open space was initially to be adopted, but a variation to the S106 Agreement meant it was maintained through a maintenance agreement. Residents on both developments feel this way of paying for open space maintenance is unfair. There are also around 10 other major pieces of open space owned by Persimmon which haven't been adopted by a public body.

<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>The current system (caused by the issues raised above in 2002-03) lacks taxation equality and fairness. It leads to poorer maintenance standards with no accountability through public bodies. As a result areas can look scruffy which reflects badly on the Borough as a whole.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>SBC's policy is in line with the 2002-03 changes to adoption with developers making large contributions up front (25 years). Other issues are that due to cuts of funding by Government from 2010 with SBC making 1,200 redundancies plus £40m of service cuts, there has been a reluctance to adopt at officer level, as they didn't have the staff numbers to be able to guarantee they could undertake maintenance of new sites. This coupled with the falling amount of interest they received off the investment of contributions, also squeezed budgets further and increased the hesitancy to adopt. This is why this issue to be looked at by Scrutiny Committee to see what we can do going forward and whether some flexibility can be achieved, or can officers assist in transferring the land to other public bodies who can afford to maintain it. Those residents paying maintenance companies have also been hit by a 23.7% increase in Council Tax over the last 5 years as well.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>Not known.</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>A place people are proud to live – better open space maintenance will improve this. Enjoying our beautiful parks and OPEN SPACES. Fighting inequality. The Borough is clean vibrant and attractive, with better maintained open spaces keeping it that way. Feeds into a review of the MTFP.</p>
<p>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</p> <p>To see if a local Borough wide solution can be provided to get these sites over to accountable public bodies to maintain, as use to be the case prior to 2002, whether than involves contributions from developers or not, either through SBC or Town & Parish Councils. If Scrutiny can identify a suitable mechanism to use, this could be highlighted through the LGA as a solution to a national problem.</p>
<p>Signed: Cllr Ross Patterson</p> <p>Date: 6 November 2021</p>
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<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Home Insulation</p> <p>Given that we are now progressing to a greener environment and the ever-changing move to cut down carbon emissions. We should be looking of ways to make the burden of insulating our homes more economical, there have been successful schemes in the past to encourage house owners to insulate their homes irrespective of affordability.</p> <p>Any Government funding and initiatives should be scoped in order to encourage house owners to be greener, at the moment there is a cash limit on who can apply for insulation funding unlike the change to Warm Air heating where the cost is exorbitant with only partial government help.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p align="center">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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>I have had numerous residents mainly in the elderly group asking if there is assistance with the cost of insulating their homes, sadly they just fall outside the scope of the present funding structure. Also, predictions that next year that Gas consumer prices could be going up as much as 50% for the average householder</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>This would make a massive impact on the number of homes that would take up any legitimate offers to insulate their homes, cutting down on the use of carbon emitting fuels and making the environment they live in healthier as they would be warmer for less cost. It is now imperative that something is done immediately so ensure ALL our residents' homes are well insulated, as the ever-increasing burden put on them is stretching some to breaking with others having to cut down drastically on heating their homes.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>-</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>Not that I am aware of.</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>Support the move to reduce carbon emission and help with the wellbeing of our residents particularly the elderly.</p> <p>We owe it to their future health and wellbeing of our residents, to either find some way for our council to lead the way to assist not only the vulnerable, but those who are getting to the</p>

tipping point regarding affordability to insulate their homes. Leading the way we would be able to pressure the Government to take a more active role in providing some type of funding incentive for households to properly insulate their homes.

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

Some type of financial assistance to encourage house owners to insulate their homes

the insulation initiative would mean one of the strategic objectives with regard to the emission of co2 and energy conservation would be addressed, meaning carbon footprint of every home could be met

Signed: Cllr K.Dixon

Date: 3/12/21

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

Supporting green jobs of the future

Insulating homes, installing low carbon heating and supporting the green transition have the potential to create many local jobs, however, there are national skills shortages in these industries.

I propose a scrutiny review to look into how to create a local workforce fit for the demands of a green economy of the future.

Possible outcomes/areas to consider could be:

- Understand current relevant courses offered by local education providers and potential other courses which could be offered if there was more demand.
- Encouraging young people to consider education/training and careers in new and expanding green industries.
- Loans or grants to support adult education and training in green jobs.
- Work with business to understand local skills shortages in green industries.
- Commitment to commission a future labour market analysis
- Engagement with TVCA, national government, local businesses and education providers to support and fund outcomes of review and longer-term plan.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

Climate change will affect everyone but mitigating the impact of climate change may bring economic opportunities to the local area.

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

The review aims to support the local economy and contribute to a greener environment.

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

Not known.

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

Not known.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Supports goal of a thriving economy where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and also supports several strategic priorities of the Local Plan.

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

See first section

Signed: Lauriane Povey

Date: 18/02/2022

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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?

Procurement and Installation of Litter Bins across the Borough

The reliance to install these bins are on Ward Councillors, take a substantial portion of our CPB. Not only is the installation expensive, but the positioning of the bins is decided not by Councillors or Residents, but by officers whose knowledge of the ward and litter issues is limited.

After undertaking some research, it is apparent that there is no process of ensuring the cheapest price is sought. Compared to other councils in the local area, Stockton sets an extremely high price for the procurement and installation of bins.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

Improved service for residents.

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

This topic suggestion supports the Council Plan priority for our Borough to be a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive.

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

The review would seek to ensure better value for money and reduced pressure on ward Member CPBs.

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

No

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

This topic suggestion supports the Council Plan priority for our Borough to be a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive.

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

A clear process for Member involvement and better value for money.

Signed: Cllr Niall Innes

Date: 25 January 2022

**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?

Management of the Council’s Tree Stock

Review into the management of the Council’s tree stock, specifically around resource allocation and factors relation to legislation, legal requirements and health and safety.

This will include legislation, legal and health and safety requirements as asset owners as well as a review of the operational and management delivery of functions, including the scope of works around programmed inspection and maintenance as well as emergency works.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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

Public interest justification:

The Council has a legal responsibility to inspect, maintain and manage our tree stock which is located across the borough in parks, open spaces, highways and other locations. We currently have around 30,000 which are managed by a team of professional arborists including 2 technical staff and a team of 3 operational staff.

With such a high number of trees to manage, the workload is significant and during 2020/21 we received over 2000 requests for service which ranged from emergency works such as fallen trees or limbs, structural damage to property and other similar reports through to more routine requests such as pruning requests due to general nuisance factors such as shading, leaf fall etc which tend to be of a seasonal nature. This creates a significant pressure on resources, therefore, we operate a 3 year inspection cycle where all of our tree assets are checked and any statutory or essential priority works are programmed. This is based upon a range of factors, primarily to ensure compliance with our legal duty of care and to ensure a high standard of tree management that delivers maximum benefits to the public in line with best practice.

Trees can at times be contentious for residents who often express strong and vocal views on the presence of trees, especially those which are in residential locations where concerns about the safety of trees, potential damage and other perceived nuisance factors is a particular issue for officers to deal with.

One of the key themes within the Council Plan is clean and green spaces with a specific aim to deliver a plan for additional tree planting. It is therefore important to review our existing arrangements and resilience levels to ensure that we are equipped to deal with both existing and planned tree assets.

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

Whilst many residents see the many environmental benefits that trees bring, we are also mindful that others would like to see trees removed or significantly reduced, often those located close to residential properties and this forms the basis of many requests that come to us directly or via Elected Members. The current policy on tree management is contained on our website at <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-places/countryside-and-greenspaces/> and provides residents with basic information on how we manage the tree stock.

Although views on the presence of trees does differ with many, the wider benefits cannot be underestimated and include the removal of air pollution, providing a valuable habitat for insects and birds, act as a natural flood defence as well as the proven mental health benefits that a green environment brings.

It is therefore essential to maintain a sustainable, healthy, diverse and resilient population of trees to maximise the benefits the trees provide to the public.

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

We aim to inspect all trees on a 3 year inspection cycle that are the Council's direct responsibility i.e. those that are located within SBC owned land / adopted highway. Furthermore, we also have a range of service level agreements (SLA's) in place, predominantly with Schools and other education sites, where an annual chargeable service is delivered.

Resources are currently stretched with a substantial growing backlog in essential programmed works that have been identified through the ongoing inspection regime – this is currently estimated to be 2.5 years with an increasing proportion of reactive work dominating the work programme and marked increase in customer complaints due to lack of service and long delays.

This is exacerbated by major storm events and the resultant emergency call out work which generates substantial follow up site clearance across the Borough and increased enquiries from residents who have safety concerns about trees.

There is also serious concern that risk of harm or damage is increased by due to significantly extended timescales for removing or pruning hazardous trees. This has an impact in the council's ability to comply with its legal duty of care which requires implementing an adequate system of inspection and maintenance for all its trees – ultimately, to maintain 'acceptable levels of risk' to the public.

The tree asset is also increasing in size due to new tree planting schemes and land adoptions/transfers from new developments across the borough - it therefore becomes more challenging on what is a small core team of technical and operational staff which is why the majority of the operational works we complete are deemed as priority essential works only.

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

Whilst there are no direct reviews taking place, a link to the activities being undertaken by the Environment, Leisure and Green Infrastructure team via the community tree planning programme should also be acknowledged as it is important to consider the future operational resourcing impact that additional tree stocks will have as this will have an impact upon overall resilience and service delivery.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

One of the key visions within the Council Plan is 'Clean and green spaces' with a linked priority to 'Deliver a plan for additional tree planting', this suggested area of review therefore provides an obvious and meaningful link to a key Council Plan objective.

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

The review will allow Members to understand the current management process, how resources are directed, what the minimum legal responsibilities are for the management of our tree assets and how this will be managed in the future as we add to our existing stock as a result of our Council Plan aspirations.

Signed: Place Select Committee

Date: 9th February 2022

**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?

Title Review of Planning Services/ Committee Approach

- Robustness of Enforcement around unauthorised development.
- Review of the desire to negotiate retrospective planning applications in lieu of enforcement.
- The lack of desire to impose a condition regarding in curtilage parking arising from planning permission, e.g., the council regularly **advise** the applicant to contact highways regarding a dropped kerb. Rather than making it a condition to development. Leaving vehicles obstructing roads.
- To review the capacity of the staff within the service, quite often, residents are being informed of staff shortages as being a reason for delay in providing a service they have paid for upfront.
- Consistency of approach around planning policies and guidelines.
- The arbitrary number of requiring five different household objections to a neighbour’s development to bring it before the planning committee. Some developments only have 3-4 neighbours.
- Inconsistent approach to objectors to development. Some officer reports contain objector comments from people scattered throughout the borough and beyond, other reports restrict the number of objectors to being directly affected by the development.
- Planning Committee members declaring ‘pre-determination’ but then being allowed to debate and influence other members.
- These are an example of the many issues that are prevalent, however it would be desirable that the work, if selected, is broken down into manageable chunks.
- Local/Development Plan, evidence is showing that it requires reviewing.
- Housing needs review, against development plan.
- Data update on the traffic models used in support of, or against development, quite often the modelling is simply ridiculed by parties.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

Members from all wards receive concerns from residents, businesses and developers regarding the inconsistent approaches adopted by planning services. Quite often citing the lack of policy, the reluctance to read guidelines/policy in a consistent way, obvious bias to read guidelines policy in a way that suits the officers report.

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

A consistent approach to planning, will undoubtedly reduce the number of complaints both members and officers will have to deal with. The vision would be that each party, for and against development feeling satisfied that their voices have been heard following the decision-making process.

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

The savings in terms of customer satisfaction, rather than dissatisfaction are easily measurable. The financial costs involving lost appeals by the council are easily measurable.

The member and officer time spent on appeals would reduce and savings in terms of finance and resource time would be evident.

Complaints would reduce.

Satisfaction would increase.

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

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Making a Borough that is clean, attractive, and vibrant.

It is of no use having this banner if the tools are a bit worn out to build it.

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

Planning can be an emotive issue for all parties, however through a consistent approach to guidelines and policy, the reputation of the Council can be improved, savings for both applicants and the council are evident.

Signed:

Tony Riordan

Date:

4th February 2022

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

Bus services in Stockton-on-Tees

In March 2021, the Government published Bus Back Better: a national bus strategy for England. The strategy sets out a long-term vision and opportunity to deliver better bus services for passengers across England. This is especially vital given the reduction of usage in public transport over the past years which has been exacerbated due to the Covid pandemic. Buses are an essential part of the transport network allowing residents to access vital services and are key to reducing congestion and tackling climate change. As part of the strategy there are two requirements that must be met, to be eligible for potential future funding to support bus provision:

- Submission of a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)
- Implementation of an Enhanced Partnership (EP)

The Tees Valley BSIP has been submitted to Government and sets out a vision for delivering a step-change in bus services in the Tees Valley. An Enhanced Partnership (EP) is a statutory agreement between the TVCA, the Tees Valley local authorities and bus operators. The EP is made up of two parts: the Plan, which mirrors the content of the BSIP; and the Scheme where the detailed requirements and actions for services and infrastructure in the area are set out specifically. The Tees Valley EP is currently in draft form and due to be agreed later this year subject to the necessary Statutory processes.

The BSIP and EP have been structured around a five-point delivery plan:

- Decarbonisation – one of the first regions in the UK to have an entirely zero emission local bus fleet;
- Fares – simpler fares and targeted promotions to drive passenger growth;
- Customer experience – putting the needs of customers at the heart of service delivery and improving information provision with one brand identity;
- Infrastructure – new infrastructure investment to prioritise bus on core corridors and improve passenger experience; and
- Network – a collaborative approach focused on core corridors and integration with the Tees Flex on-demand bus service.

The delivery of much of the five-point plan is clearly dependent on securing funding from government who have made it clear that should an area not implement an EP scheme, then future funding for bus service improvements could be withheld. The current Tees Valley EP is in the form of a 'shell' agreement, which sets out the high-level priorities. There are currently no direct obligations on the TVCA, the Tees Valley local authorities or bus operators at this stage. The EP Plan includes a bespoke variation mechanism, which enables the detail to be added at the appropriate point in time.

OUTCOMES

- To ensure that the limited grant funding the Council uses to fund community bus services is targeted at the priority areas.
- Based on the five priority areas of the Enhanced Partnership:-
 - Identify which targeted fare promotions would most encourage residents of Stockton use the bus and assist the most disadvantaged in the Borough.
 - Identify any key areas for improvement in bus infrastructure to provide more reliable services and encourage more residents to use buses.
 - Identify any key locations such as employment sites, health services, education or leisure facilities etc that need better public transport provision.

<p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Buses are the country's most used form of public transport used for twice as many journeys as trains. They give residents vital access to jobs, services, leisure, and much more. They sustain town centres, they strengthen communities and they protect the environment. Understanding the needs of the residents is vital to ensuring the bus network and services serve their needs.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Buses give residents vital access to jobs, services, leisure, and much more. They sustain town centres, they strengthen communities and they protect the environment. Buses can be key to levelling-up; users are disproportionately from less advantaged social groups and places. Improved services will strengthen communities, sustain town centres and connect disabled and isolated people. Since COVID-19, the need for improved bus services has become more urgent. In many places, roads already operated at or close to capacity before the pandemic. There is a risk that as full economic life returns, the move away from public transport during the crisis will cause unmanageable levels of car traffic, slowing some areas to a crawl, holding back the economic recovery and creating a severe risk to health and the environment.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>The Council have limited statutory responsibilities with regards to the provision of public bus services as most services are commercially run by private companies. The Council do run a small number of community services using a grant from the Government with the hope to make these services commercial subject to patronage. However, the Council do receive many requests relating to bus services from the public despite the responsibility mainly laying with the private sector. By making the services run by the council commercial and ensuring the public are aware of who best to target their queries with, regards to public transport, could reduce demand on officers and enable the grant to be used on priming other services.</p> <p>The Council do have responsibility for implementing and maintaining most of the physical bus infrastructure on the public highway. As set out in a previous scrutiny review the Council only receive half the budget each year to keep these assets at their current state and we are currently managing a steady decline in their condition.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>There are no other reviews currently taking place on this topic.</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>People live healthy lives – Buses provided vital access to services such as health care and leisure facilities, stop people becoming isolated and help prevent severe risk to health by reducing air pollution.</p>

A growing economy – Many roads already operate at or close to capacity and without a good bus network unmanageable levels of car traffic will slow areas to a crawl, holding back the economic recovery and future investment.

Improved education & skills development & Job creation & increased employment – Buses provide vital access to job opportunities, schools, colleges & universities. Buses are key to levelling-up with users disproportionately from less advantaged social groups and places.

Great places to live & visit – A good public transport network will provide better access for residents and visitors to the area to local leisure and tourism attractions.

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

A series of recommendations setting out the priorities for Stockton to improve bus services for residents, based on the Tees Valley BSIP & EP five-point delivery plan, for discussion with the Tees Valley Combined Authority and potential future inclusion in the Enhanced Partnership scheme.

Signed: Place Select Committee

Date: 18 February 2022

Please return to:

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Municipal Buildings
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TS18 1LD

Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk
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**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Future Recycling Collections</p> <p>At present we collect our recycling on a two-week basis collecting our Glass in a blue box and all other recycling including paper, cardboard, plastic and tins in a white bags.</p> <p>Some other authorities use different bins to collect their recycling and I think we should have a good look at how we can approve our collections even with a mix of different containers/bins.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p align="center">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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Not a week goes by that the public mention that we need a larger container(s) or bin(s)for all our recycling rather than using the white bags that sometimes go missing or blown away Over the last three to four years more people would like to see a better system than the current one we use and although this would not be the best idea for everyone i.e., those in terraced houses, flats and those who have little storage area I personally think we should investigate a better system and also have a mix of Bins Boxes and Bags depending on the space and capacity of each household.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>We are all well aware of the need to recycle plastic, tins, glass, paper and cardboard and to get more households on board in the borough of Stockton-on Tees.</p> <p>We will also need to take into consideration our waste food and the new policies that are to come in place.</p> <p>By recycling more it will have a positive impact on our environment and well-being.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Over time we could see a big increase of recycling and cost savings on landfill.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>None that I know of.</p>

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

I believe the Council Plan is to increase recycling levels across the borough

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

To be fully investigated and look at all measures so we have a balanced and improved system to collect our recycling.

Signed: Cllr K Faulks

Date: 29/11/2021

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

<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Methods used by Stockton Council for Waste Recycling</p> <p>A review could be requested to look into the success of Stockton Council's current methods and to look at examples where other local authorities have partnered with neighbouring local authorities and waste management companies to increase efficiencies.</p> <p>On a smaller matter, it is a common complaint that plenty of litter is generated on recycling days. Perhaps there is a better method for collection which means communities across the borough suffer less litter.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Recycling is an area where all local authorities need to keep improving. Minimising expensive landfill is desirable for local authorities financially and for the environment. Therefore, it is in the public interest.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>See above</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Stockton Councils current recycling performance of percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting is 24.3% (2020/21 data).</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>The 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy for England has highlighted a number of potential changes which are currently being consulted on with an indicative implementation date of 2023-2025. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste Collection Authorities to provide a separate food waste collection to household properties at least once a week. ○ Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) introduction - A system where you pay an upfront deposit on plastic drinks bottles; you must return the container to redeem the deposit. ○ Extended Producer Responsibility – A system where producers pay for the full costs of dealing with the waste they produce ○ Green Waste Collections – A review of whether LA's should be charging for separate collection services. <p>The above changes have the potential to have large-scale effects on LA waste collection models and waste composition. A key priority will be to understand the finer detail of the final proposals and the associated operational and financial impact that these changes will have.</p>

A review of waste and recycling was undertaken by the Place Select Committee in 2016.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Making the Borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive.

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

To learn from the countless examples across the country for what methods may exist that Stockton wishes to replicate.

Signed: Cllr Stefan Houghton

Date: 7 February 2022

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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?

Park and Ride – Event Delivery

The Council’s Events Service have trialled a limited number of Park and Ride schemes in connection with its Event delivery, using a combination of commercial coach operators and extending regular bus services via Stagecoach and Arriva. Events include, Halloween Spooky Walk at Preston Hall and the Fireworks Display on Stockton Riverside, both of which have received high take up from visitors using the service.

Not all events warrant or need a designated Park and Ride scheme, however on large scale events and events situated in residential areas, Health and Safety arrangements can be strengthened with the introduction of park and ride arrangements. Park and Rides helps disperse large visitor numbers away from an event site in a controlled manner /reducing traffic congestion and risk of pedestrian/vehicle conflict. Also, where events occupy the highway, these arrangements can help reduce the number of cars accessing a location and using diversionary routes.

It should be noted that Park and Ride schemes can significantly increase the technical costs associated with an event. Budget impact needs to be carefully considered against the benefits that a Park and Ride scheme can deliver e.g. environmental, health and safety.

To be effective, Park and Ride schemes need to be combined with efforts to deter people from coming to the event in private cars. These restrictions can be unpopular.

We want to explore, with both commercial and bus operators, the feasibility of extending Park and Ride arrangements across the Council’s Events programme, including SIRF, Fire Engine and Vehicle Vintage Rally and for Yarm Fair events.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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

Public interest justification:

Continue to raise awareness and promote Environmental/Green agenda across all services/activities

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

- Positive environmental impact due to a reduction in the number of individual car journeys to access Council Events
- Affordable transport for families and residents to access events
- Reduce the impact on inconsiderate parking/traffic congestion where events take place near residential street e.g. Preston Park / Yarm

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

- Links to the Council Plan priority of Making the Borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive and Making the Borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed
- Supports Event Service Improvement Plans to reduce environmental impact/waste for Festivals and Events
- Contributes to ACE Investment Principles including Equality and Diversity, Environmental Responsibility
- Assist in reducing CO2 emissions especially from road transport by supporting the transition from petrol / diesel vehicles to electric vehicles, encouraging and supporting the use of sustainable forms of transport.
- Assist the recovery from the Covid pandemic.
- Form effective partnerships (with bus operators).

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

Stockton's Independent Safety Advisory Group has requested a Task and Finish Review of the Traffic Management arrangements at Yarm Fair which continues to be challenging. This will include options for a Park and Ride Scheme, to help reduce the amount of traffic coming to the event site/Yarm High Street and using the diversionary routes

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Council Plan objectives

Making the Borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive.

Making the Borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed

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

- Oversight of the issue
- Review of our response
- Recommendations for future action

Signed: People Select Committee

Date: 18 February 2022

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

<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>School Governance</p> <p>School governance – current picture, the role of Governors in different forms of school leadership, the role of the Council’s service, and the opportunities for further activity.</p> <p>Proposed task and finish group.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p align="center">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>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Increasingly diverse models of school governance especially through Multi Academy Trusts. Role of governors has changed, and there is less direct LA involvement. Schools can sometimes struggle to attract and retain governors.</p> <p>The Council’s own service supports schools and is paid for by them. There are opportunities to grow and develop this service to expand both its role and remit and its geographical coverage to support good governance in more schools.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Contributes to the efficiency and effective running of schools and in turn to educational outcomes</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Exploring the possibility to grow the Council’s service to support more schools outside the Borough to generate additional income.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>No recent or related activity in this area.</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>Contributes to the ‘thriving economy’ priority – and the focus on education and skills development – strong effective schools with good governance arrangements are more likely to result in positive educational outcomes for children and young people.</p>

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

- Increased understanding of school governance models
- Increasing the number of Cllrs as Governors
- Improving the diversity of recruitment of governors to better reflect the diversity of Stockton communities.
- Development of a clear business plan for the SGSS

Signed: Cllr Lisa Evans

Date: 13/02/22

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