

## Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 15th February, 2021.

**Present:** Cllrs Chris Barlow (Chair), Louise Baldock (Vice Chair), Carol Clark (sub for Pauline Beall), Luke Frost, Mohammed Javed, Maurice Perry, Hilary Vickers, Alan Watson, Bill Woodhead MBE, Andrew Sherris, Ross Patterson.

**Officers:** Ally Buckton, Andrew Corcoran, Jamie McCann, Dale Rowbotham, Craig Willows (CS&T); Richard McGuckin (TCD); Julie Marsden, Antony Phillips, Chris Renahan (FD&BS); Peter Bell, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (MD).

**Also in attendance:** Gareth Aungiers (Xentrall).

**Apologies:** Cllrs Pauline, Beall, Nigel Cooke, Clare Gamble, Mike Smith.

### **PLA 34/20**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PLA 35/20**      **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 11 January 2021.

Cllr Sherris requested that the following words in italics:

Members highlighted that a planning application by Yarm Town Council for additional burial land had been submitted and rejected on a number of occasions over a period of several years.

be replaced by the following words: 'Yarm Town Council approached a landowner in the past regarding additional burial land and had not received a response to their query.'

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the above amendment.

### **PLA 36/20**      **Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Business Support and Engagement Action Plan (to follow)**

Members were presented with the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Business Support and Engagement would be implemented and target dates for completion.

Members thanked officers for their work and were pleased that many of the issues raised during the scrutiny process had been included in the recommendations and action plan.

Members were informed that the 'Made in Stockton' brand was still important and a 'Made in Stockton' article featured in every edition of Stockton News. The latest achievement under the 'Made in Stockton' brand was the production of a

Covid-19 vaccine in Billingham.

Officers welcomed information from Members around their own research into the future of high streets through co-operative models.

The Business Support and Engagement team would always welcome start-up businesses and had tried to make access to funding as flexible as possible. Start-ups would always be provided with as much support as possible and directed to sources of further funding.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Action Plan be approved.
- 2) information on the new Chair of Stockton Women's Business Forum be provided to the Committee.
- 3) a progress update will be provided to the Committee in approximately 12 months.

**PLA  
37/20**

### **Overview Reports 2021**

Members were presented with overview reports from the Town Centres Development and Community Services and Transport directorates.

The Town Centres Development report reflected on the challenges and opportunities and the priorities for the year ahead.

The main issues were as follows:

- Heritage Lottery funding provided through the Townscape Heritage Project would assist business owners with costs to maintain the facades of buildings on Stockton high street.
- Several individuals had expressed an interest in opening a business in the northern end of Stockton Town Centre following the refurbishment of the Globe Theatre. It was noted that the upcoming Paloma Faith concert at the Globe was the fastest selling date of that tour.
- Members queried what was planned for the current Stockton Central Library building under the new Town Centre plans. Members were informed that any options for the current site of the Municipal Buildings and Stockton Central Library and Customer Services buildings would be considered once the new office accommodation building at the south end of the high street had been constructed.
- A planning strategy was in place to accommodate visitors to the Globe.
- Members questioned how the required capital would be sourced despite the shortfall in funding from the Government. Members were informed that the Medium-Term Financial Plan outlined the proposals to make up the shortfall and that this would be submitted to Cabinet for approval in February 2021.
- Members questioned if there were any plans for the Debenhams building. Members were informed that there was a complex ownership structure. SBC owned the rear of the building in the vicinity of Wellington Square, but the front of the building was owned by a company that was in administration.
- Investment opportunities in all the Town Centres continued to be

marketed.

The Community Services and Transport report reflected on the challenges and opportunities and the priorities for the year ahead in relation to the following themes:

- Catering and Cleaning
- Community Services (Care for Your Area)
- Construction & Facility Services
- Highways Transport and Design Services

The main issues were as follows:

- The Community Services team were still awaiting a decision from the Government on waste strategy requirements and funding before they could make any final decisions.
- The Catering team were always happy to engage with schools to determine how they could improve on each school's current offer. SBC provided high quality food that met with industry standards.

AGREED that:

- 1) the information be noted.

**PLA  
38/20**      **Work Programme 2020-21**

Consideration was given to Work Programme.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 15 March 2021.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PLA  
39/20**      **Chair's Update**

The Chair had no further update.

AGREED that the Chair's Update be noted.

**PLA  
40/20**      **Exclusion of the Public**

Members agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act. For information for the public, paragraph 3 related to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information.

**PLA  
41/20**      **Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision**

Members considered exempt information with regards to the Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision.