

Date: Monday 4 September 2023 at 4.00 pm

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

Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair)
Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Michelle Bendelow
Cllr John Gardner
Cllr David Reynard
Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Cllr Ian Dalgarno
Cllr Niall Innes
Cllr Hugo Stratton

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 31 July 2023 (Pages 9 - 12)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response**
To receive the draft scope and project plan and a background presentation from the link officer. (Pages 13 - 36)
- 6 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024** (Pages 37 - 38)

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: Scrutiny Support Officer, Rachel Harrison on email Rachel.Harrison@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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People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday, 31st July, 2023.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (sub for Cllr Ian Dalgarno), Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Tara Connor, Lorraine Dixon, Reuben Kench, (CS, E&C); Julie Butcher, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (CS); Garry Cummings (F, D&R).

Also in attendance: Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE.

Apologies: Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Ian Dalgarno.

PEO 1/23 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

PEO 2/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO 3/23 Minutes - 20 March 2023

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO 4/23 Overview Reports 2023

The Select Committee received annual overview reports outlining the challenges and opportunities and priorities for the year ahead from the following three directorates:

- Community Services, Environment and Culture
- Corporate Services
- Finance, Development and Regeneration

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- Members requested if officers could provide a glossary of terms with future reports.
- Members thanked library staff for the service they provided to residents.
- A discussion was held on issues with call answering times. Officers responded that they were aware of the situation. The ongoing cost of living crisis had increased the demand for Council services and impacted on call waiting times. Staffing issues and the training of new staff had also impacted on the service. The average call waiting time had reduced from 16 minutes in 2022 to 11.5 minutes to June 2023.
- The Council had implemented a call back system to allow individuals to exit a call but retain their place in the call queue and receive a call back.
- Officers highlighted a successful recruitment campaign for Customer Services Advisors in partnership with the Council's Employment and Training Hub.

- Members thanked staff for their dedication to training customer service staff and the service provided.
- The 'My Council' feature on the Council website was discussed. As of June 2023, there were 23,579 My Council accounts registered.
- In June 2023, there were 2298 digital and 1639 manual transactions recorded for Care for Your Area.
- Members praised the Business and IP Centre and the success of the Newcastle Building Society and Yarm Library co-location and questioned if there were any plans for similar mergers. Officers responded that the Council had invited Newcastle Building Society to consider other sites for co-locations with libraries and always welcomed interest in partnerships from the private sector.
- A discussion was held on the new Stockton town centre riverside event space. It was hoped that the Riverside Park would be completed in time for the 2025 Stockton and Darlington Railway Bicentenary Celebrations.
- Members commented on the upcoming Parliamentary Boundary changes and officers reassured Members that measures to inform residents would be progressed as necessary.
- A discussion was held on staff absences and wellbeing. The new Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), which included a wellbeing support 24/7, 365 days telephone helpline, available to all staff through the Vivup partnership was highlighted.
- Members requested to view staff training. Officers agreed to follow up this request.
- The Council's apprenticeships programme was praised by Members.
- Members asked for an update on Dunedin House. Officers responded that contractors were on site and staff would start to move over to Dunedin from Autumn 2023. The process of moving staff would take approximately nine months to one year.
- A discussion was held on the financial advantages of Xentrall services for the Council and the potential for future partnerships with other organisations.

AGREED that:

- 1) the three Overview reports be noted.
- 2) the further information be provided as requested.

**PEO
5/23**

Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

Members were informed that following approval at the meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2023, the People Select Committee's next review would be the Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response.

The next meeting would be held on Monday 4 September 2023.

Members requested and approved to move the start time of People Select Committee meetings from 1:30pm to 4:00pm.

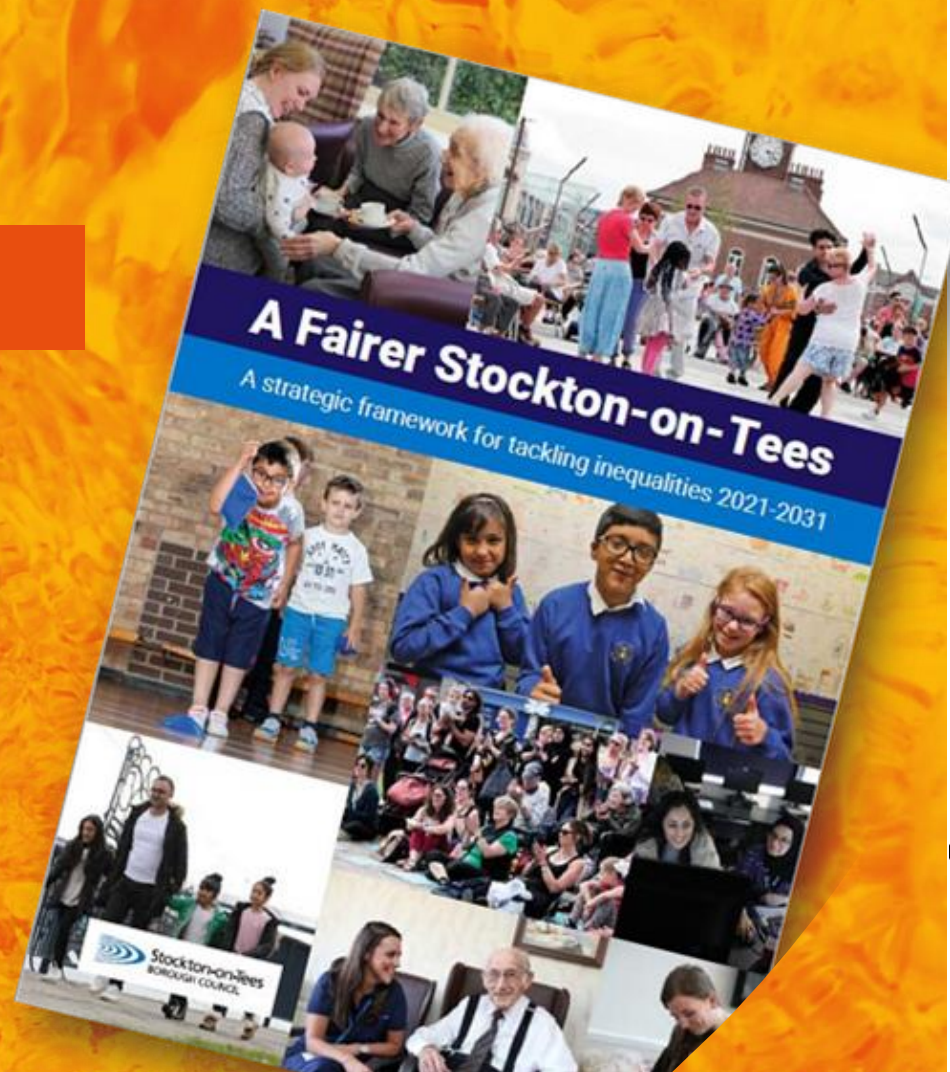
AGREED that the Work Programme and the change to the timing of Committee meetings be noted.

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A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees

Supporting our residents through the Cost of Living situation

Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (FSOT) – the Council’s strategic framework to reduce inequalities, address the underlying causes of poverty whilst focusing activity on our most deprived neighbourhoods





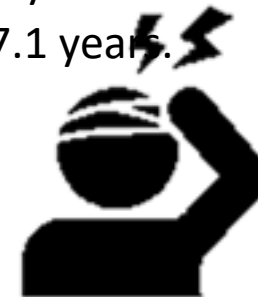
Average male life expectancy is 77.4 years. It is lowest in Stockton Town Centre Ward (67.4 years) and highest in Ingleby Barwick East Ward (84.1 years), a difference of 21.1 years.



Average female life expectancy is 80.4 years. It is lowest in Stockton Town Centre Ward (71.8 years) and highest in Ingleby Barwick East Ward (90.3 years), a difference of 17.1 years.



Under 75 mortality rate from all causes (2018-2020) Stockton 395.3 compared to England 336.5. Directly age-standardised rate per 100,000 population



19% of the population live with a limiting long-term condition against 21.6% in the North East. The percentage is highest in Stockton Town Centre (27%) and lowest in Ingleby Barwick West (8%).

Key statistics



7.5% of the population aged 18-24 (965) are claiming out-of-work benefits against 4.6% nationally.



23.9% of population aged 16-64 are economically inactive against 21.4% nationally.



24.3% of children are living in poverty against 15.1% nationally (after housing costs).



There are 560 children in our care, a rate of 132 per 10,000 children, against a national rate of 67.0 per 10,000 children

What are we Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council doing already?

Some examples

- **Delivered** Council Tax Rebates and Discretionary payments made to residents.
- **Delivered** 3 rounds of the Household Support Grant.
- **Provided** energy saving schemes and advice services delivered i.e. Warm Homes Healthy People.
- **Delivered** the Holiday Activities Fund and Free School Meals initiatives.
- **Supported** residents via our Welfare Assistance programmes i.e. Back on Track.
- **Worked** with partners to deliver Household Health Checks.
- **Provided** employment and training support through our Training & Employment Hub.
- **Supported** families through our network of Family Hubs.
- **Valued** the VCSE sector (worked collaboratively with Catalyst, SDAIS and Moneywise to deliver/support essential services).
- **Tackling poverty** – Community Partnerships

The Cost of Living situation

- The pandemic left many households in our borough facing financial difficulties. The current cost of living situation led to many in our borough facing new challenges.
- The impact of the cost-of-living situation led the Council in to take immediate steps to support our residents.
- Our key areas of focus have been:
 - Energy Crisis
 - Food Crisis
 - Employee Engagement
 - Employee Upskilling
 - Child Poverty and
 - Corporate Social Responsibility



Cost of Living response

- Cost of Living Hub
- Here to Help booklet
- Warm Spaces (Community Spaces)
- Food Aid Fund
- Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) response
- Employee support video
- Employee drop in sessions
- Child Poverty work

Cost of Living Hub



Cost of living support

Here you will find information on the benefits, advice, and support available to you to help you through the cost of living crisis.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Fuel, energy and housing</p> <p>Warm Spaces Energy saving schemes and advice Energy advice helpline Help with household repairs and maintenance</p> | <p>Food insecurity and poverty</p> <p>Food banks Apply for free school meals Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network</p> |
| <p>Money and debt</p> <p>Bills for free advice Household health check Check your benefits and financial support Turn2Us benefits calculator</p> | <p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>Learn, well and busy (LWB) Get health advice and information Holidays Are Fun (HAF) Programme</p> |
| <p>Skills and employment</p> <p>Get help with everything employment and training related.</p> | <p>A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees</p> <p>We are committed to fighting the fundamental unfair differences that negatively impact people's life chances, quality of life and life expectancy.</p> |
| <p>Stockton Information Directory</p> <p>Stockton Information Directory provides details of services, advice and support for adults, children, young people and families living in Stockton-on-Tees including our Local Offer.</p> | |

Community Spaces

Warm Spaces in Stockton-on-Tees

Warm Spaces are inclusive, non-judgemental spaces where our residents can go to get warm, take part in activities, receive support and advice, avoid social isolation, reduce their anxiety about the cost of living and generally stay well.



Food Aid Fund

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Amal Project Teesside | A WAY OUT Charity | Challoner House Community Centre |
Groundwork NE & Cumbria | Iron Guidance Charity | Nite Light CIC | Purple Rose
Stockton | The Moses Project | Thornaby Food Bank | Chad's Pantry | Stockton Baptist
Church | Mill Lane Primary School | BCT Aspire CIC | Billingham Town Council | Norton
Methodist Church | Salvation Project | St John the Baptist Primary | Yarm Wellness |
High Clarence Primary School | Friends of Ropner Park | ReGenerate - Hope For
Autism | Portrack Baptist Church | Billingham and Stockton Borough Foodbank | North
East Migration Project | Teesside Vineyard Church | Thornaby FC Women | Oxbridge
Lane | Community Grocery Ragworth | St Therese of Lisieux Parish | Billingham South
Primary School | Bowesfield Primary School

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR activity can support immediate priorities such as work to tackle the problems arising from the ongoing cost of living challenges can be seen in this [video](#).

- Giving Time
- Giving resources



Child Poverty

- Feed in service issues affecting Children in Poverty as a result of the Cost of Living situation
- Exploring possibilities around breakfast club provisions, Child Poverty Fund, promotion of HAF services etc.
- Represented at the North East Child Poverty Commission
- Child Poverty Scrutiny review

Employee support and awareness

Employee Support

- Drop in sessions across the organisation
- Up and coming roadshow

Employee Upskilling

- Video created to provide employees of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council with information on Cost of Living support that is available for themselves and residents across the Borough. The course aimed to provide employees with the wide range of support options available, useful links and details on how to help our residents with Cost of Living related matters.

Other Cost of Living projects

The [A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees](#) team have also partnered with Tees Active Leisure to offer discounted leisure sessions from Monday 28 November (term-time only) including swimming for £1.50 at Thornaby Pool (Mondays 1.30pm to 2.45pm, Tuesday to Friday 1.30pm to 3pm) and soft play for £1.50 at Billingham Forum (Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 10.30am to 11.30am and Tuesday and Thursday – 1.30pm to 2.30pm).



Home Alone, Elf and Frozen 2 among free films for movie lovers at warm space this winter

Stockton Arc is offering a string of great films to watch as families stay warm during the cost of living crisis

WHAT'S ON By Jamie Smith
14:44, 23 NOV 2022

Bookmark

Comments

Catalyst

Working alongside partners to address inequalities



- Catalyst secured bid to the National Lottery Fund which is directly aimed at reducing inequalities
- Catalyst FSOT Co-ordinator
- The VCSE Directory gives details of over 300 organisations in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Stockton-on-Tees.

Cost of Living – next steps

Planned activity

- Ongoing quarterly newsletter for all employees and partners is developed;
- On-going work to develop the COL HUB
- COL events are also to be organised across the seven Community Partnership areas through a project task and finish between Sept 23 – March 24.
- Up to date COL booklet to be developed.
- COL Network meetings are held bi-monthly with Senior Officers from across directorates to ensure that the work reflects current priorities
- COL related projects include the Databank Project are also to be developed to support the most vulnerable
- APSE nominated! - Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative



Warm Spaces in Stockton-on-Tees

More than 40 venues across the Borough remain open this summer! The need for inclusive and welcoming places for people in need isn't going anywhere. Recent feedback is evidencing how vital these local hubs in the community are to help fight against social isolation and the impacts of the current cost of living. The FSOT team is on with developing an action plan to maximise the Warm Spaces venues to deliver targeted support, activities and more.

To stay up to date, visit the [Warm Spaces webpage](#).



The bread and butter thing.

Introducing The Bread and Butter Thing



- * **Save** over £20 a week on your shopping
- * **New hub opening: 1.30pm, Tuesday 12 September**
At The Salvation Army, Palmerston Street,
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1NU



Opening in September 2023:

- Salvation Army, Palmerston Street, Stockton, TS18 1NU – Tuesdays @ 1.30pm [launches Tuesday 12 September]
- Victoria Park Community Hall, Peel Street, Thornaby, TS17 6HL – Mondays @ 1.30pm [launches Monday 18 September]

Discussions ongoing with community partners and volunteer networks with a view to establishing the remaining three hubs by December 2023:

- Newtown Community Resource Centre, Durham Road, Stockton, TS19 0DE – Wednesdays @ 1.30pm
- St Andrew's Methodist Church, Hardwick, TS19 8PH – Fridays @ 1.30pm
- Community venue in Billingham East TBC – Thursdays @ 1.30pm

Next steps

- Planned work agreed through Cabinet /Council
 - Development of an Anti-Poverty Action Plan
 - Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment Toolkit
 - Cost of Living- planned activity

Thankyou!

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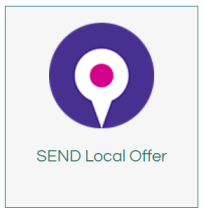
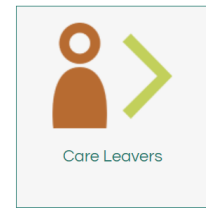
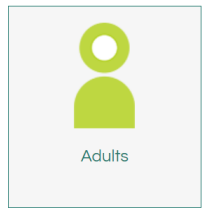


Welfare assistance schemes

Crisis support
Get help if you are in crisis and need help immediately.

Settlement support
Get help to make your home a safe place to live.

Back on Track Policy 2021-22



Foodbanks
and more food resources in Stockton-on-Tees

Although every effort has been made to ensure this information is correct, please double check with the organisation and their Facebook page before travel. Usually, foodbanks require a referral from an organisation, like the Stockton District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS): 01642 633877

- Billingham & Stockton Foodbank, Stockton Central** - Open Wed & Fri, 10am till 1pm
Hebron Church, Corner of Vicarage Street & Bishopston Street, TS19 0AJ. Telephone: 07845 689012
- Billingham & Stockton Foodbank, Norton Central** - Open Mondays 12.30pm - 2.30pm
St Michael's and All Angels Church, Imperial Avenue, Norton, Stockton on Tees, TS20 2EN
Telephone: 07505 464005 Email: nortonfoodbank@gmail.com
- Billingham & Stockton Foodbank, Billingham Central** - Tues & Thurs, 11-2pm
4-6 West Precinct, Billingham Town Centre, Billingham, TS23 2NH
Telephone: 07583 575522 Email: info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk
- Stockton Salvation Army Foodbank** - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 9.30-12pm
Palmerston Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1NJ
Telephone: 01642 617829 Email: stockton.citad@salvationarmy.org.uk
- Thornaby Foodbank** - Open for collections on Thursdays between 12pm-1pm.
Thornaby Baptist Church, Thornree Road, Thornaby, TS17 8DH
Telephone: 01642 677328 Email: thornabyfoodbank@gmail.com
- Billingham Town Council** - check with organisation
Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre, Billingham, TS23 2LN
Telephone: 01642 551171 Email: info@billinghamtowncouncil.co.uk
- The Mooses Project (men 25+ only)** - check with organisation
Foundation House, Alma Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 2AP.
Telephone: 01642 688901 Email: admin@themooseproject.co.uk
- NiteLite free monthly stall** - free food, toiletries & hygiene essentials
First Monday of every month, 11am-1pm (except bank holidays, date is moved to the following Monday), Dovecot Street, Stockton, Near The Ivy House, opposite Barnacles.
Telephone: 07790627499 Email: info@nitalite.co.uk

Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network | SFPN@catalyststockton.org



**Cost of living:
Help and support
Winter 22/23**



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| People Select Committee |
| Review of Cost of Living Response |
| (Draft) Outline Scope |

| | |
|--|---|
| Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Marilyn Surtees | Contact details: Marilyn.Surtees@stockton.gov.uk |
| Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Rebecca Saunders-Thompson | Contact details: Rebecca.Saunders-Thompson@stockton.gov.uk |
| Departmental Link Officer: Haleem Ghafoor | Contact details: Haleem.Ghafoor@stockton.gov.uk |
| Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address? | |
| <p>This review will contribute to all areas of the Council Plan 2023-2026 vision:</p> <p>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm. This means the Borough will be a place where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people live in cohesive and safe communities • people are supported and protected from harm • people live healthy lives <p>A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive. This means we will enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • great places to live and visit • clean and green spaces • rich cultural experiences <p>A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed. This means that the Borough will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a growing economy • improved education and skills development • job creation and increased employment <p>A Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve. This means that we will make sure that we provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial sustainability and value for money • dedicated and resourceful employees • strong leadership and governance | |
| What are the main issues and overall aim of this review? | |
| <p>The North East Child Poverty Commission has stated that almost two in five children in the North East (38 per cent) are living in poverty, rising to almost half – 47 per cent – of North East children living in a household with an under five.</p> | |

The consequences of inequalities are significant and impact on quality of life, life chances and life expectancy. There are affluent areas alongside disadvantaged areas in the Borough. Nine of the Borough's 26 wards are in the 10% most deprived in the country and there is an average male life expectancy gap of 21 years between the most and least deprived areas.

Currently, the rising costs of food, fuel and other essentials are combined with this existing disadvantage and vulnerability with households being placed under significant pressure. In the short term, this leaves those residents at risk of hardship and poor wellbeing as well as reduced opportunities in the long term.

In response to the ongoing cost of living crisis, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) has introduced a number of initiatives (for example the Cost-of-Living on-line HUB / Warm Spaces / Food Aid Fund) to support the Borough's residents.

This review will build on the 'Scrutiny Review of the Cost of School Uniform' which was undertaken in 2020 and the recommendations of the 'Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty' undertaken in 2022.

This review would consider SBC's response to ensure the Council effectively supports the current and emerging needs of its residents, whilst also evaluating its current approach to inform/provide a steer for ongoing and future activity.

As detailed in the 13 July Cabinet report "Powering Our Futures – Delivering People, Place Economy", the Council is committed to the development of an Anti-Poverty Action Plan (to be co-developed with partners and those with lived experience). The plan will focus on how the Council can help prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty. This review will inform the development of this plan.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- How has Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) responded to the ongoing cost of living crisis both internally and by working with external partners and agencies?
- How has advice and support been communicated to residents and SBC staff? Can this be improved?
- How does SBC's approach compare with other Local Authorities?
- What are the main 'cost of living' issues facing residents? How have these changed over time?
- How do 'cost of living' issues vary across the Borough?
- In what ways has the cost of living crisis impacted on staff retention and recruitment?
- How have SBC staff been supported if they are struggling financially and mentally as a result of the cost of living crisis?
- What can the Council learn from the Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector?
- How will the 'Powering our Future' programme support the delivery of the Council's cost of living response?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

| | |
|--|--|
| Council, Cabinet, Government, public. | |
| Expected duration of review and key milestones: | |
| <p>9 months (reporting to Cabinet in March 2024) Approve scope and project plan – September 2023 Receive evidence – October – December 2023 Draft recommendations – January 2024 Final report – February 2024 Report to Cabinet – March 2024</p> | |
| What information do we need? | |
| <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <p>His Majesty’s Government, <i>1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024: Household Support Fund guidance for county councils and unitary authorities in England</i>. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils/1-april-2023-to-31-march-2024-household-support-fund-guidance-for-county-councils-and-unitary-authorities-in-england</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, <i>Cost of Living Support webpages</i>. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-hub</p> | |
| Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.) | What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence? |
| Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Officers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Background information and context setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help and support provided across the Borough ○ Staffing and HR related issues ○ Housing issues ○ A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees ○ Learning and Skills initiatives ○ Work with Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) ○ Work with Community Partnerships ○ Future priorities and approaches |
| Representatives from another Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How have they responded to the cost of living crisis? Is there anything we can learn? |
| Representatives from Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) - For example Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network, Thrive Teesside, local faith leaders) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examples of partnership working with SBC. ➤ Examples of best practice. Is there anything we can learn? |
| Citizens Advice Bureau and Tees Credit Union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examples of partnership working with SBC. ➤ Examples of best practice. Is there anything we can learn? |

| |
|--|
| <p>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, reports, research, benchmarking, site visits (TBC), consultations (TBC).</p> |
| <p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions, site visits (TBC).</p> |
| <p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics. Public bodies must have due regard to the need to encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.</p> |
| <p>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023:</u> All children and families get the best start in life. All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer. All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities.</p> |
| <p>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</p> <p>This review would consider the key components of the cost of living approach adopted by the Council at a time of increasing service demands (for both advice and support). Consequently, it would seek to explore the possibility to develop, change and, if appropriate, grow the Council's services around the cost of living work to support more residents in our borough.</p> |

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| Project Plan |
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| Key Task | Details/Activities | Date | Responsibility |
|--|---|--|---|
| Scoping of Review | Information gathering | July 2023 | Scrutiny Officer Link Officer |
| Tri-Partite Meeting | Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review | 02.08.2023 | Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer |
| Agree Project Plan | Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee | 04.09.2023 | Select Committee |
| Publicity of Review | Determine whether Communications Plan needed | TBC | Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer |
| Obtaining Evidence | | 02.10.2023 06.11.2023 04.12.2023 | Select Committee |
| Members decide recommendations and findings | Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations | 08.01.2024 | Select Committee |
| Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders | Circulation of Report | TBC | Scrutiny Officer |
| Tri-Partite Meeting | Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations | TBC | Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer |
| Final Agreement of Report | Approval of final report by Committee | 05.02.2024 | Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director |
| Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee | Consideration of report | 05.03.2024 | Executive Scrutiny Committee |

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| Report to Cabinet/Approving Body | Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet | 15.03.2024 | Cabinet / Approving Body |
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People Select Committee – Work Programme 2023- 2024

| Date (<u>4pm unless stated</u>) | Topic | Attendance |
|--|--|---|
| Monday 31 July 2023 | Overview Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services, Environment and Culture • Corporate Services • Finance, Development and Regeneration | Cllr Bob Cook/ Cllr Steve Nelson/ Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE/ Garry Cummings/ Reuben Kench/Julie Butcher/ Lorraine Dixon |
| Monday 4 September 2023 | Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan • Background Presentation | Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy |
| Monday 2 October 2023 | Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Gathering | Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends/ Sophie Haste/ Neil Mitchell |
| Monday 6 November 2023 | Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Gathering Monitoring: Further Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough (TBC) | Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends/ Michelle Connolly/ Craig Taylor Margie Stewart-Piercy |
| Monday 4 December 2023 | Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence Gathering | Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends |
| Monday 8 January 2024 (informal) | Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations | Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends |
| Monday 5 February 2024 | Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Final Report Overview Reports | Bob Cook/ Carolyn Nice/ Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends TBC |

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2023- 2024

| Date (<u>4pm unless stated</u>) | Topic | Attendance |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Monday 4 March 2024 | Monitoring: Initial Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future (TBC) | Neil Mitchell/ Chris Renahan |