

# People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 24th May, 2021.

**Present:** Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Vice Chair), Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Norma Stephenson (sub for Cllr Barry Woodhouse).

**Officers:** Jane Webb (HR, L&C); Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Abbie Wild (MD).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Barry Woodhouse, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley.

## **PEO 40/20**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **PEO 41/20**      **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 26 April 2021.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **PEO 42/20**      **Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough**

Members were provided with a background presentation from the review's link officer, setting out the parameters of the review.

Members thanked officers for their work on the review.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Strategic Corporate Objectives
- Main issues and overall aim of this review
- Key lines of enquiry
- Dates and milestones
- Information & Evidence
- Suggestions

The key issues were highlighted as follows:

- Members discussed the difficulties that some residents faced travelling on pavements in wheelchairs due to a lack of dropped kerbs in some areas. On occasion, residents had asked Members if dropped kerbs could be purchased through the Community Participation Budget (CPB). Members questioned if a mapping exercise of dropped kerbs could be conducted as part of this review.
- Members questioned what had happened to the Ayresome Industries building, a school for the blind in Middlesbrough, and what had replaced this service. Officers agreed to provide Members with an answer to this query.
- Members questioned if the outcomes of a previous study, based on the use of pictorial messages to assist people with learning difficulties, had been implemented. Officers agreed to provide Members with an answer to this query.
- A range of projects, such as making the Stockton-on-Tees Borough

Council (SBC) website more accessible, were underway across the Council. It was hoped that this review would allow for these projects to be joined, providing a gateway to specialist support.

- Members asked if registered providers of social housing could be encouraged to make housing more 'user-friendly'. For example, through the widening of doors and paths.
- Members questioned if it was possible to work in partnership with other councils with a similar demographic to Stockton-on-Tees. Officers responded that the regional forums allowed for a sharing of best practice and this review would provide an opportunity for SBC to conduct research on other councils or areas with a similar demographic.

AGREED that:

- the draft Scope and Project Plan be approved.

**PEO  
43/20**      **Work Programme 2021-22**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

The next meeting of the People Select Committee would take place on 28 June 2021.

Members were informed that the draft final report of the Scrutiny Review of Carbon Monoxide Awareness would be presented to the Committee in June 2021.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PEO  
44/20**      **Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing to update.