

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 23 January 2023.

Present: Cllr Chris Barlow (Chair), Cllr Mohammed Javed (Vice-Chair), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

Officers: Fallon Dunleavy, Simon Grundy, Julie Marsden (FD&R); Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (CS)

Also in attendance: Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing)

Apologies: Cllr Luke Frost

1 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2022

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Monitoring the impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations – Progress report for the previously completed Business Support and Engagement review

The Select Committee considered a progress update including assessments of progress following implementation of the recommendations from the Business Support and Engagement review. The overall aim of the review had been to examine the Council's overall business support / engagement role, how this was utilised and viewed externally, and whether the necessary resources were in place to satisfy existing and future demand. This was the second time the update had been presented to the Committee. There were three outstanding recommendations.

The Committee was pleased with the progress that had been made with the outstanding actions.

The 'Invest in Stockton-on-Tees' website was highlighted as a useful resource.

The Committee requested the following:

- That the names of Council Officers referred to in the update were removed and replaced with Officers' job titles instead.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Progress Update be noted, and the assessments of progress be confirmed.
- 2) the Action Plan in relation to the recommendations from the previously completed

Scrutiny Review of Business Support and Engagement review be signed-off as fully achieved (no further updates required).

5 Scrutiny Review of Planning (Development Management) & Adoption of Open Space

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations.

The link officer provided an overview of the review's aims, key findings, and recommendations.

The Chair of the Committee commended the planning service.

The Committee highlighted that the site visits had been valuable and requested that this was included in the scrutiny end of term report.

The Committee requested that:

- A reference to the Scrutiny Review of Tree Asset Management, which had been undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Select Committee, was included in the key findings section of the report.
- Officers checked that the public link to *Maps@Stockton* was accessible and provided the necessary information.
- A deadline of around nine months was set for the completion of recommendation 4 – the addition of information on those responsible for the maintenance of open space to *Maps@Stockton*. An additional database of information in the format of a word document was also requested.
- That the order of recommendations was altered so that recommendations 3 and 5 were exchanged.

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

6 Chair's Update and Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

The next meeting would be held on 27 February 2023.

The Committee requested that a further update on land acquisition as part of the Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision be provided by March 2023.

AGREED that the Work Programme and Chair's update be noted.