

People Select Committee

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

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell (Vice-Chair), Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Steve Matthews (sub for Cllr John Gardner), Cllr Lee Spence, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Neil Mitchell (CSE & C), Chris Renahan, Julie Marsden, Margie Stewart-Piercy (FD&R), Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Rachel Harrison (CS)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley

PEO Evacuation Procedure

18/22

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

PEO Declarations of Interest

19/22

There were no declarations of interest

PEO Minutes

20/22

Consideration was given to the minutes of the People Select Committee meeting which was held on the 12 September 2022 for approval and signature.

AGREED That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Tees Credit Union

21/22

The Select Committee received the action plan following approval of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Tees Credit Union.

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- Members commented that they had heard about the success of joint working between a credit union and Citizens Advice in Wales. With publicity playing a key part of the success. Officers responded that representatives from both The Tees Credit Union and Stockton Citizens Advice Bureau attended a meeting the previous week to discuss the action plan and how they could work together in the future.
- Members queried if figures could be provided to identify if, because of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's promotion of the Tees Credit Union, more staff had set up a payroll savings account.

AGREED That the Action Plan be approved.

PEO Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future

The Select Committee received a presentation from Chris Renahan and Julie Marsden on Green Jobs for the Future and how this linked with the Select Committee review.

The presentation covered:

- Green jobs definition
- Tees Valley Investments Net Zero Ambitions
- Case Studies
- Tees Valley Priority Sectors and Green Opportunities
- Stockton-on-Tees Low Carbon Jobs in the Future
- Industry Projections
- Top Roles and Companies Recruiting
- Current Programmes and Emerging Industries with common training requirements
- Teesworks Skills Academy
- Employment and Training Hub Partners and Events

Committee comments and questions were recorded as follows:

- Members queried why the majority of green jobs were based in Redcar and hoped that in the future additional green jobs would be available in Stockton-on-Tees. Officers responded Protium was to be located on Wilton Universal site, not the Wilton International site, which was closer to Stockton-on-Tees.
- Members questioned where the green jobs training would take place. Officers responded that the training would take place from the Employment and Training Hub based in Wellington Square with the possibility of outreach locations if a need was identified.
- Queries were raised concerning the different types of hydrogen. Officers responded there were three main types of hydrogen. Green hydrogen was made by using a process called electrolysis to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, grey hydrogen was created from fossil fuels with the process releasing carbon dioxide, which was not captured, and blue hydrogen was also created from fossil fuels with the carbon dioxide being captured and stored.
- Members commented that hydrogen as a fuel source had been around for a long time and recalled discussions on Stockton-on-Tees getting hydrogen buses, but due to Stockton-on-Tees not having the infrastructure in place to cope with hydrogen vehicles the idea could not be implemented. Officers responded that hydrogen was a good transition fuel to help get to net zero and the timescales around hydrogen as a fuel source was shortening.
- Members asked when did officers think the first major collection of green jobs would come into the area. Officers answered that Protium had secured a location on Wilton Universal Group's site which was expected to be open by 2026 jobs would be created during the construction and there would be sustained employment once it opened.
- Members highlighted that a high percentage of the area's green jobs would require a degree and questioned if there would be a way to upskill residents and

entice them to stay in the area after their training was completed. Officers responded that in discussions with companies Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council would try to encourage them to take on less qualified employees and train them up.

- Members questioned if there was a reason why there was no interest in the local area to build a Nuclear Power Plant. Officers answered Nuclear power did not feature in the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Members asked for clarification surrounding how heat pumps worked. Officers responded that heat source pumps worked differently to gas boilers as they kept the house at a constant temperature and heat pumps was gradually reducing in line with prices of gas boilers.

AGREED that the evidence be noted.

**PEO
23/22** **Work Programme 2022-2023**

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PEO
24/22** **Chair's Update**

The Chair had no further updates.