

Date: Tuesday 5 September 2023 at 10.00 am

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Church Road,
Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TU

Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair)
Cllr Ross Patterson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Pauline Beall
Cllr Carol Clark
Cllr Lynn Hall
Cllr Sufi Mubeen
Cllr Marilyn Surtees

Cllr Marc Besford
Cllr Richard Eglington
Cllr Niall Innes
Cllr Tony Riordan
Cllr Laura Tunney

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Evacuation Procedure | (Pages 7 - 8) |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4 | Minutes | |
| | To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 July 2023 | (Pages 9 - 10) |
| 5 | Medium Term Financial Plan - Draft Outturn March 2023 | (Pages 11 - 20) |
| 6 | Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 - Update | (Pages 21 - 32) |
| 7 | Forward Plan of Key Decisions | (Pages 33 - 34) |
| 8 | Chair's updates | (Pages 35 - 48) |
| 9 | Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 | (Pages 49 - 50) |

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Democratic Services Manager, Judy Trainer on email Judy.Trainer@stockton.gov.uk

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library **Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping**

If the fire or bomb alarm should sound please exit by the nearest emergency exit. The Fire alarm is a continuous ring and the Bomb alarm is the same as the fire alarm however it is an intermittent ring.

If the Fire Alarm rings exit through the nearest available emergency exit and form up in Municipal Buildings Car Park.

The assembly point for everyone if the Bomb alarm is sounded is the car park at the rear of Splash on Church Road.

The emergency exits are located via the doors between the 2 projector screens. The key coded emergency exit door will automatically disengage when the alarm sounds.

The Toilets are located on the Ground floor corridor of Municipal Buildings next to the emergency exit. Both the ladies and gents toilets are located on the right hand side.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when directed to speak by the Chair, to ensure you are heard by the Committee.

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EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 4 July 2023.

Present: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Ross Patterson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Lynn Hall (sub for Cllr Tony Riordan), Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Vanessa Sewell, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Alan Watson and Cllr Sally Ann Watson.

Officers: Garry Cummings, Ian Coxon (FD&R), Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson and Rachel Harrison (CS).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Tony Riordan.

ESC/1/23 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

ESC/2/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ESC/3/23 Minutes

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ESC/4/23 Council Plan 2022/25 Update

The Select Committee received an update on the priorities included in the Council Plan 2022/25.

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- Under the Our People theme, Members asked for details of Delta Academies Trust's performance on school exclusions
- Under the Our Economy theme, Members welcomed proposals on the forthcoming Cabinet meeting for a new Business Park in the Borough
- Under the Our Places theme, Members asked for information about the performance of the programme of road and pavement maintenance repairs and how money was allocated across the Borough. It was agreed that it would be useful for a presentation to be given to all Members at a Members' Briefing Session

AGREED that the report be noted and actioned as set out above.

ESC/5/23 Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 - Selection of In-Depth Scrutiny Reviews

The Committee considered a report summarising suggestions for in-depth scrutiny reviews. Councillors and officers had been invited to submit topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2023/24.

The suggestions had been discussed by Scrutiny Liaison Forum and a draft work programme was agreed by Executive Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 28 March 2023. It was agreed that the draft work programme would be reported by to the Committee for confirmation after the May elections.

AGREED that the Work Programme for 2023/24 be confirmed.

ESC/6/23 Forward Plan

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted.

ESC/7/23 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

In response to a concern expressed by a Member in relation to the recent local elections, the Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the Returning Officer would be presenting a report to the July Cabinet meeting providing feedback on the administration of the polls. The conduct of the elections was a function of the Returning Officer not a Council function.

The Chair advised that, following the Hartburn Countermanded Poll on 22 June, revised allocations of seats to Committees would be submitted to full Council on 26 July 2023.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – DRAFT OUTTURN MARCH 2023

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the draft financial performance and position as at 31 March 2023.

Overall there is an improvement in the draft outturn 2022/23 financial position compared to that projected at December of around £200,000.

The report highlights the inflationary pressures currently being experienced by local authorities and sets out that these will be considered further in future MTFP update reports.

The Capital Programme has been updated to incorporate new schemes and reflect those schemes completed as at the financial year end.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the draft outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2023 and the updated Capital Programme be noted.

DETAIL

FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

GENERAL FUND

1. The following table sets out the draft financial position for each Directorate at 31 March 2023. The reasons for any significant variances from those previously reported are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Directorate	Annual Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(Under)	Forecast Variance at Q3 Over/(Under)	Movement from Q3
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults & Health	81,294	78,705	(2,589)	(2,593)	4
Children's Services	44,682	51,593	6,911	6,359	552
Community Services, Environment & Culture	51,564	50,964	(600)	174	(774)
Finance, Development & Regeneration	14,784	14,123	(661)	(764)	103
Corporate Services	11,790	10,898	(892)	(1,025)	133
Corporate Items	4,623	3,359	(1,264)	(1,046)	(218)
Total	208,737	209,642	905	1,105	(200)
Pay Offer Pressure		2,835	2,835	2,835	0
Revised Total	208,737	212,477	3,740	3,940	(200)
Excess General Fund Balances b/f from 2021/22			(1,413)	(1,413)	0
Revised Balance			2,327	2,527	(200)
Release earmarked reserves to balance outturn position			(2,327)	(2,527)	200

Adults and Health

2. Activity around residential services and homecare was slightly less than forecast (£300,000) which has been offset by greater investment in support for carers and one-off environmental health expenditure.

Children's Services

3. The unprecedented cost pressures relating to Children in our Care, which have been identified and reported throughout the course of the financial year, continued into the final quarter of 22/23. Growth in the demand for external residential placements and greater complexity of needs, leading to higher costs, have led to a further overspend of £530,000.
4. As detailed in previous reports, the unprecedented financial issues across the residential market are wide ranging and well publicised. In recent years the Children in our Care budget has had significant additional resources applied across the MTFP and the Children's Capital Investment Strategy for Children in our Care with additional needs, which has previously been approved by Cabinet, identified areas to target to address some of the main problem areas. This continues to be one of the greatest areas of financial challenge for the Council and this area will be one of the key focuses of the transformation programme.

Community Services, Environment & Culture

5. Overall the Directorate shows an improved position at year end. This was for a range of reasons. Savings on waste disposal costs due to reduced tonnages (£270,000), alongside a reduction in fuel prices and usage (£150,000). A mild winter and subsequent saving on winter maintenance (£70,000) and a greater saving on vacant posts (£200,000).

Finance, Development & Regeneration

6. The position has moved by £123,000 due mainly to a pressure in respect of collection of rent allowance arrears.

Corporate Services

7. The savings in relation to vacant posts was slightly less than anticipated.

Corporate Items

8. Business rates income was higher than previously anticipated.

Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block

9. There continues to be significant pressure on the High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. This relates to pressures on the provision of services for Children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. Whilst this is ring-fenced schools funding and does not affect the Council's MTFP, the deficit in Stockton was £3.87m at 31 March 2023, a reduction of £1.61m from the previous year. Statutory guidance is clear that this should be held separately and not funded from the General Fund. Through the Delivering Better Value Programme the Council are working with the Department for Education on a plan to resolve this position over the medium term.

General Fund Balances

10. The total General Fund Balances at 31 March 2023 are £8m, in line with the agreed level and as outlined in the report to Cabinet in February 2023.
11. Members will recall that the report to Cabinet in February 2023 outlined a call on earmarked reserves of £2.527m to resolve the in year budget gap. This will now be reduced by the £200k improvement.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

12. Members will recall in the Medium Term Financial Plan report to Council in February, that there were two issues outstanding relating to the 2021/22 accounts, before the Audit Completion Report could be taken to Audit and Governance Committee. These two issues were relating to the valuation of Infrastructure Assets and the audit of Teesside Pension Fund. Both of these issues have now been resolved however, a further issue has subsequently arisen relating to the triennial valuation of the Teesside Pension Fund.
13. This has generated a requirement for further audit assurance from the pension fund's auditors and they have committed to undertake the work as soon as possible which they have indicated will be in the Autumn. The backlog of local authority audits and the difficulties audit firms are facing has been well publicised and is a national issue affecting many local authorities and audit firms. Once we have received this assurance, the 2021/22 accounts will be brought back to Audit & Governance Committee for approval.

14. Due to the issues described above, there has subsequently been delays to the publication of the draft statement of accounts for 2022/23. Once completed the draft Statement of Accounts will be presented to Audit and Governance Committee and the Public Inspection Notice issued.
15. There continue to be ongoing issues of capacity within the audit sector for auditing local authority and pension fund accounts. This has been widely reported and our auditors have indicated that the timescales for when external audit can begin the audit of the Council's 22/23 accounts will be delayed until the autumn. Many local authorities are affected by the issues outlined above, causing the majority of authorities to be delayed in finalising their accounts.
16. This is an incredibly frustrating situation, as Stockton on Tees Borough Council have an unblemished track record in meeting publication and audit deadlines in relation to our Statement of Accounts. We continue to keep in regular contact with auditors and are regularly updating Audit and Governance Committee on progress.

Inflationary Pressures/MTFP

17. Inflation continues to add pressure across the council's budgets. Despite some early indications of some improvements in some areas, costs still remain at a level higher than they were before COVID. We continue to monitor costs and look at ways we can mitigate the impact upon council services. Areas of pressure include:
 - Energy Costs
 - Fuel Costs
 - Food costs
 - Costs of Vehicles
 - Construction Costs
 - Pay Award

The impacts are currently being assessed and will be included in future update reports on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

18. The employers pay award offer for 23/24 has been rejected by the trade unions. This rejected offer would create a budget pressure of £1.5m in year and across the MTFP.
19. Energy and fuel costs have started to fall compared to their recent high. Prices are forecast to fall below those previously estimated for future years. North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) purchase energy on behalf of all of the North Eastern authorities. They balance affordability and sufficiency in determining the timing and quantities of energy purchased in advance. NEPO provide regular forecasts on energy prices and we will continue to monitor this and any updates will be brought back in future MTFP reports.
20. Members will be aware from previous reports that the Council will be embarking on a Transformation Programme and this is covered in a report elsewhere on the Agenda.
21. Work is ongoing on the transformation programme to look at financial sustainability and delivery outcomes to maintain vital council services.

CAPITAL

22. The Capital Programme is summarised below and shown at **Appendix A**.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2024	Current Approved Programme £'000	Programme Revisions £'000	Revised Programme £'000	Completed Schemes 2022/23 £'000	Variances (Completed Schemes) £'000	Revised Programme £'000	New Approvals £'000	Revised Programme £'000
School Investment Programme & Childrens Services	47,084	454	47,538	(1,838)	(3)	45,698	932	46,630
Housing Regeneration Development & Growth	38,785	0	38,785	(3,161)	129	35,754	0	35,754
Town Centres	118,909	66	118,975	(449)	(3)	118,524	0	118,524
Transportation	46,603	281	46,884	(4,131)	(75)	42,678	561	43,239
Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure	13,023	778	13,801	(3,322)	78	10,558	7,185	17,743
Adults & Public Health	352	94	447	0	0	447	0	447
Total Approved Capital MTFP	264,756	1,673	266,430	(12,901)	126	253,659	8,678	262,337

23. Members will note that the programme has been updated to reflect the approvals contained within the 2023/24 Budget Report and to reflect changes to the programme resulting from the sourcing of external funding. The changes are summarised in **Appendix B**. The Programme has also been updated to reflect schemes which have completed in 2022/23.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

24. As part of the process of making changes to policy or delivery of services, we consider the impact on our communities. No changes to policy or service delivery are proposed as part of this report.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

25. None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

26. The report updates Members on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

27. There are no specific legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

28. This Medium Term Financial Plan update report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

29. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

30. None

Name of Contact Officer: Garry Cummings,
Job Title: Director of Finance, Development and Regeneration and
Deputy Chief Executive
Telephone: 01642 527011
Email Address: garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2024	Current Approved Programme	Programme Revisions	Revised Programme	Completed Schemes 2022/23	Variances (Completed Schemes)	Revised Programme	New approvals	Revised Programme	Expenditure Apr 2017 - March 2023
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES									
School Investment Programme	39,414,569	354,186	39,768,755	(1,630,851)	5,586	38,143,490	182,275	38,325,765	15,523,547
Children Investment	7,669,214	100,085	7,769,299	(206,848)	(8,183)	7,554,268	750,000	8,304,268	344,327
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES	47,083,783	454,271	47,538,054	(1,837,699)	(2,597)	45,697,757	932,275	46,630,032	15,867,874
HOUSING REGENERATION, DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH									
Housing Regeneration	1,598,330	0	1,598,330	(133,019)	0	1,465,311	0	1,465,311	133,019
Inclusive Growth & Development	7,726,642	0	7,726,642	(707,512)	(32,488)	6,986,642	0	6,986,642	1,052,257
Private Sector Housing	2,379,786	0	2,379,786	(2,320,823)	161,918	220,881	0	220,881	2,320,823
Office Accommodation	27,080,721	0	27,080,721	0	0	27,080,721	0	27,080,721	428,469
HOUSING REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH	38,785,479	0	38,785,479	(3,161,354)	129,430	35,753,555	0	35,753,555	3,934,568
TOWN CENTRES									
Stockton Town Centre Schemes	2,846,175	18,276	2,864,451	0	0	2,864,451	0	2,864,451	679,311
Reshaping Town Centres	10,807,204	0	10,807,204	(52,743)	0	10,754,461	0	10,754,461	503,184
Billingham Town Centre	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	245,956
Thornaby Town Centre	29,800,440	0	29,800,440	0	0	29,800,440	0	29,800,440	1,532,412
Re-Development of Castlegate Site	43,543,812	0	43,543,812	0	0	43,543,812	0	43,543,812	11,539,384
Yarm & Eaglescliffe LUF	20,000,000	48,000	20,048,000	0	0	20,048,000	0	20,048,000	1,220,469
Infrastructure Enhancements, Regeneration & Property Acquisitions	1,911,070	0	1,911,070	(396,099)	(2,605)	1,512,366	0	1,512,366	434,717
TOWN CENTRES	118,908,701	66,276	118,974,977	(448,842)	(2,605)	118,523,530	0	118,523,530	16,155,433
TRANSPORTATION									
Local Transport Plans/ City Regional Sustainable Transport	23,128,677	252,898	23,381,575	(3,834,002)	(61,117)	19,486,456	561,149	20,047,605	1,007,538
Other Transport Schemes	19,793,309	15,035	19,808,344	(11,039)	(19,000)	19,778,305	0	19,778,305	14,101,058
Developer Agreements	3,680,874	13,238	3,694,112	(286,189)	5,428	3,413,351	0	3,413,351	2,553,085
TRANSPORTATION	46,602,860	281,171	46,884,031	(4,131,230)	(74,689)	42,678,112	561,149	43,239,261	17,661,681

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE									
Energy Efficiency Schemes	1,289,137	(550)	1,288,587	(140,000)	(15,863)	1,132,724	0	1,132,724	1,271,078
Environment and Green Infrastructure	4,361,365	529,423	4,890,788	(102,385)	17,661	4,806,064	6,772,710	11,578,774	2,259,274
Building Management	2,603,636	0	2,603,636	(415,720)	0	2,187,916	0	2,187,916	793,736
Vehicle Replacement	4,769,173	249,237	5,018,410	(2,663,581)	76,286	2,431,115	412,323	2,843,438	2,663,581
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE	13,023,311	778,110	13,801,421	(3,321,686)	78,084	10,557,819	7,185,033	17,742,852	6,987,669
ADULTS & HEALTH									
Adults & Public Health Investment	352,177	94,451	446,628	0	0	446,628	0	446,628	45,459
ADULTS & HEALTH	352,177	94,451	446,628	0	0	446,628	0	446,628	45,459
Total Approved Capital MTFP	264,756,311	1,674,279	266,430,590	(12,900,811)	127,622	253,657,401	8,678,457	262,335,858	60,652,684

APPENDIX B

Programme Revisions 2022/23

Schools Capital

- £352,849 added in respect of Academy contributions to the Secondary Schools Adaptations works, £200,000 Ian Ramsey changing rooms and reconfiguration and £152,849 St. Michael's MUGA.

Transport

- £160,000 for flood risk works and structural maintenance has been added to the capital programme, funded from RCCO's.

Other

- £160,922 added to Disabled Adaptations funded from client contributions and RCCO.
- £306,974 added to the capital programme for works at Ropner Park and Harold Wilson play areas, funded through developer contributions.
- £222,449 has been added the Capital Programme in respect of SBC share of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Residual Municipal Waste Treatment, funded via loan from TVCA.
- £249,237 added to the Vehicle Replacement Fund for 2023/24 planned purchases, £412,323 included for 2024/25 vehicles with £2,663,581 spent in 2022/23. Vehicle purchases are funded from RCCO and receipts from sale of vehicles.

Completed Schemes 2022/23

Schools Capital

- Planned Maintenance Schemes on a range of schools have been delivered in 2022/23.
- The final contribution to Abbey Hill expansion has been paid this year.

Housing Regeneration & Inclusive Growth & Development

- Victoria Regeneration peripheral works have been delivered this year.
- Employment Hub works have completed this year.

Town Centre Schemes

- The works to the party walls at the Glam/Post Office site have been completed, following the demolition work two years ago.
- Works to install two digital screens in Stockton have completed.

Transportation

- £3,834,003 has been spent delivering schemes as part of the City Regional Sustainable Transport programme.
- A number of S278 Access works fully funded via Developer contributions completed in year.

Other schemes

- £2,311,173 has been spent on Disabled Adaptations in homes across the Borough.
- A number of planned maintenance schemes have been delivered across a range of Council Buildings.
- A number of parks and cemeteries schemes have completed in year.

- The works to install PV Panels at Cowpen Depot as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation programme completed in year.
- Children's carers extension/adaptation works costing £206,848 have been delivered in year.

New approvals 2022/23

School Capital

- Following DFE announcements in March 2023, £182,275 of Basic Need Grant from 2025/26 allocation has been added to the capital programme.

Children's Services

- £750,000 capitalised ICT costs in respect of Education Management System replacement, fully funded from Transformation Reserves has been included within the programme.

Transportation

- 2023/24 City Regional Sustainable Transport allocation £561,149 has been added to the Capital Programme for pot holes.

Other schemes

- £6,772,710 Flood Coastal Resilience Programme has been added to the programme, fully funded via Environment Agency Grant.

Agenda Item 6

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 – UPDATE

SUMMARY

The report presents an additional topic suggestion which has been received for consideration as to whether this year's scrutiny work programme should be amended and include as an in depth review. An update is also provided on the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider whether the further topic suggestion should be included in the current year's scrutiny work programme and, if so, allocate to an appropriate Select Committee.

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

1. Councillors and officers were invited to submit topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2023/24. The suggestions were prioritised and discussed by Scrutiny Liaison Forum. Comments from Scrutiny Liaison Forum were incorporated into a report which was considered by Executive Scrutiny Committee on 28 March 2023. Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed a draft work programme at their meeting on 28 March 2023 and this was reviewed and confirmed at their first meeting after the local elections on 4 July 2023.
2. The approved work programme by Select Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. A further topic suggestion has subsequently been received from Councillor Steve Nelson regarding the access to and impact of vaping. If agreed, the review would scrutinise the use of vapes by young people including its prevalence in the borough, environmental impact and the related impacts on health, education and finances. A copy of the topic suggestion pro forma is attached at **Appendix 2**. Revised scoring under the scrutiny "Pick" system (**Appendix 3**) places the topic suggestion as a high priority. The Committee are asked to consider whether this should be included in the current year's work programme and, if so, allocate to an appropriate Select Committee.
4. In addition to the above, as a result of scoping work and tri partite discussions regarding the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's next review of Safety of Staff in the Night Time Economy, it has become evident that this piece of work is unlikely to warrant a full in depth scrutiny review and a lighter touch approach may be more appropriate. Concerns about staff safety have not been raised by local business and there are limited powers to address the issue through the licensing regime. A report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee to provide context and background and provided the Select Committee receive adequate assurances at this meeting, there may be capacity in their work programme, to take on an additional review.
5. Members are reminded that Select Committees have flexible remits and there is the option to move reviews between Committees.

CONSULTATION

6. Councillors and officers were asked to propose topics for the work programme.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets. No legal implications are identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. There is a need to meet legislative requirements and for the Council to put in place internal mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of key services in addition to deploying resources in the most effective way. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of officer and Member time and resources.

Name of Contact Officer: Jonathan Nertney, Head of Democratic Services
Telephone No: 01642 526312
Email Address: jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk

Name of Contact Officer: Judy Trainer, Democratic Services Manager
Telephone No: 01642 528158
Email Address: judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers: None
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific
Property Implications: None

Appendix 1

Select Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Select Committee	Potential Topics (In order of start date)
Adult Services and Health	Access to GP and Primary Care Adult Safeguarding
Children and Young People	Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment HAF Programme
Crime and Disorder	Safety of staff in the Night Time Economy Play Area Distribution, Maintenance and Physical Accessibility
People	Cost of Living Response Disabled Facilities Grants Adult Carers' Service
Place	Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections Roadside Advertising

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Select Committee Work Programme Suggested Review – Pro Forma

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Scrutinise use of vapes by young people including its prevalence in the borough, environmental impact and the related impacts on health, education and finances.

Clarify why the Directors of Public Health in Cheshire and Merseyside and the LGA are calling for a ban, and other limitations, on disposable vapes but North East Public Health Directors and FRESH are not.

Clarify the form and function of both disposable and reusable vapes.

Clarify the current position and available evidence regarding:

- The legal position re vapes relating to age of users, sales, advertising etc
- The short, medium and long term impact on the health of young people
- The impact, if any, on education of vaping
- The prevalence of use by young people in the borough/nationally
- The financial implications of use by young people
- Any information relating to vapes leading to tobacco use
- The impact of single use vapes and their often illegal disposal on the environment e.g. their collection and disposal by CFYA and the EFW facility
- The implications for Trading Standards in enforcing legislation
- Clarify the Government's position re vapes and actions taken to date/proposed actions
- The effectiveness of disposable vaping as a tobacco quit tool for adults and the implications of a ban or other limitations e.g. flavour free compared to the implications for young people in retaining the status quo

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

There is growing concern by people about the impact of vaping particularly on the young and on the environment.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Vaping has potentially serious implications relating to health, personal finances and the environment as well as concerns regarding the anti social aspects of vaping.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

The potential impact on the health, finances and education of vaping on young people has direct implications for Council services as well as the NHS. Vape sales impact on Trading Standards. Environmental impact on the Council includes issues around disposal of disposable vapes

including the health and safety of staff and impact on Council equipment and for the EFW facility. There are also issues for Enforcement Officers in policing illegal disposal of single use vapes.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None known.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

The topic helps support the following Council priorities:

- Making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm
- Making the Borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed
- Making the Borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

Outcome

A greater more evidence based understanding of the implications of the use of vapes by young people in the borough.

Consideration as to whether the current positions taken by NE Directors of PH and FRESH are supported.

Signed:



Date: 30/7/2023

Please return to:

Judy Trainer, Scrutiny Team, Democratic Services, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1LD

Email: judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk; Tel: 01642 528158

PICK Priority Setting

P for Public Interest

Members' representative roles are an essential feature of Scrutiny. They are the eyes and ears of the public, ensuring that the policies, practice and services delivered to the people of the District, by both the Council and external organisations, are meeting local needs and to an acceptable standard. The concerns of local people should therefore influence the issues chosen for scrutiny. This could include current issues. For example, dignity is consistently cited as a high priority for service users (e.g. Mid Staffordshire Enquiry, care in Winterbourne hospital) and scrutiny committees are well placed to influence the agenda locally and drive forward better quality services). Members themselves will have a good knowledge of local issues and concerns. Surgeries, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups are all sources of resident's views. Consultation and Surveys undertaken by the Council and others can also provide a wealth of information.

I for Impact

Scrutiny is about making a difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. Not all issues of concern will have equal impact on the well-being of the community and there may be issues which are important to residents but where the Council can exert little or no influence. This should be considered when deciding the programme of work, giving priority to the big issues that have most impact and where scrutiny can tangibly influence the outcome. To maximise impact, particularly when scrutinising external activity, attention should also be given to how the committee could influence policy and practice.

C for Council Performance

Scrutiny is about improving performance and ensuring the Council's customers are served well. With the abolition of external inspection regimes, scrutiny has an even more important role to play in self-regulation. Members will need good quality information to identify areas where the Council, and other external organisations, are performing poorly. Areas where performance has dropped should be our priority. As well as driving up Council performance, scrutiny also has an important role in scrutinising the efficiency and value for money of Council services and organizational development. In the current financial climate, the challenge for scrutiny is investigating whether improvements can be made within existing resources or with less resource and identify ways that demand for services can be reduced.

K for Keep in Context

To avoid duplication or wasted effort priorities should take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered. Is there another review happening or planned? Is the service about to be inspected by an external body? Are there major legislative or policy initiatives already resulting in change? If these circumstances exist Members may decide to link up with other approaches or defer a decision until the outcomes are known or conclude that the other approaches will address the issues. Reference should also be made to proposed programmes of work in the Council's plans and strategies and whether topic suggestion is in line with the Council's four policy principles.

Council Plan

All topic suggestions should be in line with the Council Plan.

Outcome

Greater weighing will be given to those suggestions where it is clear that scrutiny will make a tangible difference, can exert influence, achieve savings and reduce pressure on demand for services.

Scoring System

- **P**ublic Interest: the concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen

Score	Measure
0	no public interest
1	low public interest
2	medium public interest
3	high public interest

- **I**mpact: priority should be given to the issues which make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area

Score	Measure
0	no direct impact
1	low impact
2	medium impact
3	high impact

- **C**ouncil Performance and efficiency: priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well or proposals will identify efficiencies/ savings and reduce pressure on demand for services.

Score	Measure
0	'Green' on or above target performance
1	'Amber',
2	low performance 'Red'

- **K**eep in Context: work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Score	Measure
0	Already dealt with/ not a Council/ public sector priority
1	Longer term aspiration or plan
2	Need for review acknowledged and worked planned elsewhere
3	Need for review acknowledged

In addition, extra weighting will be given to suggestions which are in line with the Council's priorities and where it is clear that scrutiny can achieve a positive outcome:

- **C**ouncil Plan Priority

Score	Measure
0	Not a Council Plan priority
1	Council Plan priority but worked planned elsewhere
2	Council Plan priority and need for review acknowledged

- **O**utcome

Score	Measure
1	Low value added
2	Medium value added
3	High value added

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Appendix 3

Ref No.	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Efficiency & Performance	Keep in Context	Council Plan Priority	Outcome	Total	Comments
1	Access to GP and Primary Care	3	3	1	3	2	3	15	Referred from 2022/23 programme
2	Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste	3	3	2	3	1	3	15	
3	Disabled Facilities Grants	2	3	1	3	2	3	14	
4	Access to and Impact of Vaping	3	2	2	3	2	2	14	
5	Adult Safeguarding Team	2	3	1	3	2	2	13	
6	Safety of staff in the Night Time Economy	2	2	1	3	2	3	13	
7	Cost of Living Response	3	3	0	1	2	3	12	
8	HAF Programme	3	3	0	1	2	3	12	
9	Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	2	3	1	2	2	2	12	
10	Play Area Distribution, Maintenance and Physical Activity	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	
11	Adult Carers' Service	2	2	1	2	2	2	11	
12	Roadside Advertising	1	2	2	3	1	2	11	
13	Supporting Family Placements	2	2	1	1	2	2	10	
14	Noise Control Policy	2	2	2	3	0	1	10	
15	Council Tax Empty Property and Second Home Levy	2	2	1	2	1	2	10	
16	Recruitment and Retention	1	2	2	2	1	2	10	
17	Community Assets Based Approach	2	2	1	1	2	2	10	

STATUTORY FORWARD PLAN

KEY DECISIONS
(indicated by ■)

01 AUGUST 2023 - 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Description of Matter/ Decision Required	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision-Taker (eg Cabinet or Officer or Joint Arrangement)	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes/ Comments
1] Selective Licensing of Private Rented Housing (scheme proposal)	Director of Adults and Health	Councillor Cooke - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Cabinet			■											Cabinet and Private rented tenants and landlords/managing agents with properties within the designation area (or in the proximity). Local residents and stakeholders . Local ward councillors .	Meetings and emails. Formal consultation (will be undertaken post Cabinet as per the statutory Selective Licensing requirements) – via an online survey (which will be posted out if requested). Distribution of consultation paper.	jane.edmonds@stockton.gov.uk	None.	Key Decision A CIA is required
Selective licensing scheme proposal to be considered for 3 areas of the borough (Central Stockton, North Thornaby and Newtown). The proposal will include; the information/business case, the proposed designated areas, the free structure, proposed license conditions and consultation plan).																					

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

Scrutiny Review – Access to GPs and Primary Care	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>An initial officer meeting was held in August 2023 to discuss this review topic with the two designated Link Officers (one SBC representative, one NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) representative).</p> <p>An initial draft scope and plan for this work has been collated and will be considered at the initial tri-partite meeting on 25 August 2023.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	A final draft of the scope and plan will be presented to the Committee at the meeting in September 2023 for approval. A background briefing will also be given to provide greater context around this topic.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Overview Report (Adults, Health and Wellbeing): During the first Committee meeting of the 2023-2024 municipal year (which took place in July 2023), Members considered an overview report detailing achievements and challenges / opportunities within the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate. With a focus on Adult Social Care, Strategy and Transformation, and Public Health, a number of issues were explored including the new Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection regime, continuing to raise the profile of those working in the care sector, the benefits from the Council's Well-Led Programme, successful partnership-working with local NHS Trusts (particularly in relation to facilitating timely discharge from hospital), and tobacco control / vaping.</p> <p>CQC / PAMMS Report Updates: The Committee considered the latest CQC quarterly report (Q4 2022-2023), including PAMMS assessment feedback published during this period, at its meeting in July 2023. To assist the Committee (the majority of which is comprised of new Members), officers proposed the submission of a briefing on the number of care providers currently operating across the Borough.</p> <p>In related matters, the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) for 2022-2023 is being collated by the SBC Quality Assurance and Compliance (QuAC) Team and will be presented to the Committee in the near future.</p> <p>Public Health: Still awaiting confirmation of when the SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report will be available for the Committee to consider.</p> <p>Healthwatch: The Committee are due to receive an overview of the Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report 2022-2023 at</p>

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

	its next meeting in September 2023.
Requests for more information	None

NHS Updates / Consultations

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Dentistry: As of 1 April 2023, the ICB took on commissioning responsibilities for NHS dentistry (along with pharmacy and optometry). A review into oral health and care was commissioned to bring together existing intelligence and to work with key partners across the North East and North Cumbria to develop an in-depth understanding of the current issues regarding the state of oral health, and the commissioning and provision of oral health and care services – this was to include the views of the public and partners, and an evaluation of current services. Recently, NENC ICB unveiled an initial plan to protect services and address inequality in its most deprived communities – see: https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/3m-boost-for-dental-services-in-north-east-and-north-cumbria/</p> <p>Separately, it was noted within the Health and Wellbeing Board minutes from March 2023 (which the ASCH Select Committee periodically consider) that there had been a recent announcement that a dentistry provider was ceasing services in Stockton – this would be followed-up as the Committee had not been made aware of such developments.</p> <p>Health Inequalities: Continuing attempts to address long-standing health inequalities, a three-year programme is bringing together the NHS and Councils with voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to tackle issues and do more to prevent ill health in the first place. Investment will support a range of initiatives, including extra support for the 'Deep End' network of GP practices in the region's most deprived communities. Further details can be found at the following link: https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/35m-plan-to-improve-health-in-region-s-most-deprived-areas/.</p> <p>NENC ICB: To celebrate its one-year anniversary, the NENC ICB has produced an animation to highlight its achievements alongside partners – see the following link: https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/ou2gxojr/icb-year-1-animation.mp4</p>
Requests for more information	None

Regional Health Committees

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: As part of the agreed rotational arrangements, the chair and support function for the Committee is being undertaken by SBC during 2023-2024.</p> <p>The last meeting, and first of the current municipal year, took</p>
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Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

	<p>place on 28 July 2023. Agenda items included NENC ICB / local NHS Trust updates in relation to Tees Valley Breast Care Services and Community Diagnostic Centres, a North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) response to recent CQC inspection outcomes and an independent review of the Trust, and a Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) presentation on their Lived Experience / Co-Creation work and the impact of their Lived Experience Directors.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 6 October 2023 – anticipated items are the NENC ICB Integrated Care Strategy Implementation (including the role of Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)), along with TEWV updates on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Respite Provision.</p> <p>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p>North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>No updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Homes for Older People (September 2023) • Day Opportunities for Adults (TBC – late-2023) • Care at Home (TBC – late-2023 / early-2024)
Requests for more information	None

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

- Adult Safeguarding

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)

Tuesday 19 September 2023	Tuesday 23 January 2024
Tuesday 24 October 2023	Tuesday 20 February 2024
Tuesday 21 November 2023	Tuesday 19 March 2024
Tuesday 19 December 2023	

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Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2023

Scrutiny Review – Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	
Achieved since last meeting	The Select Committee's next review will allow the Committee to explore the impact of what the Council's already does, what new initiatives exist and what could still be done to maximise impact.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	<p>The initial tri-partite meeting will be held on 4 September 2023 and a draft scope and project plan will be considered at the September Meeting.</p> <p>Provisional timescales and dates have been agreed and put in diaries. The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet in March 2024.</p>
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>At their July meeting, the Select Committee received the overview report for Children's Services. The report also included a summary of current performance data and a link to performance across the Council Plan reported on a six-monthly basis to Executive Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most recent Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services had resulted in an overall judgement of "Required Improvement". The key areas for improvement identified by Ofsted were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The quality and effectiveness of plans for children and care leavers, including safety plans agreed with parents ○ Sufficiency of suitable foster homes for children ○ Frontline management oversight across the service, in relation to the quality of assessment and plans and the impact of interventions ○ Opportunities for more children and care leavers to have a voice and to influence the development of services • The Good and Beyond Board provided oversight and drive for continuous improvement planning and the Inspection recognised the considerable amount of progress since the 2019 inspection and the September 2022 focused visit

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2023

- Work was underway for the forthcoming SEND and AP Inspection which would take place in the next three years. In 2023 a Local Inclusion Partnership would be established in line with the SEND Green Paper and a strategic action plan would be agreed in advance of a new Local Inclusion Strategy to be developed in 2024. The vast majority of SEND children were educated in mainstream schools and funding was available to support this
- There continued to be significant demand across children's social care. The number of children in care had stabilised since April 2020. A more recent development had been the significant increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- The number of children placed out of Borough was broadly the same as four years ago and the Council was the highest performing Authority in the country around keeping children and young people as close to home as possible
- Stockton schools performed well overall, being the best performing in the region although there was an attainment gap between those children from poorer backgrounds, SEND and children in care
- A new Attendance Strategy for the Borough was to be presented to Cabinet in October
- A performance and improvement framework had been launched across the Directorate which increased the breadth and range of quality assurance activity taking place and supported service improvement
- The alternative provision free school would provide places for children at risk of exclusion whilst retaining them on the school roll as well as "turnaround" type of provision for children excluded based on an effective model operating in Doncaster
- The Doncaster based provision by Delta Academy was highly regarded by DfE and Ofsted. It positively impacted on children who attend and also promoted inclusive mainstream education
- The recruitment and retention of skilled, experienced staff was highlighted as a key factor in driving improvement
- New children's homes were being developed, supported by DfE capital funding. Members highlighted the importance of early consultation with Members regarding the location of children's homes

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2023

Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>An action plan in respect of the Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships was presented to the Select Committee for approval in July 2023.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Leavers EET – September 2023 • Child Poverty – October 2023 • Contextual Safeguarding – July 2024
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Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

Holidays are Fun (HAF) Programme

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)

13 September 2023
 11 October 2023
 15 November 2023
 13 December 2023
 17 January 2024
 14 February 2024
 13 March 2024

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Crime and Disorder Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

Scrutiny Review – Safety of Staff in the Night-Time Economy	
Achieved since last meeting	During August 2023, the initial tri-partite meeting was held to consider the potential scope and plan for this work. Following lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the most appropriate way of scrutinising this topic was via an alternative approach rather than an in-depth review – see <i>Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 – Update</i> item also included on this agenda.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	It is proposed that a report will be submitted to the next Committee meeting in September 2023 to provide further context and background around this issue.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Overview Report (Adults, Health and Wellbeing): During the first Committee meeting of the 2023-2024 municipal year (which took place in July 2023), Members considered an overview report detailing achievements and challenges / opportunities within the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate. With a focus on Community Safety and Regulated Services (Trading Standards, Licensing and Environmental Health), the Committee raised comments / questions on a range of topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of COPA (Cleveland Online Policing App) on the latest reported crime figures; • reports of individuals attempting to access house / car doors within certain hot-spot areas; • people not reporting incidents due to a lack of confidence in authorities (particularly amongst older demographics); • the number of applications for amusement licenses, something which appeared contradictory to managing the existing situation within certain parts of the Borough; • concerns in relation to violence against women and girls; • the impact of the PSPOs in Stockton Town Centre and Norton Village and whether these dispersed problems elsewhere; • the potential impact of Martyn's Law and the emerging statutory obligations (as a result of the Manchester Arena bombing); • areas identified within the Borough for the Home Office pilot (via Cleveland Police) to tackle organised crime via a new 'clear, hold, build' (CHB) framework approach; • concerns around vaping devices containing lithium batteries which have reportedly caused fires / explosions; • progress around air quality (which was praised, and was a topic which would benefit from closer scrutiny at some point

Crime and Disorder Select Committee Chair’s Update – September 2023

	during the recently initiated four-year Council term.
Requests for more information	Overview Report (Adults, Health and Wellbeing): To further understand the July 2022 to June 2023 reporting period, Members requested a breakdown of crime data (per crime type) and any crime location maps. Both have since been provided by officers and subsequently shared with the Committee.

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>No updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><u>Fly-Grazed Horses</u> The Committee is due an update on progress of the outstanding actions in relation to the agreed Action Plan which was approved following this previously completed review. Initial contact was made with Cleveland Police representatives in July 2023 as a critical element involves the force’s development and implementation of a joint policy with SBC around this issue. However, feedback was received which indicated that there had been little change since the previous update given to the Committee in December 2022. Given the amount of time which has passed since the Action Plan was originally approved (February 2021), this apparent impasse has been escalated to senior officers within the force who have been invited to attend the next Committee meeting in September 2023 to address Members on the current situation.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly-Grazed Horses (September 2023) • Bonfires on Public Land (September 2023) • Tree Asset Management (TBC – late-2023 / early-2024)
Requests for more information	None

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

- Play Area Distribution, Maintenance and Physical Accessibility

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Thursday 21 September 2023	Thursday 25 January 2024
Thursday 19 October 2023	Thursday 22 February 2024
Thursday 9 November 2023	Thursday 21 March 2024
Thursday 21 December 2023	

People Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

Scrutiny Review – Cost of Living Response	
Achieved since last meeting	The initial tri-partite meeting was held on 2 August 2023.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The draft scope and project plan will be presented to the Committee in September 2023. A background presentation will also be provided by the link officer.
On track – yes/no	Yes.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>In July 2023, the Select Committee received annual overview reports from the following directorates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services, Environment and Culture • Corporate Services • Finance, Development and Regeneration <p>The reports outlined the challenges and opportunities and priorities for the year ahead. Issues discussed included Customer Services call waiting times and staffing, <i>My Council</i>, recruitment and retention, employee wellbeing support, Stockton Town Centre transformation programme, Xentrall services and an update on Dunedin House.</p>
Requests for more information	None.

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Inclusive Borough – November 2023 (TBC) • Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future – March 2024 (TBC)
Requests for more information	None.

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews
Disabled Facilities Grants Adult Carers' Service

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4pm unless stated)
Monday 4 September 2023 Monday 2 October 2023 Monday 6 November 2023 Monday 4 December 2023 Monday 8 January 2024 Monday 5 February 2024

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Place Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

Scrutiny Review – Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections	
Achieved since last meeting	The initial tri-partite meeting was held on 24 July 2023.
Problems or concerns	None.
Planned next month	The draft scope and project plan will be presented to the Committee in September 2023. The link officer will also provide a background presentation.
On track – yes / no	Yes.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>In July 2023, the Select Committee received annual overview reports from the following directorates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults, Health and Wellbeing • Community Services, Environment and Transport • Finance, Development and Regeneration <p>The reports outlined the challenges and opportunities and priorities for the year ahead. Issues discussed included tree maintenance and pothole repairs, the Stockton and Darlington Railway bicentenary celebrations, the redevelopment of Yarm High Street and Stockton Town Centre and the purchase of the 64-acre site at Durham Lane.</p>
Requests for more information	None.

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways Asset Management (including Potholes and Flooding) – November 2023 • Burial Provision -TBC • Residents Parking Zones -TBC • Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space -TBC
Requests for more information	None

Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group	
<p>The upcoming meeting dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 September 2023 6 October 2023 3 November 2023 8 December 2023 	

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2023

12 January 2024

Updates will be provided to Executive Scrutiny Committee following each meeting.

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

None

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 2.00pm unless stated)

Monday 11 September 2023

Monday 9 October 2023

Monday 13 November 2023

Monday 30 November 2023 (12-4pm – Evidence gathering and site visits)

Monday 11 December 2023

Monday 15 January 2024

Monday 12 February 2024

Monday 11 March 2024

Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

In addition to the Standing Items:

- Chair’s Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme
- Select Committee Chairs’ Updates
- Statutory Forward Plan

Date	Item	Attending
4 July	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 – Selection of In-Depth Reviews	Jonathan Nertney
	Council Plan 2022-2025 Update	Garry Cummings/ Ian Coxon
5 September	MTFP Update	Garry Cummings
	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 – Update	Jonathan Nertney
7 November	MTFP Update	Garry Cummings
	Council Plan Update	Garry Cummings/ Ian Coxon
9 January		
5 March	Final Report of Children and Young People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gaps in Educational Attainment – Executive Summary for Information	Judy Trainer
	Final Report of People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response – Executive Summary for Information	Rebecca Saunders-Thompson
	Final Report of Place Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste – Executive Summary for Information	Rebecca Saunders-Thompson

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