

People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 12th September, 2022.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lynn Hall (sub for Cllr John Gardner), Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Neil Mitchell, Stephen Shaw (CSE & C), Julie Marsden, Gary Knight (FD&R), Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Gary Woods, Rachel Harrison (CS).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Lee Spence

PEO 13/22 **Evacuation Procedure**

Prior to the start of a meeting members held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

PEO 14/22 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the People Select Committee meeting which was held on the 11 July 2022 for approval and signature.

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AGREED That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO 15/22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO 16/22 **Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future**

The Select Committee received a presentation from Neil Mitchell and Gary Knight on Strategy, Energy Efficiency Schemes, Requirements for Private Sector Landlords & Registered Social Landlords and how this linked with the Select Committee review.

The presentation covered:

- Strategy
- Debunking the terminology
- Context
- Why is energy efficiency important?
- What has been delivered?
- What is currently available?
- What is on the horizon
- Requirements for Private Landlords

- Requirements for Registered Social Landlords
- Challenges

Committee comments and questions were recorded as follows:

- Members questioned why double glazing as insulation was not explicitly stated within the presentation. Officers responded that double glazing was included throughout the presentation as part of the bigger picture and through the fabric first approach which considered the building fabric itself which included windows.
- Members commented that they had heard of some criticism surrounding heat pumps as an alternative to gas boilers. Officers responded that heat source pumps worked differently to gas boilers as they kept the house at a constant temperature.
- Discussions were held around companies cold calling residents for a window and doors check with officers commenting that those companies should not be used.
- Members questioned what Stockton on Tees Borough Council as an authority was doing to become more energy efficient and to save costs. Officers responded that due to the Council reducing the number of administration buildings that would have a significant impact. The Council was also working with the Citizens Advice Bureau through the Warmth Partnership to help residents claim all the benefits they were eligible for.
- Discussions were held around the number of fuel poor households rising with the problem needing to be addressed nationally.
- Members queried why when new houses were built solar panels were not added to them as the standard. Officers responded builders claimed they could not afford to include solar panels as the standard.
- Members suggested, and agreed, that one of the review's recommendations should be that correspondence be sent to the relevant government minister to urge that legislation is passed regarding delivering increased energy efficiency/ energy production standards on new housing.
- Discussions were held around housebuilding and insulation with more work needing to be done around insulation standards for homes to be energy efficient.
- Members questioned if there were any new funding opportunities and if different departments working collaboratively to look for funding opportunities. Officers responded that currently there were no funding opportunities and different departments and outside agencies worked collaboratively together to look for new funding.

AGREED that the evidence be noted.

PEO Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme
17/22

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.