

People Select Committee

A meeting of the People Select Committee was held on Monday, 26 October, 2020.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Vice Chair), Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Barry Woodhouse, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

Officers: Julie Auffret, Joanne Dolan, (FD&BS) James Burrell, (HR, L&C), Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Sarah Whaley (MD).

Also in attendance: Gareth Aungiers (Xentrall).

Apologies: Margie Stewart-Piercy

1	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.
2	Minutes Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 28 September 2020. AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
3	Scrutiny Review of Local Council Tax Support Scheme Members received a report from officers on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme. The main issues were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The report covered the options for reviewing the LCTS scheme considering the ongoing pandemic and the risks associated with forecasting, developing and consulting on scheme changes.• The report recommended that given the uncertainty around the numbers of claimants and financial costs caused by the impact of Coronavirus, no changes are made for the 2021/22 financial year.• The significant increase in Universal Credit claimants has also increased the number of residents who applied for local council tax support.• Housing benefit calculations have been amended to accommodate the additional £20 available to Universal Credit claimants so that claimants have not lost this additional income.• Stockton Borough Council received a £2.4 million hardship fund from the government at the beginning of the financial year to assist those who have been affected by Covid-19. AGREED that the report be approved and the Scrutiny Review of Local Council Tax Support Scheme be paused.
6	Work Programme Consideration was given to Work Programme. An informal meeting would take place following the closure of the formal meeting on 26 October 2020. The Select Committee would receive the summary of evidence of the Scrutiny Review of Public Consultation and would compose draft recommendations.

	<p>The next formal meeting of the People Select Committee would take place on 23 November 2020.</p> <p>AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.</p>
7	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>The Chair had nothing to update.</p>