

## Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 16th November, 2020.

**Present:** Cllrs Chris Barlow (Chair), Louise Baldock (Vice Chair), Pauline Beall, Luke Frost, Hilary Vickers, Alan Watson, Bill Woodhead MBE.

**Officers:** Garry Cummings, Jane Edmends, Chris Renahan (FD&BS); Dale Rowbotham, Ally Buckton (CS&T); Peter Bell, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Gary Woods (MD).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Bob Cook; Gareth Aungiers (Xentrall); Kay Glew, David Ripley (Thirteen).

**Apologies:** Cllr Mohammed Javed

### **PLA      Declarations of Interest**

**16/20**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PLA      Minutes**

**17/20**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 21 September 2020.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **PLA      Scrutiny Review of Business Support and Engagement**

**18/20**

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations.

The key issues were highlighted as follows:

- Members thanked officers for producing a comprehensive report.
- The impact of Covid 19 on the Business Support and Engagement team, and the structural changes within the team, were acknowledged. The timing of the scrutiny review process allowed Members to formulate recommendations on these issues.
- Members were informed that three new members of the Business Support and Engagement team commenced their employment last week.

AGREED that the final report be approved for submission to Cabinet.

### **PLA      Monitoring: Progress Update – Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group**

**19/20**

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group.

- The decanting of tenants from Anson House and Hudson House, Thornaby, was almost complete.
- The future developments of Anson House and Hudson House were in the

planning stages.

- 6,518 customers were live on the My Thirteen platform as of November 2020.
- The application processes on the Compass and My Thirteen platforms were explained.
- SBC and Thirteen staff have been working hard to support residents during the interim period before a new online platform was launched. Streamlined communication between SBC and Thirteen has eliminated the need for residents to duplicate their enquiries.
- The level of verification would remain the same for the new online platform, Tees Valley Lettings Partnership.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed
- 2) a further progress update will be provided to the Committee within 3-6 months.

**PLA 20/20 Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision**

Consideration was given to the Scope and Project Plan of the Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision.

The key lines of enquiry that would be covered by the review included:

- What are the current levels of provision (including the interment of cremated remains) in each cemetery across the Borough? (Mapping provision)
- What impact has the Covid-19 pandemic had on burial provision and forecasting?
- What are the impacts of the opening of the Stockton Crematorium on burial provision?
- How will SBC ensure there are local provisions for all residents, including faith communities/communities of interest, across the Borough up to 2050?
- What opportunities are there to expand provision in existing/open SBC cemeteries?
- Do new burial sites need to be identified? If so, in which areas of the Borough should additional provision be prioritised? Should any new provision be provided in sections in accordance with the Durham Road Cemetery extension pilot?
- What are the estimated costs of the identified options?

AGREED that:

- 1) The draft scope and project plan of the review be approved.

**PLA 21/20 Place Select Committee Work Programme 2020-21**

Consideration was given to Work Programme.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PLA  
22/20**

**Chair's Update**

The Chair had no further update.

The Vice-Chair updated the Committee on the progress of the Scrutiny Review of Planters in Residential Streets (Task and Finish). A meeting would be held on 17 November 2020. The summary of evidence, key findings, and draft recommendations would be discussed at this meeting. The final tri-partite meeting would be held on 30 November 2020.

AGREED that the Chair's Update be noted.