

Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Outline Scope

Presentation for People Select Committee
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Strategic Corporate Objectives

The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2020-23 themes and objectives:

A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm

People live in cohesive and safe communities
People are supported and protected from harm
People live healthy lives

A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed

A growing economy
Job creation and increased employment
Improved education and skills development

The vision for the borough set out in the council plan is that Stockton-on-Tees will be 'a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm' and 'a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed'. This review will explore how Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council can contribute to a more disability inclusive borough.

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Main issues and overall aim of this review

Disabled people have been one of the most disproportionately affected groups by Covid-19 and going forward, it is important they are no longer marginalised and have equal opportunities to participate in the social, cultural, and economic activities within the borough.

In the UK, approximately 1 in 5 people have a disability. If disabled people faced less barriers, the social and economic well-being of the area is likely to improve.

Potential outcomes from this review could include better engagement with disability groups to understand barriers disabled people face going forward and a process for the council to consider and implement recommendations from these groups. Where relevant, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council could also champion disability inclusion in its partnership work with its public, private and voluntary sector stakeholders.

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Key lines of Enquiry

Do the council communicate with and implement recommendations from disability groups and how can this be improved?

How can the council improve services for those with hidden disabilities?

How can the council go beyond statutory minimum standards and beyond providing wheelchair access?

Are there any quick wins the council can implement to support a more disability inclusive borough?

What have other local authorities done to improve disability inclusion?

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Dates and milestones

8 months: (reporting to Cabinet in January 2022)

Approve scope and project plan – 24 May 2021

Receive evidence – June – September 2021

Draft recommendations – October 2021

Final report – November 2021

Report to Cabinet – January 2022

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Information & Evidence

Information

- Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.)
- Council Plan 2020-23, background information, existing reports.

Evidence

- Council Officers; Context setting. Information on existing policies, forums, and engagement with disabled people across the borough. Is there anything we can improve upon?
- Representatives from another Council; What is their approach to disability inclusivity? Is there anything we can learn?
- Teesside and District Society for the Blind; What is their approach to disability inclusivity? Is there anything we can learn?
- Bright Mind Big Futures (BMBF); How does disability inclusion form part of the activities and ethos of BMBF?

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Suggestions...

- Have we missed anything?
- Any suggestions on anyone further we should speak to/consult with?
- Any Questions?

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