

People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 10th January, 2022.

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

Officers: Margie Stewart-Piercy (HRL&C), Antony Phillips (FD&B), Judy Trainer, Abbie Wild (MD).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

PEO 26/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO 27/21 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 29 November 2021.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair with the amendment of Cllr John Gardner added to the apologies.

PEO 28/21 **Monitoring: SWiS: Accommodation and Buildings (T&F)**

The Select Committee considered a presentation on developments following the Select Committee review of SWiS: Accommodation and Buildings (T&F).

The key issues highlighted were as follows:

- Members asked if the flexible working pilot was unsuccessful would there be enough provision for all staff to work together in the new Dunedin House office space. Officers stated that, based on occupancy levels prior to COVID, all staff could be accommodated, if necessary, across the two proposed buildings. The new buildings would also offer increased flexibility within the office space reflecting new ways of working
- Members asked about the number of Council buildings that would be surplus to requirements as part of the accommodation review. Members were informed that there were ten satellite offices in total, however many of these offices were shared with other organisations such as the NHS who were also reviewing their own accommodation requirements. There would be several re-investment and re-generation options for these buildings as part of the disposal strategy
- Members were informed that the customer contact centre for the town centre was being considered in conjunction with the waterside development and library
- Members questioned the suitability of the Town Hall for a modern Council Chamber and suggested that this might be better located in the new headquarters building, with the Town Hall re-purposed as a Heritage building, linked with Preston Hall

- Members highlighted the need for air conditioning for the new headquarters at Dunedin House
- Members supported plans to maintain Council offices at Billingham

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

**PEO
29/21** **Scrutiny Review of Tees Credit Union**

Consideration was given to the Scope and Project Plan of the Scrutiny Review of Tees Credit Union.

Members were given a background presentation from the link officer outlining:

- How Tees Credit Union links and supports the Council Plan 2021-2024
- Setting the scene and an overview of Tees Credit Union
- Key lines of enquiry and scope of the review

The key issues highlighted were as follows:

- Members commented that Tees Credit Union as a name could be misleading and did not properly reflect its purpose
- Members commented on the need for better promotion of Tees Credit Union. Officers informed members that posts were shared on KYIT and on social media, but better publicity was one of the themes that would be explored as part of the review
- Members requested information as part of the review on the rate of interest on loans and savings

AGREED that the scope and project plan of the review be approved subject to the inclusion of the issues set out above.

**PEO
30/21** **Chair's Update and Work Programme**

Members were informed that an additional, remote evidence gathering session would be held on 24 January 2022.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.