

## People Select Committee

A meeting of the People Select Committee was held on Monday, 24 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:**

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest.
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  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.
<b>3</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough</b>  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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategic Corporate Objectives</li><li>• Main issues and overall aim of this review</li><li>• Key lines of enquiry</li><li>• Dates and milestones</li><li>• Information &amp; Evidence</li><li>• Suggestions</li></ul> The key issues were highlighted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• Members questioned what had happened to the Ayresome Industries building, a school for the blind in Middlesbrough, and what had replaced</li></ul>

	<p>this service. Officers agreed to provide Members with an answer to this query.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>AGREED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the draft Scope and Project Plan be approved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Work Programme</b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Work Programme.</p> <p>The next meeting of the People Select Committee would take place on 28 June 2021.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Chair’s Update</b></p> <p>The Chair had nothing to update.</p>