

People Select Committee

A meeting of the People Select Committee was held on Monday, 28 June 2021.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Vice-Chair), Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Lee Spence, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Tony Riordan (sub for Cllr John Gardner), Cllr Louise Baldock.

Officers: John Angus (CS&T); Ray Sullivan (FD&BS); 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.

1	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.
2	Minutes Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 25 May 2021. AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
3	Scrutiny Review of Carbon Monoxide Awareness Members were presented with the draft final report of the Scrutiny Review of Carbon Monoxide Awareness. The key issues were highlighted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members requested that specific reference to 'Stockton News' be made in recommendation 2.• Members requested that 'public buildings, such as Community Halls' be added to recommendation 1.• Members requested that the promotion of body worn 'mini-detectors' to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) employees who regularly enter other people's homes/dwellings, such as registered carers, be included in the recommendations.• Members highlighted that work with schools on raising awareness had not been included in the review and requested that this be included in the recommendations. AGREED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The final report be approved, subject to the above amendments.
4	Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

Members were provided with a presentation from the review's link officer. Officers from Community Services and Transport and Finance, Development and Business Services were also present to respond to Member's questions from the previous meeting.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Progress to date – Evidence Gathering
- Progress to date – Next Steps
- Questions & Answers from Session 1
- Planning ahead – Future Evidence Sessions (TBC)
- Suggestions & Questions

The key issues were highlighted as follows:

- Members questioned if the installation of dropped kerbs could be coordinated in a more systematic manner to reduce waiting lists. Officers responded that, in most cases, residents' needs determined when dropped kerbs were installed. In the past, a small budget was allocated for dropped kerbs and a scoring matrix determined the areas where dropped kerbs were prioritised. At present, if a full footway resurfacing was carried out, the installation of dropped kerbs were included in this process.
- The Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget could be used to fund dropped kerbs in wards if there was a need.
- Parking over a dropped kerb was classed as an obstruction to the highway and could be reported to civic enforcement.
- SBC officers adhered to government guidance entitled the 'Inclusive Mobility Document'.
- Most incidents, such as wheelchairs tipping, occurred in areas with older dropped kerbs. Officers were monitoring and addressing issues with driveway crossings, particularly where residents with mobility issues had been trapped in streets.
- Members highlighted that incorrect installation of dropped kerbs could result in localised flooding. Officers responded that they were mindful of the locations of dropped kerbs to prevent this issue from occurring.
- Issues surrounding 'Teesside design' kerbs were discussed.
- Dropped kerb levels varied across the borough due to the period when properties were built, and the levels set at that time.
- Members questioned if the approval of a housing development on Yarm Back Lane had been subject to building regulations as outlined in the presentation. Officers responded that planning conditions were dictated by the Local Plan, which stated that under current building regulations, 50% were required to be Category 2 dwellings and 8% were required to be Category 3 dwellings. However, a private firm could be contracted to oversee building regulations rather than the Local Authority.
- Members thanked officers for following up enquiries from the previous session.
- Members commented that on newer housing developments the size of plots and the proximity to other properties were smaller than in older developments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members highlighted that, as part of a previous review, a ‘Blind People’s Voice’ guided walk along Stockton High Street was conducted. This allowed Members to identify obstructions for those who were visually impaired. Members requested if this exercise could be repeated as part of this review. Officers responded that a representative from Teesside & District Society for the Blind/ Guide Dogs for the Blind was due to attend a future evidence session and a repeat of this exercise could be discussed. • Members questioned if officers were reaching out to care homes or organisations, such as those who support people with dementia, to understand the challenges these groups faced, as part of this review. Officers responded that officers were collating evidence on the various organisations SBC worked with and the challenges individuals and groups faced. This information would be presented at a future evidence session. <p>AGREED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence be noted.
<p>5</p>	<p>Work Programme</p> <p>Consideration was given to the Work Programme.</p> <p>The next meeting of the People Select Committee would take place on 26 July 2021.</p> <p>AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Chair’s Update</p> <p>The Chair had nothing to update.</p>