

**Date:** Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Baptist Tabernacle Auditorium, The Square, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TE

## **AGENDA**

**1 Welcome**

**2 Apologies for Absence**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

**4 Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 September 2023. (Pages 9 - 28)

**5 Presentation of the Honorary Alderman of the Borough**

The Worshipful the Mayor will award the Alderman Badge to:-

- Ken Dixon
- Bill Woodhead MBE

**6 Social Worker of the Year Awards 2023**

Amy Ibbotson – Shortlisted for student social worker of the year  
Kim Cleaver – Mental Health social worker  
Stockton Council – Supportive Employer of Social Work –  
Angela Connor and Joanne Adams

**7 Public Question Time**

Members of the public may ask questions on matters for which the Council has responsibility or which affect the Borough subject to those questions having been submitted in accordance with Rule 3.25 of the Council Procedure Rules

**8 Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Interim Review** (Pages 29 - 32)

**9 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023** (Pages 33 - 68)

- 10 Director of Public Health Annual Report** (Pages 69 - 92)
- 11 Appointments** (Pages 93 - 98)
- 12 Motion**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Councillor Niall Innes:-

“The Cabinet and Senior Leadership of this Council have recently sought to introduce a new ‘Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth’ without consulting the full Council.

Despite the exercise undertaken last year in which this council provided ‘Golden Goodbyes’ and reduced Director positions while increasing salaries, it has now been decided that a further Management position is required at an estimated cost of over £120,000 per year to the Taxpayers of Stockton.

Rather than continue to spend residents' money on yet another Director, this motion urges the Cabinet to think again and to ensure that the money is used for public good and suggest that it be used to employ more enforcement officers/street wardens and create a ‘Community Safety Hub’ in Ingleby Barwick.

The salary set aside for this single director could be used to recruit as many as three civic enforcement officers / street wardens and space could be set aside in property already owned by this authority to host a community security hub, providing a base from which enforcement officers and the police could operate.

This motion seeks to ensure that resident's money is being used on initiatives that deliver for them, and keep our communities safe, not create more bureaucracy and more waste!”

- 13 Motion**

The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Paul Rowling:-

“This motion proposes to amend the Procedure Rule “Appointment and Removal of the Leader of the Council” currently found in Part 3 of the Constitution of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The addition is in bold.

**APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council may at any meeting of Full Council remove the leader by passing a resolution in accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules. The removal will take effect immediately on the passing of the resolution. Where the Council has resolved to remove the leader, a new leader is to be elected either at the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting. **When a motion to remove the leader of the Council has been discussed by a meeting of the Full Council, no other motion, which is the same or similar can be considered again within a twelve-month period, unless the notice of motion has been signed by at least half the membership of the Council and delivered to the Proper Officer in writing at least ten clear days before the date of the meeting at which it is to be addressed.”**

**14 Members' Question Time**

Councillors may ask questions on matters: In relation to which the Council has powers or duties, or which affect the geographical area of the Council, subject to those questions having been submitted in accordance with Rule 3.35 of the Council Procedure Rules.

(Pages 99 - 102)

**15 Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

**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.

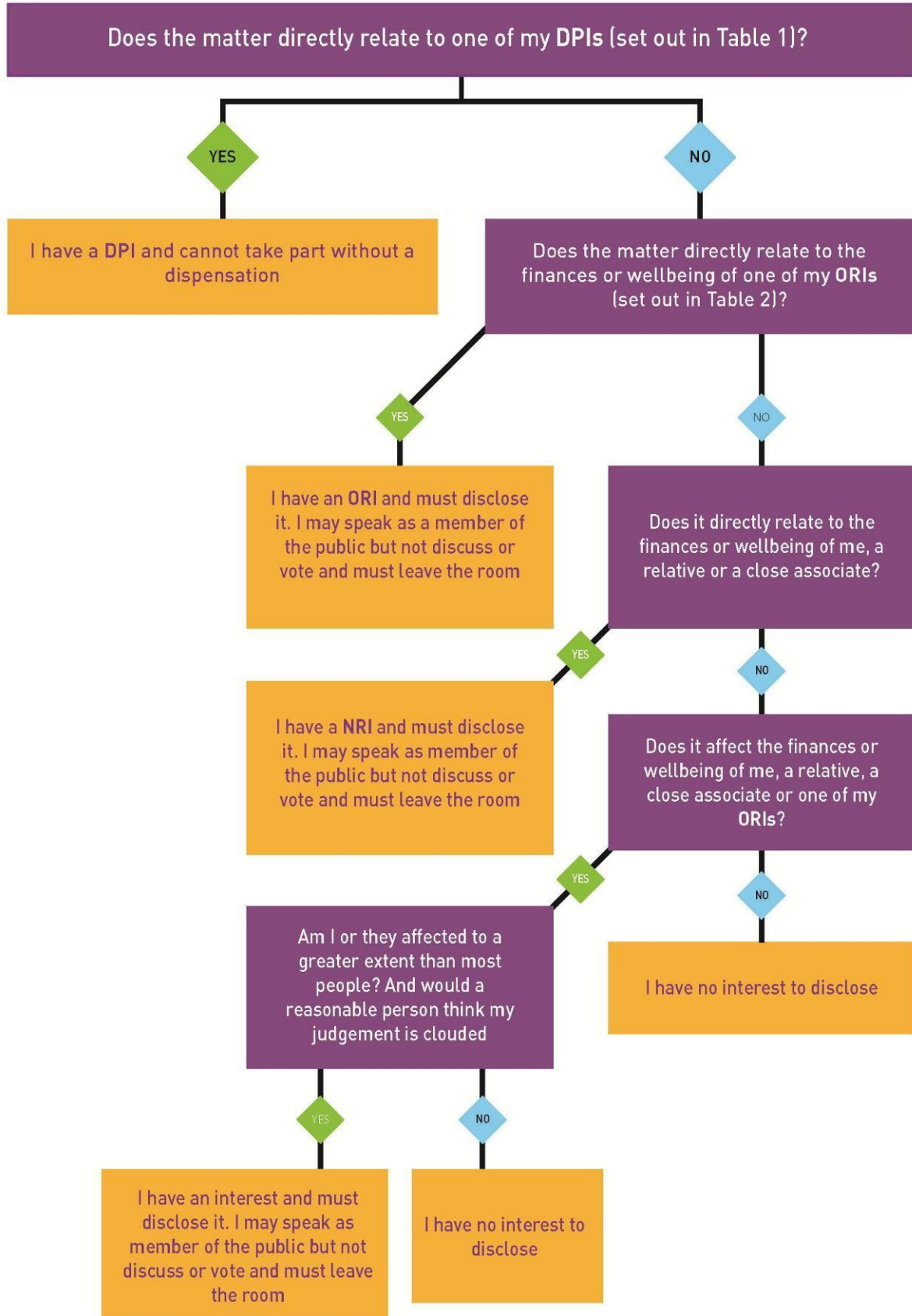
Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Democratic Services Officer, Peter Bell on email [peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:peter.bell@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**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	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.
<b>Contracts</b>	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.
<b>Land and property</b>	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.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	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.
<b>Securities</b>	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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## COUNCIL

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday 20 September 2023.

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor ( Cllr Jim Beall), Cllr Stefan Barnes, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Richard Eglinton, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Nathan Gale, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Alex Griffiths, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Susan Scott, Cllr Vanessa Sewell, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Jim Taylor, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Katie Weston and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

**Officers:** Mike Greene (CE), Ged Morton, Judy Trainer, Peter Bell, Stuart Levin (CS), Garry Cummings (DCE&F, T&P), Reuben Kench (DoCS,E&C), Carolyn Nice (A,H&W) and Marc Cole (R&IG).

**Also in attendance:** Members of the Public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Laura Tunney.

### **COU/48/23 Welcome and Evacuation Procedure**

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the arrangements for the meeting.

### **COU/49/23 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **COU/50/23 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings held on 26 July 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **COU/51/23 Presentation of the Honorary Alderman of the Borough**

The Worshipful the Mayor conferred the title of Honorary Alderman on the following five former Councillors who have given many years' service to the Borough:-

Mohammed Javed,  
Paul Kirton,  
Jean O'Donnell,  
Maurice Perry,  
Mike Smith

The former Councillors signed the Honorary Alderman Roll and received the Alderman Medal, with a framed certificate.

### **COU/52/23 Public Question Time**

The following question was submitted by Jason Clark:-

"What date does the Council take ownership of the Globe and what will be the additional payment made to the current owners for the purchase?"

Response from the Leader of the Council (by way of written response in the absence of Jason Clark:-

"The lease for the Globe containing this information is a public document, it is available to view at Land Registry as it was a registerable lease. We have two opportunities to exercise the option to purchase, which will allow us to acquire the Globe on or around 31 March 2031 or 31 March 2056.

The purchase price is subject to a valuation. The original Globe title is £200,000, the adjoining property title which now forms part of the whole premises is an amount to be agreed or determined by an expert, but importantly disregarding the significant works and improvements in the calculation."

### **COU/53/23 SBC Overview and Scrutiny - End-of-Term Report 2019-2023**

Consideration was given to the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report that had been produced for the recently concluded four-year Council term (covering the period 2019-2023).

The latest statutory overview and scrutiny guidance highlighted the need to maintain a strong organisational culture, including regular engagement between the executive and scrutiny, and communication of scrutiny's role and purpose to the wider Local Authority.

The report highlighted the work of the Council's scrutiny function during the last four years and contained infographics which summarised each year's work programme in detail (these infographics acted as each year's Annual Report). Importantly, it also included examples of how the outcomes from Select Committee reviews had impacted upon future service provision.

The End-of-Term Report was considered by each Select Committee prior to the recent Local Government Elections, as well as the Council's Executive Scrutiny Committee.

It was noted that review recommendations were made at a certain point in time, and naturally as the report covered a four-year period, a number of the issues covered had since developed further.

Aside from those relating to recently completed reviews, the majority of scrutiny recommendations from this period had been subject to monitoring by Select Committees and had been signed-off as complete.

Production of the End-of-Term Report and consideration by Cabinet and Council (20 September 2023) supported the aims of the statutory guidance. Consideration of the report by Council also fulfilled the requirements of the SBC Constitution.

As previously noted, all five of the Council's Select Committees and the Executive Scrutiny Committee had considered the Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2019-2023 during March 2023. The report was also circulated to all SBC staff for information via the Keeping You in Touch (KYiT) weekly newsletter on 5 May 2023.

In addition, the report had been shared with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) as an example of local overview and scrutiny activity. CfGS has recently contacted the Scrutiny Team with a view to using this as a case study for other Local Authorities.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

#### **COU/54/23 Extension of Terms of Office of Independent Persons**

Consideration was given to a report that provided Council with the recommendations from the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the existing Independent Persons.

On the 29 January 2020 Council agreed to appoint Dr Stuart Green and Lyn Ryan as the Council's new Independent Persons.

The Localism Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) required the Council appoint at least one Independent Person for the purposes of its arrangements for dealing with allegations of misconduct by local authority Members.

In addition, the standing orders relating to disciplinary action against protected statutory officers (the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015) required Councils to establish Panels which had at least two Independent Persons (appointed pursuant to the Localism Act 2011) as Members. If an Authority did not have two Independent Persons of its own, it would have to look to other Authorities for its Independent Person Panel members.

Taking all of this into account it was recommended that the appointment of Dr Stuart Green and Lyn Ryan as Independent Persons be extended to 10th May 2027 (reflecting the terms of office of elected members).

RESOLVED that the terms of office of Dr Stuart Green and Lyn Ryan as Independent Persons be extended to 10th May 2027

#### **COU/55/23 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Norma Stephenson:-**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40, moved by Councillor Norma Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Bob Cook:-

"Stockton Borough Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, resolves, within the constraints of available resources, to work with Stockton Fairtrade Borough Partnership to research, develop, and support a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark as part of its commitment to sustainable development and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.

To be recognised by the residents and the business community of Stockton-on-Tees, suppliers, employees and other local authorities, as a borough that actively supports and promotes Fairtrade and to increase the sale of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Stockton Borough Council resolves to contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by striving to maintain Fairtrade status for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees as detailed in the Fairtrade Foundation's Fairtrade Towns Initiative.

Stockton Borough Council resolves to:-

- Continue to offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options at meetings where refreshment is offered.
- Continue to promote the Fairtrade Towns initiative, for example, through articles in the council's Stockton News and KYIT.
- Seek ways to work with Stockton Fairtrade Borough Partnership to encourage local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents
- Seek ways to urge local business to offer Fairtrade options to their staff and promote the FAIRTRADE Mark internally
- To support Stockton Fairtrade Borough Partnership in gaining publicity for activities promoting Fairtrade in the borough as far as possible.
- Note that responsibility for progression of the Fairtrade Town initiative is within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Access & Communities, working alongside the Fairtrade Borough Partnership
- Support as far as possible events and publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight - the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark."

At this point a vote took place and the motion was unanimously carried.

**COU/56/23 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Niall Innes:-**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Councillor Niall Innes:-

"Following the recent Local Elections and the changes it has brought, this motion seeks to remove the current leader of the Council, Cllr Bob Cook, and elect Cllr Tony Riordan as the new leader of Stockton Borough Council at tonight's meeting. This is so that we can move forward respecting the democratic choice of the electorate in

Stockton-on-Tees, where The Conservative Group are now the largest group in the Council receiving 43% of the overall votes compared to Labours low standing of 34%.”

Councillor Niall Innes informed the meeting that he was moving a motion to withdraw his motion, this was seconded by Councillor Lynn Hall.

A vote took place and the motion to withdraw the original motion submitted by Councillor Niall Innes was not carried.

Councillor Niall Innes informed the meeting that he would not be moving his original motion.

The Worshipful the Mayor asked the meeting if any other Member would like to move the original motion that had been submitted by Councillor Niall Innes.

Moved by Councillor Paul Rowling, seconded by Councillor Eileen Johnson that the original motion submitted by Councillor Niall Innes be heard as follows:-

“Following the recent Local Elections and the changes it has brought, this motion seeks to remove the current leader of the Council, Cllr Bob Cook, and elect Cllr Tony Riordan as the new leader of Stockton Borough Council at tonight’s meeting. This is so that we can move forward respecting the democratic choice of the electorate in Stockton-on-Tees, where The Conservative Group are now the largest group in the Council receiving 43% of the overall votes compared to Labours low standing of 34%.”

Following a debate, a vote took place.

The motion was not carried.

**COU/57/23 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Tony Riordan:-**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40, moved by Councillor Tony Riordan, seconded by Councillor Niall Innes:-

“The Cabinet recently considered the Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres - Regeneration Update Report and made the decision recommending the development of a Masterplan and Business Case for the development of Teesdale Business Park, and the adjacent Marshalling Yards, based around a potential Social Care & Health Zone.

The Regeneration Report submitted to inform that decision highlights the exceptional opportunity to bring together a strategy for both sites, which could see a nationally significant regeneration scheme focused around key sector growth to develop a Health and Social Care Zone, with potential for: integrated training and health facilities, business incubation, research, and development.

The potential for these important sites should not be underestimated, and the development of a Masterplan and Business Case should, to support the initial vision for a Social Care and Health Zone, go further to include a new state of art hospital that is so desperately needed in Stockton-on-Tees.

North Tees Hospital trust has estimated that it will potentially spend up to £300 million, just to maintain the building in the 8 years of useful life it has left.

Infrastructure plays a critical role in supporting local communities and the local economy. Planning and financing it correctly to maximise the area(s) potential are the keys to success in enabling our residents to access new health care facilities, education, skills, and employment opportunities.

The nature of any proposed infrastructure project and ownership of the land/property is also important in securing investor interest. If the infrastructure project is clearly linked to a local policy or strategy, supports strategic sites, or enables significant transformation of the economy – this gives the proposition a lot more credibility. A willingness to co-invest by Stockton Borough Council signals serious commitment.

To achieve this, Stockton Borough Council resolves,

1. To invite Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen, and the expertise of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, in assisting to formulate the Masterplan and Business Case Development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
2. To invite external investors and developers with a proven track record of urban regeneration to participate in the preparation of the Master Plan and Business Case Development, and final development of the sites.
3. To invite North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to work with this Council in formulating through their expertise the Masterplan and Business Case development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
4. To invite the local education sector, in particular the local universities to collaborate with this Council in formulating the Masterplan and Business Case Development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
5. To invite the Members of Parliament for Stockton South and North to promote and lobby the Government to follow up on the health care investment already made in the planned Community Diagnostic Centre in Stockton-on-Tees, by recognising further the significant savings to the public purse by investing in a new state of the art hospital on the sites, rather than spending £300 million on a hospital that has only 8 years of useful life left.”

Moved by Councillor Bob Cook, seconded by Councillor Nigel Cooke that the substantive motion be amended as follows:-

“The Cabinet recently considered the Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres - Regeneration Update Report and made the decision recommending the development of a Masterplan and Business Case for the development of Teesdale Business Park, and the adjacent Marshalling Yards, based around a potential Social Care & Health Zone.

The Regeneration Report submitted to inform that decision highlights the exceptional opportunity to bring together a strategy for both sites, which could see a nationally significant regeneration scheme focused around key sector growth to develop a Health and Social Care Zone, with potential for: integrated training and health facilities, business incubation, research, and development.

The potential for these important sites should not be underestimated, and the development of a Masterplan and Business Case in addition Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council supports the case for the building of a new state of the art acute hospital within the Borough.

North Tees Hospital trust has estimated that it will potentially spend up to £300 million, just to maintain the building in the 8 years of useful life it has left.

Infrastructure plays a critical role in supporting local communities and the local economy. Planning and financing it correctly to maximise the area(s) potential are the keys to success in enabling our residents to access new health care facilities, education, skills, and employment opportunities.

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To achieve this, Stockton Borough Council resolves,

1. To invite the Tees Valley Mayor, and the expertise of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, in assisting to formulate the Masterplan and Business Case Development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
2. To invite external investors and developers with a proven track record of urban regeneration to participate in the preparation of the Master Plan and Business Case Development, and final development of the sites.
3. To invite our NHS Partners to work with this Council in formulating through their expertise the Masterplan and Business Case development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
4. To invite the local education sector, in particular the local universities to collaborate with this Council in formulating the Masterplan and Business Case Development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
5. For the Leader of the Council to write the Members of Parliament for Stockton South and North and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to promote and lobby the Government to follow up on the health care investment already made in the planned Community Diagnostic Centre in Stockton-on-Tees, by recognising further the significant savings to the public purse by investing in a new state of the art hospital, in the Borough rather than spending £300 million on a hospital that has only 8 years of useful life left.”

Following a debate, a vote took place and it was agreed that the amendment be carried and therefore the amendment became the substantive motion.

No further amendments were moved so a vote then took place on the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was unanimously carried as follows:-

Moved by Councillor Bob Cook, seconded by Councillor Nigel Cooke that the substantive motion be amended as follows:-

“The Cabinet recently considered the Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres - Regeneration Update Report and made the decision recommending the development of a Masterplan and Business Case for the development of Teesdale Business Park, and the adjacent Marshalling Yards, based around a potential Social Care & Health Zone.

The Regeneration Report submitted to inform that decision highlights the exceptional opportunity to bring together a strategy for both sites, which could see a nationally significant regeneration scheme focused around key sector growth to develop a Health and Social Care Zone, with potential for: integrated training and health facilities, business incubation, research, and development.

The potential for these important sites should not be underestimated, and the development of a Masterplan and Business Case in addition Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council supports the case for the building of a new state of the art acute hospital within the Borough.

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To achieve this, Stockton Borough Council resolves,

1. To invite the Tees Valley Mayor, and the expertise of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, in assisting to formulate the Masterplan and Business Case Development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
2. To invite external investors and developers with a proven track record of urban regeneration to participate in the preparation of the Master Plan and Business Case Development, and final development of the sites.
3. To invite our NHS Partners to work with this Council in formulating through their expertise the Masterplan and Business Case development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.
4. To invite the local education sector, in particular the local universities to collaborate with this Council in formulating the Masterplan and Business Case Development for the Teesdale Business Park and Marshalling Yard sites.



5. For the Leader of the Council to write the Members of Parliament for Stockton South and North and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to promote and lobby the Government to follow up on the health care investment already made in the planned Community Diagnostic Centre in Stockton-on-Tees, by recognising further the significant savings to the public purse by investing in a new state of the art hospital, in the Borough rather than spending £300 million on a hospital that has only 8 years of useful life left.”

**COU/58/23 Motion - The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40 by Cllr Tony Riordan:-**

The following motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40, moved by Councillor Tony Riordan, seconded by Councillor Niall Innes:-

“Change to Constitution

Call-in provides a mechanism for councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the executive needs to be revisited (or possibly changed). The use of call-in can also be seen to be embarrassing and frustrating to a local authority and its leadership. However, it provides a key check and balance in the leader/cabinet system of governance – a long-stop that, in theory, prevents the overweening exercise of power by Cabinet. It should, however, be regarded as a measure that is only needed in exceptional circumstances, rather than day-to-day.

Paragraph 1.35, Council Constitution.

Decisions of Stockton Borough Council will usually be made in accordance with the following principles:

- proportionality (i.e., the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome).
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from Officers.
- respect for human rights and equality of opportunity.
- a presumption in favour of openness.
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and
- an explanation of what options have been considered and giving the reasons for decisions.

This motion is aimed at improving the principles, ensuring that call-in is still used in exceptional circumstances, but not making it almost impossible, as it is at present.

There can be a perception among members that call-in can be used to reverse a decision. It is important to emphasise that this is not the case. More often the challenge is on the quality of the information provided and accessed by the decision maker to arrive at what should be a robust and evidence-based decision.

Stockton Borough resolves to amend the Constitution by inserting the following at paragraph 1.35,

- relevant matters have not been ignored,
- clarity and explanation of information provided,
- the merits of the decision,

Moved by Councillor Niall Innes, seconded by Councillor Lynn Hall that the substantive motion be amended as follows:-

“Change to Constitution

Call-in provides a mechanism for councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the executive needs to be revisited (or possibly changed). The use of call-in can also be seen to be embarrassing and frustrating to a local authority and its leadership. However, it provides a key check and balance in the leader/cabinet system of governance – a long-stop that, in theory, prevents the overweening exercise of power by Cabinet. It should, however, be regarded as a measure that is only needed in exceptional circumstances, rather than day-to-day.

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Stockton Borough resolves to amend the Constitution by inserting the following at paragraph 1.35,

- relevant matters have not been ignored,
- clarity and explanation of information provided,

A vote took place and it was agreed that the amendment be carried and therefore the amendment became the substantive motion.

No further amendments were moved so a vote then took place on the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was carried as follows:-

“Change to Constitution

Call-in provides a mechanism for councillors to intervene when they feel that a decision being made by the executive needs to be revisited (or possibly changed). The use of call-in can also be seen to be embarrassing and frustrating to a local

authority and its leadership. However, it provides a key check and balance in the leader/cabinet system of governance – a long-stop that, in theory, prevents the overweening exercise of power by Cabinet. It should, however, be regarded as a measure that is only needed in exceptional circumstances, rather than day-to-day.

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- a presumption in favour of openness.
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes; and
- an explanation of what options have been considered and giving the reasons for decisions.

This motion is aimed at improving the principles, ensuring that call-in is still used in exceptional circumstances, but not making it almost impossible, as it is at present.

There can be a perception among members that call-in can be used to reverse a decision. It is important to emphasise that this is not the case. More often the challenge is on the quality of the information provided and accessed by the decision maker to arrive at what should be a robust and evidence-based decision.

Stockton Borough resolves to amend the Constitution by inserting the following at paragraph 1.35,

- relevant matters have not been ignored,
- clarity and explanation of information provided,

### **COU/59/23 Members' Question Time**

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Niall Innes for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities & Community Safety (Councillor Norma Stephenson OBE):-

“Can the Leader inform us what this Council is doing to tackle excessive fly-tipping in the Borough?”

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities & Community Safety responded with:-

“Stockton Borough Council has a proactive enforcement service that takes action on environmental crime and fly tipping, a crime that can impact residents’ feelings of safety and vulnerability to crime. Fly tipping costs local authorities millions of pounds each year to remove but it also has a detrimental impact on both our community and environment, residents are encouraged to help us tackle the problem and there is an easy online reporting system, and also methods to report via housing providers.

Enforcement Officers have powers to issue fines and prosecutions against members of the public and irresponsible waste carriers who do not comply with legislation and who blight local communities with inconsiderate fly tipping. Case Management Officers

are due to embark on additional training to enhance their investigative skills and improve prosecution quality so the worst and most prolific offenders can be brought to justice. £23k Government funding has been secured in order to purchase equipment such as covert cameras, environmental measures and IT equipment to target those areas most at risk from fly tipping and now, a new initiative, named Operation Grant has begun in Port Clarence to address the issues there. The intention is to target other areas at increased risk of fly tipping in due course. Enforcement Officers patrol fly tipping hot spot areas daily, and waste accumulations are reported to colleagues in Care For Your Area, so that swift clean up action can be taken.

Enforcement and Case Management Officers regularly run Community Action Days with partners from Thirteen, CFYA Cleveland Fire Brigade and Police. The most recent was on 5th September, and community skips were used to encourage responsible waste disposal. Officers were on hand to educate and to explain to residents the hazards of dumping unsanitary and often combustible waste, the environmental and community impacts and what the likely penalties could be under legislation, fly tipping is a criminal offence and can leave you subject to a fine of an unlimited amount and imprisonment of up to 5 year.

Local residents in identified Hot Spot areas are sent letters explaining the impacts, and the consequences of fly tipping and irresponsible waste disposal. While I understand that fly tipping is a year-round problem and requires a rounded partnership approach, as we enter Autumn, Bonfire season is fast approaching, and fly tipping creates potential sources for people setting deliberate fires which creates an added strain on Emergency Services. I am confident that there is a strong partnership approach to tackle fly tipping and that Community Safety, CFYA and our partners in Cleveland Fire Brigade and the Police have plans in place to mitigate the consequences of fly tipping and waste accumulation, and that our teams are aware of the risks of combustible material being available in our communities.”

Councillor Niall Innes asked the following supplementary question:-

“Regarding the 2021/22 national enforcement fly-tipping tables that have just been released show this Council is one of the least effective at issuing fixed penalty notices locally and nationally being 205th out of 305 councils. Residents expect to see fixed penalty notices issued, given these poor results can the Cabinet Member tell us what she is doing to increase the fixed penalty notices so we can climb these league tables?”

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities & Community Safety responded with:-

“There have been a number of actions that have been taken but I think the important one is that case managers have been given more training so that they can do better investigations and gather more evidence that can be taken and used in court.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Niall Innes for response by the Chair of the Planning Committee (Councillor Mick Stoker):-

“It is apparent that this Council have allowed excessive planning applications to cause havoc for the resident's borough, especially in my Ward of Hartburn. What assurances can be provided that the huge number of residents who have submitted objections to the proposed 700 houses in Wynyard will be listened to by this council?”

The Chair of the Planning Committee responded with:-

“As this is a matter for the Local Planning Authority, a written response outlining the process will be provided to explain how representations that are formally submitted to a planning application are considered before a planning application is determined. This written response will also include any response to a supplementary question.”

Councillor Niall Innes asked the following supplementary question:-

“The National Policy Framework requires authorities to have a local validation list published on their website and reviewed every two years. The local list identifies that locally determined information which is required by the authority beyond the basic national requirement information to be submitted with an application and together they provide basis to validate an application. Local lists typically require assessments of new open spaces, landscape and visual impacts, transport and travel and air quality to name a few. Stockton Council doesn't have a visible or active list at this time and one hasn't been seen since around 2013. In a recent press release from the application stated that the submitted information with the application for Wynyard met with national requirements for validation and was therefore considered to be valid, this is all despite we don't have an active local list. I therefore wish to ask when, why and on what authority was the local list removed from the Council website and where doesn't that leave the Council in terms of a local validation list?”

The Legal Adviser informed the meeting that Members at Council meetings can not discuss specific applications that are being made and are being considered by officers under delegated powers or by the Planning Committee.

The Chair of the Planning Committee also added:-

“I believe what Councillor Innes is looking for is the LDF.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Stefan Houghton for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Councillor Clare Gamble):-

“At the Special Council on 22nd February 2023, I raised objections to the proposal in the MTFP to introduce car parking charges at Preston Park. Matters of concern included parking being displaced to the surrounding residential areas and the risk of pricing visitors away from Preston Park.

Since the 22nd February, significant events such as holding our local elections and submitting a planning application for elements of Preston Parks redevelopment have taken place. As the Special Council was seven months ago, I would appreciate an update on the council's latest thoughts towards introducing parking charges?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport responded with:-

“The potential introduction of car parking charges at Preston Park is still being considered in line with the capital works programme which is due to be completed in 2025. The re-development work includes plans to increase overall car parking spaces by re-design the main car park and also extending the south of the car park. As

indicated previously the Council will explore a range of different charging options including permits to frequent visitors. But as I have mentioned it is not expected to be completed until 2025.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Ray Godwin for response by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Cook):-

“As we all know Birmingham city council recently issued a section 114 notice, Conservative media has since blamed an ineffective Labour administration for this failing, but Birmingham is not alone, and these financial pressures are not isolated to any political persuasion.

Northamptonshire County Council was the first to declare bankruptcy in over two decades. The Conservative-run authority had long prided itself on leading the way in privatisation, low-council tax and resident value for money. But its high-risk strategies of outsourcing social care services and selling off public buildings backfired.

Thurrock, on the Thames Estuary in Essex, filed a section 114 in December 2022 after declaring a £469m black hole in its finances. Concerns had been raised as far back as 2018 over the Conservative-run authority's alleged "extreme" appetite for financial risk.

The latest authorities which have warned that they face issuing a section 114 notice in the near future include Kent, Guildford, Hastings, Southampton and Bradford. This is as a result of the dire financial situation that they currently face and is seen as the tip of the iceberg.

Looking at the wider picture of local authorities' accounts for 2022/23, it would seem these councils are not alone, and as the year unfolds it will not be surprising if more authorities warn that they are also at risk.

The spate of warnings of trouble ahead follows on from the high-profile financial failure of Woking Borough Council, which was put under government intervention in May and issued an s114 in June. This was an issuance which many people have argued will have ramifications for the whole of the local government sector.

To give further insight into Woking Borough Council:

The Liberal Democrats took over Woking from the Conservatives at this year's local elections. With most debts racked up under the previous Conservative administration with failings blamed on various questionable investments - including a 23-story Hilton hotel.

Taking all of the above into account My Question to the leader of the council is:

“What is the latest financial forecast within SBC and what is putting the biggest pressures on our financial resources?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“I am sure everyone has seen the recent press and there are now many Councils in financial difficulty, not just those Councillor Godwin has referred to in the question. Some have had to issue a section 114 notice and others have indicated that they are heading towards that position. As well as significant historic funding reductions, local

authorities are now facing huge financial pressures caused by inflation and increasing demands.

The Government have deferred various reviews of Local Government Finance – the most recent being the Fair Funding review which has been around now for over 5 years and not progressed. I have called many times for a long-term funding settlement which is fair and which would enable Councils to provide essential services for our Communities.

We at Stockton have managed our finances well, made difficult decisions and made huge savings in the past but we are also under pressure. The latest update report to Cabinet is showing a projected shortfall of £3.7m – caused by inflation and demand pressures particularly costs of supporting our vulnerable children. Whilst we can use reserves this is not sustainable and that is why we are commencing with the transformation programme. What we really need though is a fundamental review into the financing of Local Government.”

Councillor Ray Godwin asked the following supplementary question:-

“Are there any actions the Council is taking to alleviate the situation?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“In the MTFP we put in a programme of transformation of our services that look at efficiencies and savings to make sure we can still deliver services. We have been a financially well-managed Council so we can use the two years going forward to 2024/25 when the projected deficit will kick in we can use the reserves and this gives us a bit of breathing room to look at the transformation process. A lot of Councils don't have that breathing space and are in dire straits already.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Ray Godwin for response by the Leader of Council (Councillor Bob Cook):-

“With well over a decade of Austerity and public service cuts and services remaining well short of when the present government took power in 2010, along with inflationary pressures and energy rises, it is not difficult to see why so many councils are in dire financial trouble.

As we know this is not helped by shifting funding responsibilities for many services from National government to local councils, (The taxpayer to rate payer burden).

Please can the leader of the council tell me funding difference from national government from 2010 to present day?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

““The amount of funding allocated by central government in 23/24 is £36m less than in 2010, or a £97m reduction when you take inflation into account. This is a 25% cash reduction or 47% real terms reduction.”

Councillor Ray Godwin asked the following supplementary question:-

“So when my residents tell me that this Council should not have increased council tax to maintain services, can I assure them that under the present government funding policy not raising council tax was not a viable option to maintain frontline services?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

“Northampton who kept their council tax as low as what they could are now bankrupt and other Councils who did the same are struggling. What Stockton are trying to do is ensure that the services we are delivering are deliverable with the money that we get through from council tax. If we didn't raise it and many times the Conservative Group told us not to raise it we would be in the same position as a lot of other councils in the country. We have got that breathing space to try and reduce that deficit going forward and one of the reasons why we can do this is because we have been able to take notice of what the government has said our spending power is and as I have said in many budget meeting we don't want to raise council tax but the way that government have reduced our money to run our services has reduced over the years, its been difficult not having to raise council tax. So, you can say to your residents that unfortunately because of the amount of money government has taken off local councils it is unfortunate that councils do have to raise their council tax. This is the way this government works, it takes it of them and puts it on local councillors to make these awful decisions to raise council tax even in the cost of living crisis.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Shakeel Hussain for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Councillor Clare Gamble):-

“The residents of Richmond Road are blighted with people parking their cars in the road without consideration. On occasions residents have been unable to leave their homes due to vehicles parked across driveways despite having white lines to stop people doing so.

As much as we want people to use and enjoy the jewel of Stockton Ropner Park the parking issue is causing misery for local residents. What will this Labour council do to help the residents of Richmond Road?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport responded with:-

“Thank you, Councillor Hussain, for bringing this issue to my attention and to the residents who have come along to this meeting and waited so patiently.

I spoke to council officers about this issue earlier today and council officers will be in-touch with yourself and Councillor Mubeen to get more detail about exactly what the issue is, including exact locations, specific times so we can look at what we can do to resolve the issue and to also get some of our civic enforcement team down there for you as well.

Can I also say that please, all members forward-based issues like this please don't wait until a Council meeting to ask a question, my virtual door is always open, drop me an email, get in-touch with council officers, we are all here to help residents across the Borough. So please just reach out and hopefully we can get issues resolved a bit quicker.”



To better understand the extent of issues currently being experienced by residents, including exact locations and specific timings, Officers will liaise with Ward Councillors and request colleagues in our Civic Enforcement Team undertake proactive monitoring to address the concerns raised.”

The following question had been submitted by Councillor Shakeel Hussain for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety (Councillor Norma Stephenson):-

“The residents of Yarm Road have had to put up with sex workers on their doorsteps for the last 15 or so years. The residents have had enough so what will this labour council do to help the residents rid the area of sex workers who operate day and night. Even during school times?”

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

“Addressing concerns about sex workers operating in our community requires a thoughtful and comprehensive approach that considers both the safety and well-being of the residents as well as the rights and needs of sex workers. It's essential to approach this issue with sensitivity and empathy while working towards a solution that benefits everyone involved.

I understand that some residents in our community have raised concerns about the presence of sex workers in our neighbourhood. This is a complex issue that requires careful consideration, and it's important that we address it in a way that respects the rights and dignity of all individuals involved whilst also adopting the national frameworks in place in addressing sex work in our communities.

Recent work within the ward has included an increase in uniformed patrols, improved street lighting and additional CCTV cameras. More work is also planned in the coming weeks and months as the area has been selected as part of Cleveland Polices new Clear, Hold, Build strategy. We also have an open dialogue with Cleveland Police around problem solving and we are contributing across the authority in addressing any illegal activities that may be associated with sex work. We are currently awaiting news of additional funding from central government which will allow increased intervention with sex workers, delivered through local charities and intervention specialists.

At the same time, it's important to recognise that sex work is a complex and multifaceted issue. Many individuals engage in sex work due to economic hardship, addiction, or other circumstances that lead them to become victims of sexual abuse, control and organised criminals. The protection of those engaged in street sex work is very much a priority for the multi-agency sexual exploitation group. To address the underlying causes that contribute to women being forced into sex work, we have a range of support services such as addiction counselling, mental health services, and job training programs. These services can provide an opportunity for sex workers to transition out of the activity if they choose to do so.

Furthermore, along with other partners we are exploring harm reduction strategies that aim to minimise the risks associated with sex work. This includes addressing the health needs of those engaged in sex work whilst also ensuring services are in place to break the cycle of exploitation in a way that workers can access on their terms.

Finally, we recognise that it's essential to engage in a community dialogue that includes all stakeholders, including sex workers themselves who are also members of that local community. Their input is crucial in finding solutions that are fair and effective.

In summary, addressing concerns about sex workers in our community requires a multifaceted approach that prioritises the safety of residents, offers support and alternatives to sex workers, and involves all stakeholders in the discussion. By working together, we can find solutions that respect the rights and dignity of everyone in our community and we are committed to continuing this work with elected Members for the Ropner Ward.

I would also back Councillor Gamble's comments that I am approachable, and I will speak to any Councillor about any issues that they have that come under my portfolio.

Councillor Shakeel Hussain asked the following supplementary question:-

"The residents have had to put up with this a long time and some of these residents have lived on these streets for 30 plus years. How many members here would like to see sex workers outside your door? the families have safety concerns. We understand as a Council that the sex workers have issues so something needs to be done about that, it has been 15 plus years and nothing has been done."

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

"There are government guidelines around sex workers that we have to work with and we will."

The following question has been submitted by Councillor Sufi Mubeen for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport (Councillor Clare Gamble):-

"The buses stopped operating on Bowesfield Lane many years ago can the Leader please tell us if the buses will run again from Bowesfield Lane?"

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport responded with:-

"Bus services do sit under the remit of the TVCA as opposed to Stockton Council. However, we do work closely with them and the Council are not aware of any proposals from bus operators to serve Bowesfield Lane."

Councillor Sufi Mubeen asked the following supplementary question:-

"If the buses will not be running again please can I request the removal of the bus restrictions as this will help with the traffic calming in the area and the people who currently use this small road as a race track that has implications on the local community. Bus shelters have been removed already from Fairfield Road to Dunedin Avenue so we know that this is doable."

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport responded with:-

“I will speak to council officers about this and come back to you with the options that are available.”

## **COU/60/23 Forward Plan and Leader’s Statement**

The Leader of the Council gave his Forward Plan and Leaders Statement.

Council last met on the 26 July 2024. The Leader of the Council hoped Members had had a good summer break. Cabinet met on 18 September 2024 and considered the following matters:

- A Financial Update and Medium-Term Financial Plan (Quarter 1 2023/2024) report .
- The chair of executive scrutiny presented the Overview and Scrutiny - End-of-Term Report 2019-2023
- The Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman - Local Authority Report for Stockton-on-Tees for 2022/23
- Appointment to an Outside Body - Teesside International Airport Board limited
- Local authority governor Appointments
- Early Years Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Cabinet would meet on the 12 October and then the 16 November before Council met again. October Cabinet was scheduled to consider:

- Update on the Care and Health Zone
- Customer Service Excellence Compliance
- Tees Valley Music Hub
- School Performance 2022-23
- Selective Licensing of Private Rented Housing
- Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Interim Policy Review 2023
- Council Plan Update

After that the Leader of the Council looked forward to seeing Members at the next full Council meeting on the 22 November 2024.

The Leader of the Council reminded Members of the Festival of Thrift taking place in Billingham. There was also libraries week taking place from Monday 2nd October, a chance to experience the Borough’s great libraries. There would also be remembrance events across the Borough on Remembrance Sunday.

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## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**22 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY INTERIM REVIEW**

### **SUMMARY**

For Council to consider the views and comments received from the General Licensing Committee, transport trade and other interested parties following consultation on the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)**

In November 2022 the transport policy was reviewed at the request of the transport trade, due to changes in the industry both locally and nationally. The trade have now requested one of these changes is reversed and a 21 day public consultation was undertaken giving stakeholders opportunity to comment.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Council:

1. Approve the proposed changes to the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy with an implementation date of 1 December 2023.

### **DETAIL**

1. The current private hire & hackney carriage licensing policy was approved in 2022 following a full public consultation. A copy of the current policy document can be found at: [www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1514/Introduction](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1514/Introduction)
2. In November 2022 following requests from the trade the transport policy was reviewed. The changes were approved and the requirements on new hackney carriage vehicle specification was relaxed. Since this policy change the hackney carriage vehicle fleet has increased by 35 vehicles, hackney carriage wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) have increased by 2.
3. The licensed trade made a request for the policy to be reviewed again and for this policy change to be reversed. A 21 day public consultation was undertaken giving stakeholders opportunity to comment.
4. The public consultation survey was available online and links were directly sent to all licensees, members and interested parties.
5. There were 105 responses to the consultation. In summary the proposed policy wording was supported:

	Agree with proposed wording – 69%	Disagree proposed wording 15%	Neither agree or disagree – 15%
Combined driver	44	7	5
Hackney carriage driver	13	3	2
Private hire driver	7	2	6

6. The proposed policy wording is below and would mean any applications for new hackney carriage vehicles would need to be wheelchair accessible, existing hackney carriage vehicles would still be able to be replaced like for like.

<p><b>Current Wording</b>  <b>Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)</b>                      WAV's that are currently licensed may be replaced with a like for like vehicle e.g. another WAV that complies with current policy.</p> <p>Departure from policy in exceptional circumstances e.g. medical grounds will be considered on a case by case basis.</p> <p>The hackney carriage and private hire trade will continue to be encouraged to licence a proportion of their fleet as Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.</p>
<p><b>Proposed Wording</b>                      All new applications for hackney carriage vehicle licences are required to be wheelchair accessible vehicles.</p> <p>Hackney carriage vehicles which are currently licensed can be replaced with a like for like vehicle e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WAVs can be replaced with another WAV which complies with current Policy.</li> <li>• Saloons (5 seats) may be replaced with another Saloon which complies with current Policy</li> <li>• MPVs (more than 5 seats) can be replaced with another MPV which complies with current Policy</li> </ul> <p>The private hire trade will continue to be encouraged to licence a proportion of their fleet as Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.</p>

7. The Licensing Service continue to explore ways to increase the WAV fleet, this is a national issue, these vehicles cost more to purchase, run and maintain and drivers cannot charge more for WAV journeys under disability legislation.
8. A full review of the policy is expected later this year or early next year, after the publication of the Department for Transport's Best Practice Guidance document, which was consulted on in 2022 and was expected in Spring 2023.
9. This matter was considered by the General Licensing Committee on 8 August 2023 the committee recommended the proposed changes are considered by Cabinet and Council.
10. If approved, the trade will be informed of the new policy via email and via private hire operators and the SHCDA. Changes will also be publicised on the trade Facebook page and via the Council website. In addition the policy changes will be added to future trade meeting agendas.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

Control and regulation of the private hire and hackney carriage trade ensures the safety of the public and other road users. This proposal will enhance public safety objectives of the licensing regime.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Trade licensing fee are set locally and are not affected by this proposal.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

If a person is aggrieved with the adoption of the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy then they could challenge it by Judicial Review proceedings before the Administrative Court. A claimant must file a claim promptly, and in any event not later than three months after the grounds to make the claim first arose. The implementation and operation of the Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy will be done in accordance with the legislation and associated guidance.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The risks associated with the Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy are mitigated by the administration and enforcement provisions of legislation and associated guidance.

### **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

The administration and enforcement provisions within the legislation and associated guidance assist officers in dealing with public safety and can lead to the revocation of a licence.

### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety has been consulted, along with Members, Responsible Authorities, the trade, and the public.

**Name of Contact Officer: Marc Stephenson**

**Post Title: Assistant Director Community Safety & Regulated Services**

**Telephone No. 07341073745**

**Email Address: marc.stephenson@stockton.gov.uk**

Education related? No

Background Papers

[www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1514/Introduction](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1514/Introduction)

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable – does not relate directly to specific wards.

Property

Not applicable.

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# Agenda Item 9

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 NOVEMBER 2023

### REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023

### SUMMARY

This report sets out proposed changes for polling districts and places taking into account the submission of the Acting Returning Officer and feedback received from the consultation. The consultation ended on 29 October 2023

### REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISION

To meet a statutory requirement requiring Councils to carry out a Polling District and Places Review every five years; to take account of feedback from electoral events, electorate projections and consultation feedback.

### RECOMMENDATION

Recommend to Council changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places at the meeting to be held on 23 November 2023, as outlined in the attached Acting Returning Officers recommendations, incorporating the responses to the comments laid out in the table below.

### DETAIL

1. Each Local Authority is required to carry out reviews of Polling Districts and Polling Places in its area.
2. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 changed the timing of these reviews and reviews must be held within a 16-month period starting on 1 October every fifth year after 1 October 2013. Ward boundaries are unaffected by the review.
3. The Council's last statutory review was carried out in 2018 and an interim review was held in 2022 when a number of changes were made as a result of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Ward Boundary Review. The changes approved by Council on 23 November 2022 were implemented and in place for the May 2023 local elections held in the Borough.
4. A Council's area is divided into polling districts with one or more districts making up a ward, with a polling place being the area or building within a polling district in which a polling station is situated. The Council must identify the polling districts and polling places within the Borough. The (Acting) Returning Officer is responsible for identifying the polling stations within the polling place.

5. Electoral Commission Guidance states: *Where the polling district/place review is to be carried out before the new electoral boundaries are fully in force, it will need to be based on the current electoral boundaries but should also take any new boundaries that are not yet in force into account. To avoid having to review the polling districts and polling places again once the new boundaries are fully in force, any parts of existing electoral areas that will be split when the new boundaries come into effect could be made into separate polling districts as part of the review.*

*Also, until the new boundaries are fully in force, the register will need to be constructed in a way that is capable of reflecting the current and the new boundaries. Again, this can be achieved by making any parts of existing electoral areas that will be split when the new boundaries come into effect into separate polling districts.*

*For the same reasons where, as a result of a review of one set of electoral boundaries, the boundaries for different elections are no longer co-terminus, those areas that are no longer co-terminus could also be made into separate polling districts.*

In short, polling districts changes have been considered to include existing and future Parliamentary boundaries. This will be achieved by merging into appropriate adjoining polling districts as identified in the 2022 review and keeping some small polling districts that due to the geography of the Parliamentary Boundary are unsuitable to combine with neighbouring polling districts.

6. The review has considered:
  - a. The boundaries of polling districts – for example, are they well defined? Do they follow natural boundaries? Are there suitable transport links? Are there any obstacles to crossing polling district boundaries?
  - b. Polling Places – the location, size and accessibility of the polling place and its availability now and in the future
  - c. Polling Stations – the suitability and accessibility of the room or area for use as a polling station (unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the Local Authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election).
7. During the 2023 Elections, the opportunity was taken to complete the Electoral Commission's evaluation templates in order to assess the suitability/ accessibility of the polling place/ station. Presiding Officers were also asked to record any complaints/comments received.
8. The Boundary Commission has undertaken electorate projections as part of the Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023 and the Local Government Ward Boundary Review 2022. The recommendations take into consideration these predictions as well as the increase in postal voters that we have seen since 2021.
9. The Returning Officer's submission summarises the existing arrangements, key issues identified from the 2023 Elections, any notable projected changes in electorate and makes proposals for changes to polling districts/ places.
10. Mobile polling stations continue to be used where no alternative venues can be found. Mobiles stations are expensive and unpopular with voters and suggestions for alternative venues are always welcomed. The use of some schools as polling stations continues to be a problem when the safeguarding

of children cannot in the view of the schools be assured, and in these circumstances alternative venues have been identified. The proposals consider Electoral Commission Guidance that the number of electors allocated to a particular polling station should not exceed 2,250 and also the introduction of Voter Identification which is more resource intensive on polling day.

11. Any further feedback and comments from the 2024 Elections in relation to the suitability of existing polling stations will be considered in the planning for future electoral events and statutory reviews.
12. The consultation was published on 1 October 2023 with a closing date for comments of midnight on 29 October 2023. The Acting Returning Officers submission summarised the existing arrangements and their proposals to reduce the number of polling districts by 8, by merging a number of polling places that use the same polling place and keeping 5 smaller polling districts due to the changes in Parliamentary Boundaries.

## CONSULTATION

1. The Statutory Notice publicising the review was displayed / sent to:
  - Libraries
  - Website
  - Parish Councils
  - Community Centres
2. In addition, the consultation document and Acting Returning Officer's submission was sent to:
  - Website
  - Libraries
  - All Councillors
  - MPs
  - Parish Councils
  - Disability Groups/ BME/faith community via Catalyst
3. The table below contains a summary of the comments received and comments/revised proposals in response to the consultation feedback.

Ward/Polling District	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer Response
Grangefield	Councillor Carol Clark	I am concerned about the areas using St. Pauls Church as their polling station. For the May elections asked that we use St Johns Church for the areas of Westfield Crescent etc and Lilac Road etc. They were stuck on to Grangefield ward to make up the numbers and unless the residents have a car, they will be unable to get to St Pauls Church	Agree - Revert back to St John's Church, Durham Road for GF3 and GF4 and merge GF3 and GF4 on 1.12.2023
Roseworth	Cllrs Jim Beall and Cllr Barbara Inman	Polling district RW3 – Current polling place St Chads - expressed that the previous polling station at Kiora Hall,	Initial contact has been attempted regarding the feasibility of hiring Kiora

Ward/Polling District	From	Comment	Acting Returning Officer Response
		<p>Ragpath Lane, is available again, and the councillors would like to see if it is possible for us to use that instead to St Chads, as it is more central to the polling district.</p> <p>Polling district RW2 – Current polling place Elim Pentecostal Church there has been a change of name to New Hope Centre</p> <p>Polling District RW1 – proposed polling place to be Ragworth Centre merging current smaller polling districts RW1 and NT3/RW5 - Request to keep the mobile polling station on Rochester Road, rather than use the Ragworth Centre, on the basis of ease accessibility from the larger proportion of the polling district, with low car ownership. Whilst there is a crossing to get across the main road, many of the electors on the north side of the A1207 (Darlington Road area) walk to the polling station.</p> <p>Splitting RW1 with the westerly side using the Hope Centre (Elim Centre) and the easterly side using the reinstated Rochester Road mobile. The streets that would be affected by this move are.  Spruce Road  Sycamore Grove  Elder Grove  Birch Grove  This would be a total of 146 electors moving to RW2.</p>	<p>Hall.</p> <p>Booking form received for 2024 elections still listing polling place as Elim Pentecostal Church – Polling place will be listed as Hope Centre (previously Elim Church)</p> <p>Agree – Mobile station to be continued to be used instead of changing to Ragworth Centre.</p> <p>Agree - Incorporate changes identified placing electors in Spruce Road, Sycamore Grove, Elder grove, Birch Grove into RW2</p>
Whole Area	Acting Returning Officer – Darlington Borough Council	No Comments	Acknowledged
Whole Area	Acting Returning Officer – Middlesbrough Borough Council	No Comments	Acknowledged

## REVISED PROPOSALS

4. The proposals of the Acting Returning Officer, which were included in the consultation, are attached at **Appendix 1**.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5. Accessibility of polling places is a key consideration of the polling district and places review.

## CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

6. No direct implications.

## FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The review is required within 16 months from the 1 October 2023 as per the timings outlined in The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. As a Parliamentary Election is due to be held no later than January 2025, it is beneficial to carry out the review at the earliest opportunity, in preparation of a General Election on the new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

## RISK ASSESSMENT

8. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.
9. The proposals take in account Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review final proposals, 2022 Polling District and Polling Place review recommendations, consultation feedback and Electoral Commission Guidance that the number of electors allocated to a particular polling station should not exceed 2,250 not including postal voters.

## WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. All Councillors have been consulted.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Jonathan Nertney  
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**Name of Contact Officer:** Fiona Srogi  
**Telephone No:** 01642 528954  
**Email Address:** [Fiona.Srogi@stockon.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.Srogi@stockon.gov.uk)

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

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## **Statutory Polling District and Places Review 2023**

### **Background**

Within each Local Authority area, legislation requires Councils to carry out reviews of Polling Districts and Polling Places in that area.

Stockton on Tees Borough Council is conducting a review of polling districts and polling places in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The (Acting) Returning Officer for Stockton on Tees will comment on the current arrangements and those comments will be made available on the Council's website and at the Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton.

A Council's area is divided into polling districts with one or more districts making up a ward, with a polling place being the area or building within a polling district in which a polling station is situated. Consequently, it is inevitable that polling stations are also considered as part of these reviews.

In line with the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission the review has considered:

- The boundaries of polling districts – for example, are they well defined? Do they follow natural boundaries? Are there suitable transport links? Are there any obstacles to crossing polling district boundaries?
- Polling Places – the location, size and accessibility of the polling place and its availability now and in the future
- Polling Stations – the suitability and accessibility of the room or area for use as a polling station

The following tables summarises the proposed arrangements. Polling districts will need to be drawn to reflect the needs of both Parliamentary and Ward Boundary arrangements. This will be achieved by merging the temporary polling districts identified for the period 1 December 2022 to 1 December 2023 into appropriate adjoining polling districts on publication of the Revised Register on 1 December 2023. As well as maintaining a number of small polling districts, due to the new Parliamentary Boundary arrangements using the Ward structure from 2020 electoral register rather than the Warding arrangements introduced in May 2023.

Mobile polling stations continue to be used where no alternative venues can be found. Any suggestions for alternative venues to avoid the need to use mobile stations would be welcomed.

The proposals take into account Electoral Commission Guidance that the number of electors allocated to a particular polling station should not exceed 2,250.

It is usual for the Polling Place to be within the Polling District however the (Acting) Returning Officer reserves the right to designate a Polling place within an adjoining Polling District should circumstances dictate.

Maps illustrating the changes to polling districts can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/boundary-reviews>

Following the Parliamentary Boundary Review Stockton-on-Tees Borough Councils 27 Wards encompass 3 different Parliamentary Constituencies, these are Stockton North Constituency, Stockton West Constituency, and Middlesbrough and Thornaby East Constituency, and under the statutory review of polling places the Acting Returning Officer has proposed that 11 Wards require changes to the polling district make up as shown below.

Ward	Summary of Acting Returning Officers Proposed Changes
Billingham Central	Merge of smaller polling districts which use the same polling place T-BW2/BC5 and BC2
Billingham East	No Change
Billingham North	No Change
Billingham South	Merge of smaller polling districts which use same polling place BE2/BS5 and BS6
Billingham West & Wolviston	No Change
Bishopgarth & Elmtree	Changes to polling place for BET2
Eaglescliffe East	No Change
Eaglescliffe West	No Change
Fairfield	No Change
Grangefield	Merge of smaller polling districts which use the same polling place NT1/GF3, NT2 /GF4, and NT4/GF1
Hardwick & Salters Lane	No Change
Hartburn	Merge of smaller polling districts that use the same polling place. T-GF3/HB3 and T-GF4/HB4
Ingleby Barwick North	No Change
Ingleby Barwick South	Merge of smaller polling districts that use the same polling place. IBW3/IBS5 and IBW4/IBS6
Mandale and Victoria	Merge of smaller polling districts that use the same polling place. MV4 & MV5
Newtown	No Change
Northern Parishes	No Change
Norton Central	No Change
Norton North	No Change
Norton South	Merge of smaller polling districts that use the same polling place. NS3 & NS4
Ropner	No Change
Roseworth	Merge of smaller polling districts with changes to polling place for some electors. RW1 and NT3/RW5
Southern Villages	No Change
Stockton Town Centre	Merge of smaller polling districts that use the same polling place. STC2 and NS1/STC6
Stainsby Hill	Merge of smaller polling districts that use the same polling place. SH3 and MV4/SH4.
Village	No Change
Yarm	No Change

No Change	
Acting Returning Officers Proposed Changes	



<b>District Ward:</b>		Billingham Central			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5403			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
BC1	BC1	Billingham Baptist Church, Cheviot Crescent	1068	No change	No change
BC2	BC2	The Medway Centre, Sidlaw Road	891	Merge with T-BW2/BC5	Temporary polling district merged with T-BW2/BC5 to create BC2 as previously identified giving a total of 1093 polling station electors
BC3	BC3	St. Aidan's Church, Tintern Avenue	1094	No change	No change
BC4	BC4	Billingham Library & Customer Services Centre	700	No change	No change
T-BW2/BC5	BC2	The Medway Centre, Sidlaw Road	202	Merge with BC2	Temporary polling district merged to create BC2 as previously identified giving a total of 1093 polling station electors

<b>District Ward:</b>		Billingham East			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5095			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
BE1	BE1	New Life Family Centre, Low Grange Avenue	1562	No change	No change
BE3/BE2	BE2	Low Grange Community Hall, Low Grange Avenue	1142	No change	No change
BN3/BE3	BE3	Mobile Polling Station located at Marsh House Avenue (/Merlin Pub)	981	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Billingham North			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5235			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
BN1	BN1	High Grange Community Centre, Casson Way	1524	No change	No change
BN2	BN2	North Billingham Methodist Church, Marsh House Avenue	859	No change	No change – Continue to operate as a double station
BN4/BN3	BN3	North Billingham Methodist Church, Marsh House Avenue	1075	No change	No change – Continue to operate as a double station

<b>District Ward:</b>		Billingham South			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5665			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
BS1	BS1	St. John's RC Church, Central Avenue	836	No change	No change
BS2	BS2	High Clarence Primary school, TS2 1SU	353	No change	No change
BS3	BS3	St. Cuthberts Church Hall, Church Road, Billingham Green, TS23 1BW	1007	No change	No change
BS4	BS4	East Avenue Community Centre East Avenue TS23 1BY	1037	No change	No change
BE2/BS5	BS5	McLean Scout Centre, Greenwood Road	780	No change	Merge with BE4/BS6 to create BS5 with a total polling station electorate of 830
BE4/BS6	BS5	McLean Scout Centre, Greenwood Road	50	No change	Merge with BE2/BS5 to create BS5 with a total polling station electorate of 830

<b>District Ward:</b>		Billingham West & Wolviston			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		4773			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
BW1	BW1	Monkseaton Community Hall, Matlock Gardens	1142	No change	No change
BW2	BW2	Wolviston Court Community Centre, Clifton Avenue	1407	No change	No change
NP3/BW3	BW3	Wolviston Village Community Centre, West Hartlepool Road	457	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		4879			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
BET1	BET1	Rosedale Centre, 122 Marske Lane, Bishopsgarth	1001	No change	No change
BET2	BET2	Rosedale Centre 122 Marske Lane Bishopgarth	506	No change	Operate as a combined station with BET1 due to the previous station at Medina House not being available anymore and the siting of a Mobile station is difficult to accommodate and cannot be justified where there is a fixed polling station available.
BET3	BET3	Elm Tree Community Centre,	1467	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Eaglescliffe East				
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		4735				
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South				
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West and Stockton North				
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>
EG1/EE1	EE1	Parkmore Hotel, Yarm Road	1257	No change	No change	Stockton West
EG4/EE4	EE2	All Saints Centre, Dunnottar Ave	886	No change	No change, unable to merge with the other polling districts, using the same polling place due to EE2 being in the Parish of Preston-on-Tees, however, will operate as a combined station with EE4	Stockton West
EG7/EE3	EE3	Egglecliffe Parish Hall,	583	No change	No change	Stockton West
EG8/EE4	EE4	All Saints Centre, Dunnottar Ave	2	Merge with EE5 and EE6	No change, unable to merge with the other polling districts, using the same polling place due to EE2 being in the Parish of Preston-on-Tees, however, will operate as a combined station with EE2	Stockton West
PO1/EE5	EE5	Mobile polling station Located within EE5	0	Merge with EE4 and EE6	No change, unable to merge with EE4 as previously identified due to different Parliamentary Constituencies (Stockton North). Will be merged with EE6	Stockton North
PO2/EE6	EE5	Mobile polling station Located within EE5	259	Merge with EE4 and EE5	No change, unable to merge with EE4 as previously identified due to different Parliamentary Constituencies (Stockton North). Will be merged with EE5	Stockton North

<b>District Ward:</b>		Eaglescliffe West			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5009			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
EG2/EW1	EW1	Egglecliffe Community Centre	1117	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Egglecliffe Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station
EG3/EW2	EW2	Egglecliffe Community Centre	1286	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Egglecliffe Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a double station
EG5/EW3	EW3	Egglecliffe Community Centre	58	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Aislaby & Newsham Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station
EG6/EW4	EW4	Egglecliffe Community Centre	40	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Aislaby & Newsham Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station
WP4/EW5	EW5	Wilson Centre, Long Newton	428	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Long Newton Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station
WP5/EW6	EW6	Wilson Centre, Long Newton	116	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Elton Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station



<b>District Ward:</b>		Fairfield			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		7061			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
FF1	FF1	Fairfield Centre (Old Boys Club), 45 Limbrick Avenue	1595	No change	No change
FF2	FF2	Rimswell Public House	1091	No change	No change
GF1/FF3	FF3	Stockton Town Football Club, Bishopton Road West	808	No change	No change
GF3/FF4	FF4	Grangefield Youth and Community Centre	719	No change	No change

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<b>District Ward:</b>		Grangefield				
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		2514				
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South				
<b>Future Constituency</b>		Stockton West / Stockton North				
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>
GF2	GF2	Grange Estate Institute, Main Door 9-11 Gray's Road	719	No change	Stockton West Parliamentary Constituency – No change to Polling Place	Stockton West
NT1/GF3	GF1	St Paul's Church Hall, Bishopton Road	128	Merge with GF1 and GF4	Merge to take place as Parliamentary Constituency is Stockton North. Create GF1 which will have 1023 polling station electors	Stockton North
NT2/GF4	GF1	St Paul's Church Hall, Bishopton Road	132	Merge with GF1 and GF3	Merge to take place as Parliamentary Constituency is Stockton North. Create GF1 which will have 1023 polling station electors	Stockton North
NT4/GF1	GF1	St Paul's Church Hal, Bishopton Road	763	Merge with GF3 and GF4	Merge to take place as Parliamentary Constituency is Stockton North. Create GF1 which will have 1023 polling station electors	Stockton North

<b>District Ward:</b>		Hardwick and Salters Lane			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5392			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
HD1	HD1	Hardwick Community Centre, Whessoe Road	1641	No change	No change
HD2	HD2	Salters Lane Community Centre, Hunwick Walk	555	No change	No change
HD3	HD3	Hardwick Baptist Church, Piper Knowle Road	1828	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Hartburn				
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		6953				
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South				
<b>Future Constituency</b>		Stockton West / Stockton North				
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>
HB1	HB1	Elmwood Community Centre, Conference Room	1451	No change	No change	Stockton West
HB2	HB2	Holy Trinity Church	1347	No change	No change	Stockton West
T-GF3/HB3	HB3	Green Lane Methodist Church, Green Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 5HP	346	Merge with T-GF4/HB4 and T-PO3/HB5	Merge T-GF4/HB4 and T- GF3/HB3 as previous recommendation to create HB3 with a polling station electorate of 928	Stockton West
T-GF4/HB4	HB3	Green Lane Methodist Church, Green Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 5HP	582	Merge with T-GF3/HB3 and T-PO3HB5	Merge T-GF4/HB4 and T- GF3/HB3 as previous recommendation to create HB3 with a polling station electorate of 928	Stockton West
T-PO3/HB5	HB4	Mobile Station located at land at Hartburn Avenue	244	Merge with T-GF3/HB3 and T-GF4/HB4	No change, unable to merge with T-GF4/HB4 and T- GF3/HB3 as previously identified due to different Parliamentary Constituency (Stockton North).	Stockton North

<b>District Ward:</b>		Ingleby Barwick North			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		8506			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
IBE1/IBN1	IBN1	Whinstone Primary School, Lowfields Avenue	1729	No change	No change – Continue to operate as a double station
IBE2/IBN2	IBN2	Whinstone Primary School, Lowfields Avenue	1114	No change	No change – Continue to operate as a double station
IBW4/IBN3	IBN3	The Rings Community Centre	1500	No change	No change
IBW5/IBN4	IBN4	Mobile Station located at land around Condercum Green	1296	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Ingleby Barwick South			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		8326			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
IBE3/IBS1	IBS1	Community Centre, Haresfield Way	611	No change	No change
IBE4/IBS2	IBS2	Community Centre, Haresfield Way	1081	No change	No change
IBW1/IBS3	IBS3	Mobile station located at land around Roundhill Ave	1133	No change	No change
IBW2/IBS4	IBS4	Mobile Station located at land around Penyghent Way	1029	No change	No change
IBW3/IBS5	IBS5	St Francis of Assisi Ingleby Barwick Way	926	Merge with IBW4/IBS6	Merge with IBW4/IBS6 as identified in 2022 to be implemented to create IBS5 with a polling station electorate of 1431
IBW4/IBS6	IBS5	St Francis of Assisi Ingleby Barwick Way	505	Merge with IBW3/IBS5	Merge with IBS5 as identified in 2022 to be implemented to create IBS5 with a polling station electorate of 1431.

<b>District Ward:</b>		Mandale and Victoria			
<b>Electorate:</b>		5716			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Middlesbrough and Thornaby East			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
MV1	MV1	Rochester Court Sheltered Housing, Stanford Close	410	No change	No change
MV2	MV2	Victoria Park Community Hall, Peel Street	1335	No change	No change
MV3	MV3	St. Patricks RC Church Hall, Cranworth Street	1061	No change	No change
MV4	MV4	Mandale Mill Primary School	706	No change	Merge with MV5 to give a total polling station electorate of 1461
MV5	MV4	Mandale Mill Primary School	755	No change	Merge with MV4 to give a total polling station electorate of 1461

<b>District Ward:</b>		Newtown			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		2477			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
NT1	NT1	Primrose Hill Community Centre	1061	No change	No change
NT2	NT2	Newtown Resource Centre, Durham Road	854	No change	No change



<b>District Ward:</b>		Northern Parishes			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5197			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
NP1	NP1	Wynyard Golf Club, Wellington Drive	1598	No change	No change
NP2	NP2	Wynyard Golf Club, Wellington Drive	43	No change	No change
WP1/NP3	NP3	Carlton Methodist Chapel, Letch Lane	454	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Carlton Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station
NP4	NP4	Grindon Parish Hall, Durham Road, Thorpe Thewles	342	No change	No change
WP2/NP5	NP5	Stillington Youth and Community Centre	755	No change	No change
WP3/NP6	NP6	Carlton Methodist Chapel, Letch Lane	149	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of Redmarshall Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station

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<b>District Ward:</b>		Norton Central			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		4756			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
NN1/NC1	NC1	St Mary's Parish Hall, The Green	877	No change	No change
NN2/NC2	NC2	Norton Methodist Church, Norton Road	708	No change	No change
NN3/NC3	NC3	North Grange Community Centre	718	No change	No change
NN4/NC4	NC4	Norton Christian Spiritualist Church, Darlington Lane	1016	No change	No change

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<b>District Ward:</b>		Norton North			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5081			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
NW1/NN1	NN1	Norton Sports Centre	1072	No change	No change
NW2/NN2	NN2	Glebe Community Centre	1015	No change	No change
NW3/NN3	NN3	Mobile Station located at land around, Rook Lane/ Shearwater Lane	880	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Norton South			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		4623			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
NS1	NS1	Malleable Club, Concert Room, Norton Road	637	No change	No change
NS2	NS2	St. Michael and all Angels Church, Imperial Avenue	1047	No change	No change
NS3	NS3	Albany Community Resource Centre, Surrey Road	1069	No change	Merge with NS4 to give total polling station electorate of 1728
NS4	NS3	Albany Community Resource Centre Surrey Road	659	No change	Merge with NS3 to give total polling station electorate of 1728

<b>District Ward:</b>		Ropner			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5174			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
PO1/RP1	RP1	Yarm Road Methodist Church, Yarm Road	1635	No change	No change
PO2/RP2	RP2	Mobile Polling Station located at land around the Eaglescliffe Hotel	1016	No change	No change
PO3/RP3	RP3	Oxbridge Christian Fellowship, The Apostolic Church, Oxbridge Lane	1054	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>		Roseworth			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5738			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
RW1	RW1	Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre, St John's Way	803	No change	Merge with NT3/RW5 to give 1208 polling station electorate and to remove use of mobile polling station.
RW2	RW2	Elim Pentecostal Church, 3 Ragpath Lane, Roseworth	1184	No change	No change
RW3	RW3	St Chads Church	1637	No change	No change, unable to merge due to RW4 being part of Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish, Whitehouse Planation Ward. Will continue to operate a double station with RW4
NP4/RW4	RW4	St Chads Church	196	No change	No change, unable to merge due to RW4 being part of Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish, Whitehouse Planation Ward. Will continue to operate a double station with RW3
NT3/RW5	RW1	Ragworth Neighbourhood Centre, St John's Way	405	No change	Merge with RW1 to give 1208 polling station electorate and to remove use of mobile polling station.

<b>District Ward:</b>		Southern Villages			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		1881			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
IBE5/SV1	SV1	Maltby Village Hall, High Lane	331	No change	No change
IBE6/SV2	SV2	Hilton Village Hall, Seamer Road	201	No change	No change
YM6/SV3	SV3	Kirklevington & Castlelevington Memorial Hall, Pump Lane	638	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of warded Parish arrangements for Kirklevington and Castlelevington, however will operate as a combined station
YM7/SV4	SV4	Kirklevington & Castlelevington Memorial Hall, Pump Lane	17	No change	No change, unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of warded Parish arrangements for Kirklevington and Castlelevington, however will operate as a combined station

<b>District Ward:</b>		Stainsby Hill				
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		5588				
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South				
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Middlesbrough and Thornaby East / Stockton West				
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>
SH1	SH1	Eltham Crescent Community Centre, Eltham Crescent	777	No change	No change	Middlesbrough and Thornaby East
SH2	SH2	South Thornaby Community Centre, Off Haviland Road	1196	Merge with VL3/SH5	No change	Middlesbrough and Thornaby East
SH3	SH3	Thornaby Central Library	1215	Merge with MV4/SH4	Merge with MV4/SH4 as previously identified in the 2022 polling place review, to give a total polling station electorate of 1638	Middlesbrough and Thornaby East
MV4/SH4	SH3	Thornaby Central Library	423	Merge with SH3	Merge with SH3 as previously identified in the 2022 polling place review, to give a total polling station electorate of 1638	Middlesbrough and Thornaby East
VL3/SH5	SH4	Mobile polling Station located at land within SH4	234	Merge with SH2	No change, unable to merge due to Parliamentary Boundary arrangements placing SH4 in Stockton West	Stockton West



<b>District Ward:</b>		Stockton Town Centre			
<b>Total Electorate:</b>		4996			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton North			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
STC1	STC1	Register Office, Nightingale House	523	No change	No change
STC2	STC2	Frank E Wiseman Communal Hall, 28 Stewart Road	585	Merge with NS1/STC6	Merge with NS1/STC6 as per 2022 recommendation to give a total polling station electorate of 641
NS1/STC 6	STC2	Frank E Wiseman Communal Hall, 28 Stewart Road	56	Merge with STC2	Merge with STC2 as per 2022 recommendation to give a total polling station electorate of 641
STC3	STC3	The Willows Centre – Main Hall Tilery Primary School, Northport Road	937	No change	No change
STC4	STC4	Stockton United Reform Church	995	No change	No change
STC5	STC5	Stockton Unitarian Church, Wellington Street	512	No change	No change

<b>District Ward:</b>	Village					
<b>Electorate:</b>	5453					
<b>Current Constituency:</b>	Stockton South					
<b>Future Constituency:</b>	Stockton West/ Middlesbrough and Thornaby East					
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>	<b>Future Parliamentary Constituency</b>
VL1	VL1	Stafford Place Cricket Club, Bassleton Lane	737	Merge with VL5	No change, unable to merge due to Parliamentary Boundary arrangements placing VL5 in Middlesbrough and Thornaby East	Stockton West
VL2	VL2	Meadowfield House 103 Thorntree Road	1131	Merge with VL6	No change, unable to merge due to Parliamentary Boundary arrangements placing VL6 in Middlesbrough and Thornaby East	Stockton West
VL3	VL3	Christ the King RC Church, Trenchard Avenue	580	No change	No change	Stockton West
VL4	VL4	The Griffin, Bader Avenue	691	No change	No change	Stockton West
MV4/VL5	VL5		0	Merge with VL1	Unable to merge due to Parliamentary Boundary arrangements placing VL5 in Middlesbrough and Thornaby East. Polling place not required as there are currently no electors in the polling district	Middlesbrough and Thornaby East
MV5/VL6	VL6	Robert Atkinson Centre	663	Merge with VL2	Unable to merge due to Parliamentary Boundary arrangements placing VL6 in Middlesbrough and Thornaby East, alternative Polling place identified	Middlesbrough and Thornaby East

<b>District Ward:</b>		Yarm			
<b>Electorate:</b>		7960			
<b>Current Constituency:</b>		Stockton South			
<b>Future Constituency:</b>		Stockton West			
<b>Current Polling District</b>	<b>Proposed Polling District following this Polling District and Place Review</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station electorate as at August 2023</b>	<b>Returning Officer's Further Proposals from the Ward Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.2023</b>	<b>Returning Officers Proposals following UK Parliamentary Boundary Changes to take effect 1.12.23</b>
YM1	YM1	Mobile Polling Station located at land around Mount Leven Road	902	No change	No change
YM2	YM2	Challoner House, Challoner Road	1320	No change	No change
YM3	YM3	Yarm Primary School, Fiction Library, Spitalfields	785	No change	No change
YM4	YM4	Yarm Wellness Centre, High Church Wynd	403	No change	No change
YM5	YM5	Layfield Primary School, The Hall, Everingham Drive	646	No change	No change unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to polling district being part of the Yarm Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station
YM6	YM6	Layfield Primary School, The Hall, Everingham Drive	698	No change	No change unable to merge with the smaller polling districts, using the same polling place due to Polling district being part of the Kirklevington and Castlelevington Parish arrangements, however, will operate as a combined station



## AGENDA ITEM

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 NOVEMBER 2023

## REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

#### Summary

The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 is brought to Council for consideration.

**Recommended that the report be noted.**

#### Detail

1. Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the Director of Public Health has a duty to prepare an independent annual report. As across local authorities nationally, there was a hiatus in producing these reports due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently due to the recovery work to stand back up core public health duties and services and catch up key work which has now been achieved.
2. The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 aims to capture an overview of key activity from a public health perspective, over the course of the unique and challenges events of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also seeks to summarise the learning from this period from a public health perspective and describe some of the activity since, in response to this learning.
3. Recovery across the health and wellbeing system and society continues and learning will continue to be embedded in the approach of public health going forward, working with partners.

#### Consultation and Engagement

- 5 The report describes some of the key work undertaken with partners and communities during the course of the pandemic and the actions since. Working alongside communities and Elected Members was an essential part of the local public health response.

#### Next Steps

7. Council is asked to receive the report. Embedding learning and monitoring of public health activity will continue to be overseen and reported through the Lead Member, Corporate Management Team and Health and Wellbeing Board as part of core business.

**Name of Contact Officer: Sarah Bowman-Abouna**

**Post Title: Director of Public Health**

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**Email Address: [sarah.bowman-abouna@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bowman-abouna@stockton.gov.uk)**

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# Director of Public Health Report Stockton-on-Tees 2022

Front cover pictures:

- Covid-19 Marshals and NHS Hartlepool & Stockton Health GP Federation vaccination teams work together to deliver vaccines in Stockton town centre at the Melissa bus (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Supporting our care home residents (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council / local care sector)
- Vaccinations in Stockton town centre at the Melissa bus (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Moses project distributing food boxes  
(<https://www.healthwatchstocktonontees.co.uk/news/2021-07-29/case-study-stockton-charity-worker-receives-royal-accolade>)
- Covid-19 Community Champions winning the Catalyst 2021 achievement award for Innovation as a Result of Covid-19  
(<https://www.healthwatchstocktonontees.co.uk/news/2021-11-15/community-covid-team-crowned-champions-stockton-awards>)



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## Foreword

I am pleased to introduce this report, which looks back on our response to Covid-19 in 2020-22 and serves as a record of our local activity in response to the significant challenges posed by the pandemic. So many local people were affected, and many continue to be. The partnership working that has become almost synonymous with the borough ensured our fast and effective response to the many challenges covid brought us. We all had to work differently in the Council and in our own lives as members of the community and this report indicates how we are using these new approaches support our local community to recover and to inform our work in the future. I would like to thank everyone in the borough who helped each other in such a time of adversity and showed great strength. I know this is echoed by Cllr Jim Beall who was the Elected Member responsible for public health during the height of the pandemic and sat with me on the Local Outbreak Engagement Group that sought to ensure clear communications and engagement work with the community during that time. We are committed to supporting our local people and our staff as we use what we have learned to benefit health and wellbeing across Stockton-on-Tees.



**Cllr Steve Nelson**  
**Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture**

## Introduction

This report looks back on our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and reflects on how we have built on the lessons we learnt during a very difficult time, together with the strong partnerships that are so important to us in our borough. It is so evident to me that many of us are still living through the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on ourselves and our loved ones. Particularly at a time when so many are also affected by the cost of living, it feels even more important to use what we have learned to work with and support communities and our partners to improve health and wellbeing. The strength and resilience of individuals and communities in the borough has been so striking and I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have supported each other and helped with the local pandemic response including my brilliant public health team, Council colleagues and partners and the great leadership and support of local Elected Members.

Throughout the height of the pandemic, the power of our local people and communities was demonstrated by collective efforts to prevent the spread of the virus, mitigate its impact, and support those affected by the pandemic. We are proud to have developed the Covid-19 Community Champions programme who we have worked closely with to better understand our communities' views and experience of the pandemic, develop shared understanding, and inform our collective response to the pandemic and the support in communities. Public Health has further developed this collaboration over time, working with the voluntary and community sector and Community Champions (now 'community wellbeing champions') to focus on other areas of wellbeing important to local people.

A key strength in our response to Covid-19 was the local partnerships that worked across services and organisations services to provide effective support. Directorates across Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council joined together with the NHS, the voluntary and community sector and wider communities to effectively protect the health and wellbeing of our local people, strengthening the foundation for future collaboration. For example, food parcels were delivered from a marquee behind Splash within a few days of the start of lockdown and welfare calls were made to more than 10,000 people who were shielding from Covid-19 during the early stages of the pandemic. This support was delivered over the course of a few weeks and supported residents with access to food parcels, medication deliveries, dog walkers etc. Such efforts were only possible through a joined-up approach to working with local people and was supported and overseen by our local Health and Wellbeing Board, locally elected Members and senior leaders.

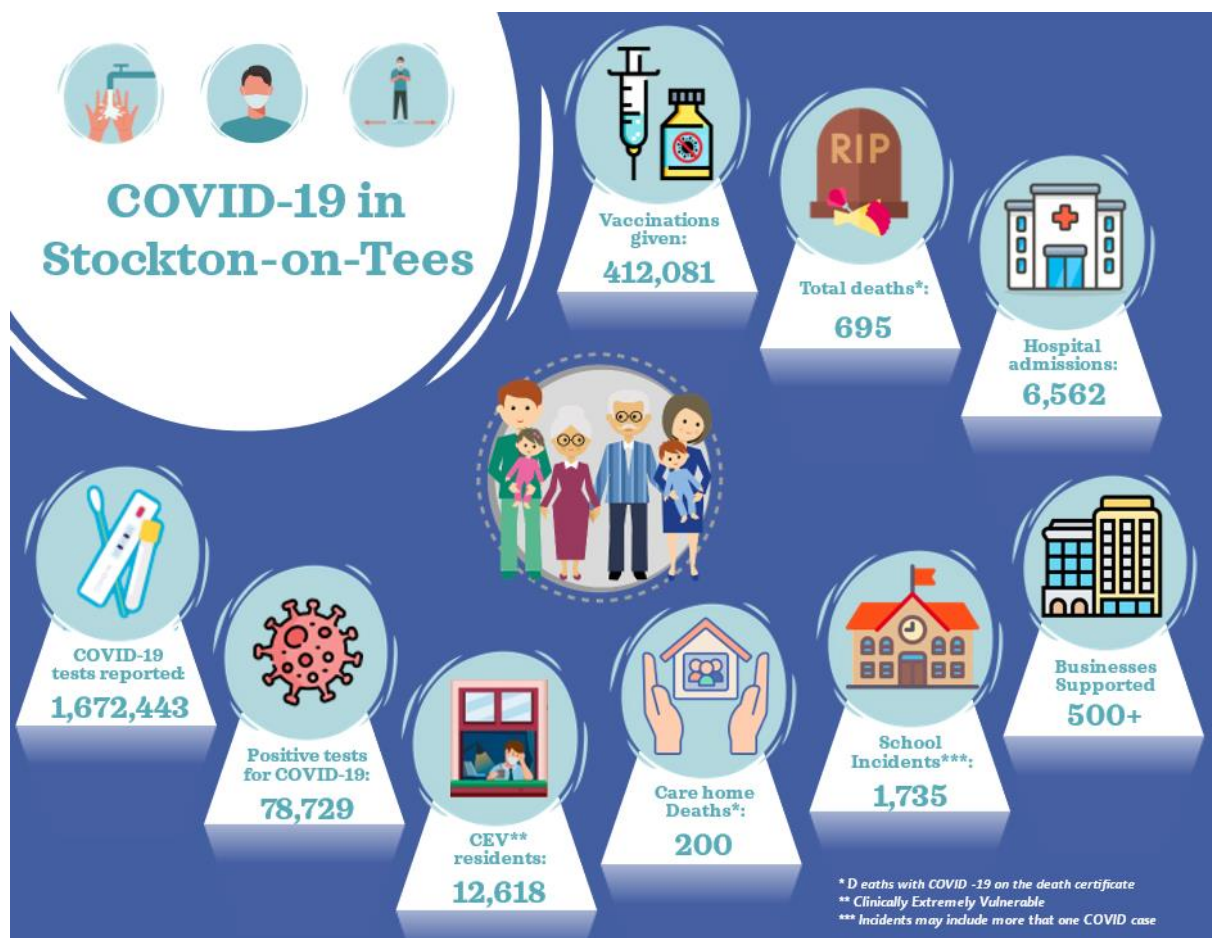
This report seeks to consolidate the work over the past three years or so, helping us to understand how we can work together in different ways to improve and protect health and wellbeing and to prepare for future challenges.



**Sarah Bowman-Abouna**  
**Director of Public Health**

## 1. Covid-19 in Stockton-on-Tees

The Covid-19 virus was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organisation declared Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) a pandemic on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, signalling the far-reaching impact of the new virus's spread across the world. To help prevent this spread, national measures were implemented including good hand hygiene, face masks, social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. Nationally, various forms of lockdown were implemented which restricted the opening of public venues and workplaces and infrastructure such as schools. The rapid roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme was a huge achievement and significantly reduced the risk of infection, severe illness, hospitalisation and death. As in other areas across the country and worldwide, the local impact of Covid-19 was enormous for communities, services and wider society. Partners and communities across the borough came together in the face of this challenge.



## 2. Supporting Our Residents

Throughout the height of the pandemic, we worked with partners and communities to protect the health and wellbeing of all our residents across the life-course, with a particular focus on tailored response and support with and for our most vulnerable residents. Throughout we were fortunate to collaborate very closely with our regional health protection colleagues at the UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (previously PHE) as well as fellow public health teams across the North East and support from regional representatives of national teams such as the Department of Health and Social Care. This helped us develop our approach to the pandemic and share learning with other areas as well as benefiting from the peer support these wider networks offered.

## Children and Young People

As the Northern Health Science Alliance report [Child of the North: Building a fairer future after Covid-19](#) highlights, children in the North of England<sup>1</sup> were disproportionately affected by the consequences of the pandemic compared to the rest of the country. Disruption to education, social networks, access to services, and employment opportunities have all contributed to poorer mental wellbeing and increased poverty in our local children and young people (CYP).

Covid-19 significantly affected childhood education and care in several ways; the first lockdown in March 2020 caused an abrupt shift to online education, posing new challenges for families and CYP finding themselves schooling and socialising with their peers digitally. The increasing reliance on digital technologies for access to learning had the potential to worsen existing inequalities with reports that children in the North missed more learning opportunities than their peers in the rest of the country<sup>2</sup>. This has left a long-lasting effect on the future economic prospects for children living in the North, estimated at £24.6bn in terms of lifetime loss of wages due to the impact on their education.

To effectively support families and CYP across the Borough, a collaborative approach was adopted across the Council and wider partners. Public health worked with colleagues from children's services, customer services, schools, health and safety, the outbreak management team and regional health protection teams to translate guidance into practice and support schools in contact tracing across both pupil and staff groups. Timeliness was important and the team was often able to provide advice and support in response to queries received at the end of the school day, enabling the school to act on the advice ready for the next day. We supported schools to share good practice to develop onsite testing facilities as well as supporting the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccinations.

As well as working together to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 and implement government guidance, schools were initially supported by the School and Governor Support Service. This service helped source Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for schools and facilitate Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers during the summer holidays for all eligible children and other vulnerable families identified by schools. Vouchers were provided to children attending schools out of borough as far as Brotton, Sunderland, Newton Aycliffe, and North Yorkshire.

As the pandemic progressed, the FSM voucher scheme grew in size and the service ordered in bulk and disseminated vouchers to schools and early years providers. This evolved further into the 'Winter Grant' which provided funding to support these vulnerable families with fuel costs. Such support was made possible through close partnership working across the Council to support residents and families. Overall, the Education Improvement Service supported the delivery of thousands of pounds worth of vouchers, alongside Finance and Treasury Management colleagues, who ensured there were audit trails in place for the spend. We were also fortunate to have the support of local businesses throughout the pandemic – for example ASDA provided the vouchers and were very supportive to the team.

Our local children's homes also received public health support to help prevent and manage Covid-19 outbreaks through information and advice, infection prevention control training, access to PPE and testing.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the North East, North West and Yorkshire and Humber

<sup>2</sup> Pickett K., Taylor-Robinson D., et al (2021) The Child of the North: Building a fairer future after Covid-19, the Northern Health Science Alliance and N8 Research Partnership.

**Cllr Jim Beall, former Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure / Culture and former Health and Wellbeing Board Chair:**

*“ Our Public Health service came of age during the Covid-19 pandemic showing leadership at strategic, tactical and operational levels. Colleagues across the Local Authority and its local partners valued their expert advice and practical support to the local management of the required response to the crisis, including contact tracing and the subsequent vaccination programme. Multi Academy Trusts, in particular, held Stockton-on-Tees up to be an exemplar of such support. The value of a vibrant and responsive Public Health Team in the agenda of tackling local health and wellbeing issues has been demonstrated and going forward, has been recognised by others for its importance.”*

**Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Ensure emotional wellbeing support is a key part of our health and wellbeing offer, working closely with children’s services colleagues and support ongoing recovery efforts with education settings and families.
- Our Holiday Enrichment Fund programme continues in the holidays to support children with access to healthy food and enriching activities.
- Work increasingly closely with children, young people and their caregivers as we design our health and wellbeing offer for the future.

**Working Age Adults**

The pandemic presented businesses and workplaces with new challenges and caused significant disruption across many different sectors. Businesses were required to adapt quickly to new ways of working to minimise the risk of transmission and protect both their staff and members of the public. Working closely with workplaces across the borough provided different routes for us to reach into the community to provide support, as well as supporting the workplaces themselves.

**Employee at ConocoPhillips**

*“Difficult times for all, I do think Industry felt a little bit out on a limb, trying to comply with ever changing rules whilst maintaining safe operations. I know at times we really struggled. I would say collectively, we got through it...we worked closely with you guys”*

At the start of the pandemic, directorates across the Council collaborated to support local businesses and workplaces to reduce the impact of Covid-19 through providing advice and guidance and facilitating shared learning to prevent outbreaks. A true cross-Council approach enabled this, with Public Health working with colleagues across Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Licensing, Town Centre Management, Inclusive Growth, Communications and local businesses to provide a range of support including:

- A set of action cards for each business sector with tailored advice on preventative measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 (such as, social distancing, use of protective screens and mask wearing) during different phases in the pandemic.
- Direct support to manage cases and outbreaks of Covid-19 within workplaces, including support with risk assessments and infection prevention to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

- A webinar to share learning and guidance and a question and answer session for local businesses on managing the response and understanding their duties and common pitfalls.
- The Covid-19 Compliance team carried out on-site visits to support with outbreak management.
- The Council's Inclusive Growth team proactively engaged with businesses to ensure they had access to a range of economic support, information, advice and guidance, including the provision of business grants and financial support during lockdowns.

Risk assessments were developed to help businesses and workplaces minimise the spread of Covid-19 among their staff and clients – this provided a picture to enable us to determine actions together with those workplaces, to help control the impact on clients, staff wellbeing and business continuity.

A dedicated Covid-19 inbox offered an open line of communication to support businesses and workplaces alongside a bespoke webpage with a range of resources and information on all the available support. The inbox was monitored by team members through extended working hours and weekends to ensure workplaces could access timely advice.

### **Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Continue to support local workplaces and businesses to protect the health of their staff and clients.
- Build further on this to provide wider health and wellbeing support to help address staff sickness absence and wider population wellbeing as many staff are also residents of the borough.

## **Older Adults**

Older people are more at risk of serious impacts from Covid-19 and this was particularly the case before the rollout of the Covid vaccination. The pandemic presented a huge challenge to the NHS and social care and the Council closely with our local NHS colleagues and particularly local social care providers to support and protect those most at risk of serious illness, mindful of the very difficult circumstances for many families of older loved ones, particularly older people in social care settings.

Throughout we collectively prioritised preventing and minimising the spread of Covid-19 in places caring for older adults, by closely monitoring identified cases and putting preventative actions in place. Social care settings were offered dedicated infection prevention control (IPC) advice and training and help to access personal protective equipment, testing and later vaccinations. Where possible, staff were skilled up and redeployed in social care settings to provide additional capacity to relieve the sustained staffing pressures caused by Covid-19.

The local care home protection group kept the social care sector informed with weekly newsletters and regular care home forums to disseminate information, listen to questions and concerns, update on national guidance and share good practice, for example to support safe visiting of residents by their family and friends. Adult social care and the NHS ensured dedicated arrangements to accommodate hospital discharges of Covid-19 positive patients in designated care homes.

Public Health supported all care settings to establish regular Covid-19 testing for residents and staff, reporting cases as well as contact tracing, further testing in response to outbreaks

and resolving issues with ordering tests. Crucially, the Council worked together with local NHS trust colleagues to enable early access to Covid-19 vaccinations for social care staff – a local vaccine booking system was opened to front-line social care workers who were also priority at our local walk-in vaccination clinics.



Local Band Wildcats of Kilkenny entertain White House Care home residents from their visiting pod.

**Ben Brown – Deputy Manager of the White House care home:**

*“ During the pandemic delivering the most basic care needs was an uphill struggle with a myriad of challenges and constraints that were in place, and all of that was before navigating the minefield that was the guidance. Thankfully for local providers the Social Care Operational Group were on hand to ensure we were kept up to date and could understand and implement the frequent and sometimes drastic changes to the guidance.*

*I cannot stress enough how much of a lifeline this was for us, we had regular guidance updates, newsletters and provider forums to ensure that we were supported throughout. I know that I speak for every provider when I say we are extremely grateful for this.”*

**Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Maintain our relationship with the local care sector to continue to support them in protecting the health of their residents and staff (e.g. infection control and vaccination uptake).
- Develop this further to support care homes on wider health and wellbeing for residents for example oral health.

**Supporting Vulnerable Residents**

People in the community with particular health conditions are also at greater risk of the impacts of Covid-19, for example organ transplant recipients and those with certain cancers. In March 2020, the UK Government announced additional precautions for these individuals who were



'clinically extremely vulnerable' (CEV), initially including advising them not to leave their homes for 12 weeks and not go out for shopping, travel, or leisure. This marked the start of what came to be known as 'shielding' in England.

For many individuals, shielding isolated them from their communities and meant they were reliant on others for essentials such as food shopping and collecting medicines. The Council formed a 'shielding team' working with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to support local people who were shielding.

#### **Reflection from a member of the SBC Shielding Team:**

*"As the Shielding Team was comprised of different colleagues across the Council, we were fortunate to have a range of diverse skills and experience which was a real strength.*

*We were able to effectively utilise each other's knowledge in certain areas and networks to ensure the right support was provided to our residents"*

Across the borough, the shielding team contacted each of the 12,500 people who were either categorised as CEV or who were shielding and required additional support. As well as ensuring access to essential items through shopping, this team also helped link or refer individuals to wider care services such as the Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers' Support Service and the Dementia Hub. They were also able to check for additional needs and refer to services such as the listening service with Stockton MIND, help with utility bills and referral to emergency and crisis support if needed.

Through this work, the shielding team saw an increasing influx of patients requiring support who did not meet the CEV criteria; many were individuals with more complex social care or mental health needs. The team responded by linking people with wider support networks and services, including social care and mental health support. Sometimes the person on the other end of the phone just needed a listening ear and the team were able to offer this and take a holistic view.

#### **Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Build learning on supporting people with additional vulnerabilities, into emergency planning approaches for the future.
- Continue to monitor evidence on the impact of Covid-19 on people with clinical vulnerabilities to support recovery and ongoing support together with partners.

### **Addressing Health Inequality**

Some people in our communities already experiencing poor health were more likely to be disproportionately affected by Covid-19 restrictions, for example in being able to access services and support. Local commissioned services were very responsive to this, adapting and innovating their ways of working to improve access whilst being mindful of protecting the wider health of those individuals and their staff.

A good example is our local frontline services for substance misuse (Change Grow Live Recovery Stockton – 'CGL') and homelessness – these services collaborated to support some of our most vulnerable residents to sustain their recovery and return to services as soon as restrictions allowed.

People in recovery from opiate dependence (e.g. heroin) are prescribed opiate replacement therapy (e.g. methadone). Due to the nature of methadone and the needs of the patient, methadone is typically dispensed by a pharmacy daily with pharmacists supervising its consumption on-site. During lockdown CGL revisited risk assessments for individuals and put alternative treatment and support plans in place, working closely with national specialists. This meant clinical care and support could be continued for individuals, enabling a take-home supply of treatment where appropriate whilst carefully managing risk. Individuals were also contacted frequently either by phone or in-person through a 'doorstep visit'.

Any setting where people were gathered particularly for sustained periods, presents a greater risk of outbreaks of the virus – including hostels providing supported, temporary accommodation. Hostel residents live with poorer health than the general population so the potential consequences of an outbreak were high. We developed local standard operating procedures to help prevent and manage outbreaks (eventually superseded by national processes). This included working alongside hostel staff to train them in infection control and the use of PPE; helping them to access PPE and to revise business continuity plans; and advising on cleaning equipment for residents. Guidance on social distancing and lockdown restrictions was also shared and we provided recommendations on implementing these. Lateral flow tests were made available on-site and collective efforts meant we were able to organise vaccination pop-up clinics which increased vaccination uptake in hostel residents. Across the pandemic there was one small hostel outbreak and we have built strong relationships with our hostel settings as result of the joint working, which will stand us in good stead for the future.

Similarly, we worked collectively with houses of multiple occupation and temporary accommodation, for example with a temporary accommodation facility for asylum seekers where we provided testing, vaccinations and helped with infection prevention and control. Cross-Council working together with a local charity enabled this and meant information could be provided in multiple languages. As restrictions were reduced, public health linked further with well-connected grassroots community organisations and groups regarding testing and vaccinations, including Purple Rose and Stockton's African Caribbean Association.

**Susan Mansaray, Purple Rose:**

*"It was a great partnership indeed between Stockton Council and Purple Rose. The pandemic was a very difficult time for everyone, more difficult for refugees and asylum seekers with language barrier. We faced reluctance getting the vaccine and getting tested due to cultural myths and religious beliefs; however we were able to get through to our communities because of the trust we've established. We understand our community. Alone we can do little, by working together we support our communities better and achieve more."*

The populations in our local prisons (HMP Holme House and HMP Kirklevington Grange) were also vulnerable to outbreaks due to the nature of the prison setting and the poor health of many of the prison population. Many prison staff are also residents of the borough and some of the HMP Kirklevington Grange population undertake work placements in the community as part of their work towards release. To provide advice, support and action in this circumstance, regional and local authority public health colleagues worked in partnership to provide outbreak control support on-site and within the community. We supported campaigns to promote vaccination for inmates and staff, including organising a vaccination van to attend the prison for staff to be vaccinated during the course of their working day.

## Next steps

Building on our learning we will:

- Continue to build on the relationships we have built with key settings, groups and organisations, particularly those supporting those in the community in or at high risk of poor health.
- Work with these settings to keep prevention and protecting health high on the agenda, through advice on simple, practical actions.
- Build further on this work to tailor our approach on wider health and wellbeing issues according to the context of different communities.

## Vaccinations

The roll-out of the vaccination programme from late 2020 was a milestone in the response to Covid-19 and signalled the opportunity to step up protection across our population, including those communities most at risk. As was the case across the country, in Stockton-on-Tees we soon discovered that access to the vaccination varied greatly across the community, including those who did not have access to the internet or had reduced access to transport. Though differences in uptake of the vaccination was a common theme nationally, our work to address this had to be local and specific to our populations – crucially being a joint effort across public health, the community, VCSE and NHS partners.

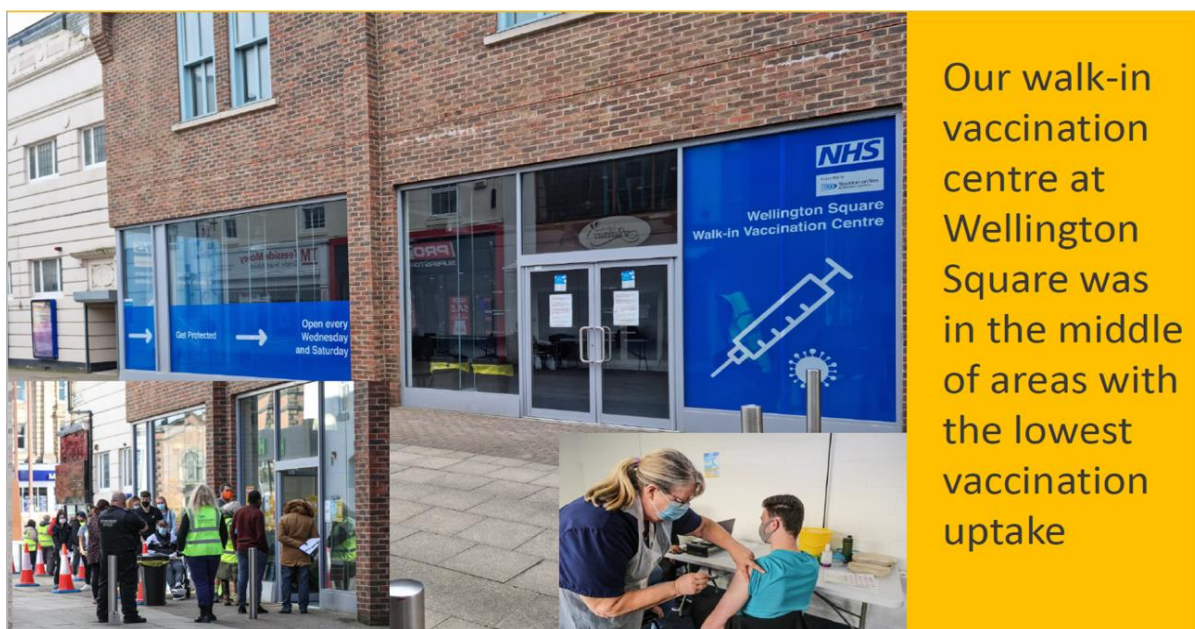
Through bringing together our collective intelligence and data, we could see that residents in more deprived areas, younger age groups, those from BAME groups and the homeless population experienced barriers to accessing the vaccine than more affluent, older and white British groups. These barriers ranged from issues such as transport and whether clinics were through appointment, to other issues individuals might be managing in their lives or views and perceptions around vaccinations in general. We worked collectively to address these inequalities by tailoring our approach to local vaccination services and communications.



*Hartlepool & Stockton Health (GP Federation) staff in the Melissa bus and the Northumberland vaccination bus delivered vaccinations in the heart of local communities, supported by our Covid Marshals.*

We worked closely with our local services the Tees Valley Vaccination Board, our VCSE partners and local community champions to plan more tailored vaccination clinics for and with communities who found it difficult to access the vaccine. Arranging outreach clinics in well-known venues worked well, together with the support of 'trusted faces' and networks (such as advocates / community leaders / VCSE organisations or local services). On several occasions, the vaccination team provided on-site clinics in hostels with breakfast or food vouchers provided by the homelessness team – which also provided opportunities for additional support and services such as blood-borne virus testing via our local substance misuse service.

To improve access to the vaccine for people living, working in or visiting Stockton town centre (one of our areas of lowest vaccine uptake), we arranged weekly walk-in vaccination clinics in Wellington Square shopping centre (in 2022) which were promoted across the Council, NHS and community champions. The Council's Covid support team and regional and local vaccination teams worked jointly to deliver the clinics, which proved popular and were well-used by those communities who we had identified as previously experiencing barriers to getting the vaccine. Over the year the local vaccination team delivered 10,795 vaccinations in over 100 clinics.



Our walk-in vaccination centre at Wellington Square was in the middle of areas with the lowest vaccination uptake

*The popular walk-in vaccination clinic in Wellington Square shopping centre (Stockton town centre) was run by Hartlepool & Stockton Health (GP Federation) and Council staff and helped local people access the vaccination easily.*

### Fiona Adamson Hartlepool and Stockton Health CEO

*'The challenges of the pandemic focused our minds on working together to take healthcare out into our communities in new ways. We were able to offer vaccination in community locations, including the Mosque, town centre, and hostels. This helped protect 14,225 people who may never have accessed traditional services, and using behavioural data to offer regular walk-in clinics in Wellington Square for groups who generally don't or can't make appointments. We have taken this learning and partnership into new services such as our Community Outreach Nurse, Menopause cafes and 'Know your Numbers' campaign. We look forward to continuing to work together'*

## Next steps

Building on our learning we will:

- Build further on the strong partnerships we have with NHS / vaccination programme colleagues to promote equity of uptake of the Covid and flu vaccinations in future.
- Adapt and apply the approach we used to address Covid vaccine inequalities, to other vaccination programmes.

## Community Champions and Communications

The local Covid-19 Community Champions Programme was key in our response to the pandemic and really highlighted the power of community effort. We worked closely with the VCSE sector and commissioned Pioneering Care Partnership to coordinate the programme which was established in November 2020. Through the Champions Programme a network built up of over 70 champions from across the borough, The close relationship with and work of the champions enabled an ongoing conversation and joint working between public health and local communities. At a time when information and guidance was changing rapidly and repeatedly, many people were overwhelmed or confused about the Covid guidance, laws and interventions. Working together with the champions helped us to understand this better together with the different challenges, strengths, perceptions, fears, knowledge and connections in our local communities. This meant we could develop solutions together that made messages, support and services more relevant to our populations. We were also able to address some of the misinformation that proved such a challenge to helping the population to protect themselves and others. Working with public health, the champions were able to provide up-to-date, factual information in a way that made sense to communities. Some champions took on a champion role at work as well as in their neighbourhood.



*Andrea Love (Covid Community Champions) delivers disposable face masks to Brian Jones of The Moses Project (Photo: Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees).*

As well as shaping collective local planning, services and interventions, work with the champions shaped the design of communications and messaging with the oversight of the Local Outbreak Engagement Group. We supported these communications with ongoing messages on wider public health issues that had the potential to worsen during the pandemic such as on mental health, domestic abuse, screening and immunisations, alcohol, Winter health and flu vaccinations.

Examples include:

- videos in multiple languages at a variety of recognisable landmarks across the borough to promote community testing
- myth-busting on vaccinations
- providing free face masks and hand sanitiser at food banks
- information about safe disposal of masks
- changes to location of testing sites
- free community transport to a vaccination site
- pop-up vaccination sites

The champions had broad-reaching impact because of their understanding of and trust within specific communities - they also extended their networks through the course of the pandemic. The champions were winners of the 'Innovation as a Result of Covid-19' award at the Catalyst Conference and Achievement Awards in 2021.

Establishing and working alongside the community champions has formed the foundation of a stronger and more meaningful partnership with communities and we are keen to build on this further. The programme has evolved into the 'Community Wellbeing Champions' – the champions are currently shaping a programme of activity working with Public Health and based on their wider health and wellbeing priorities such as mental wellbeing.

### Local Covid Community Champions said...



### **Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Build further on the community champions network together with the champions, focusing on health and wellbeing issues that matter to them.
- Work increasingly collaboratively with communities based on what we learn from and with them, to shape our approach to improving and protecting health and wellbeing and addressing inequalities e.g. through the design and commissioning of models of support.
- Use intelligence from close working with diverse local communities to tailor communications messages and approaches.
- Explore how we collectively understand and maximise the resources and strengths held within communities.

### **Compliance and Community Safety**

Teams from across the Council came together to provide wider support to businesses and local communities in response to national guidance. This included enforcement advice from environmental health colleagues, helping local businesses to implement the guidance. Our Covid-19 Marshals supported businesses and residents across the borough, providing a visible presence, offering advice and support and helping implement social distancing. They also had an invaluable role in supporting the logistics of running local vaccination clinics across the borough which helped residents access the Covid vaccine in venues that were more accessible to them. Community safety colleagues also offered support to help ensure the protection of our staff and local people.

### **Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Maximise the relationships various Council teams have with the community and local businesses, to develop opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.

## **3. Living with Covid-19**

### **Addressing the Long-Term Impacts of Covid-19**

The introduction of the vaccination programme significantly reduced the threat of infection from Covid-19. However, the longer-term impacts of the pandemic still persist today. The Health Foundation<sup>3</sup> highlights that across England, deterioration in mental health has not been reversed to pre-pandemic levels, there is a persistent education gap due to lost learning and long-term health conditions are still keeping people out of work.

For many areas across the globe and the country, the Covid-19 pandemic shone a light on the stark inequalities within our wider society<sup>4</sup>. Generally, more socioeconomically deprived

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<sup>3</sup> The Health Foundation. [The continuing impact of Covid-19 on health and inequalities](#). August 2022

<sup>4</sup> Local Government Association. A perfect storm - health inequalities and the impact of Covid-19. [Online] April 01, 2021. <https://www.local.gov.uk/perfect-storm-health-inequalities-and-impact-Covid-19>.

communities and lower income countries were worse affected. In Stockton-on-Tees, the inequalities faced by our residents were already evident, with one of the largest gaps in life expectancy in the country. At the Council, we are working with partners and communities to address these stark inequalities. The relationships we have made with local residents and community groups during the pandemic and the strengths and networks already in local communities, will be the foundation for a community-led approach over the coming years.

Public health is working across the Council and wider partners to help address the ongoing impacts of Covid-19. For example:

- Ongoing work to improve health and wellbeing, particularly where the pandemic has exacerbated risks to poor health e.g. alcohol misuse, physical activity, healthy weight, mental wellbeing.
- Supporting the NHS through use of intelligence and connections into the local community as it implements its plan for service recovery following the pandemic.
- Working with Council colleagues on developing Warm Spaces (now Community Spaces) - free public places where people can go for shelter, to save money on their household bills, avoid social isolation and receive vital support and advice. Public health is also working to promote financial inclusion for groups who need support, linking with help offered through Stockton Infinity Partnership and Tees Credit Union.
- Addressing loneliness and isolation through social prescribing and funding a mobile library to increase participation and access to library services.
- Developing our children and young people's health and wellbeing offer in the context of the impact of the pandemic including on mental wellbeing, socialisation and education.

### **Next steps**

Building on our learning we will:

- Continue our focus on addressing health inequalities through working together with our communities to tailor support according to need.
- Work with partners to support the development of community spaces and use these as an opportunity to improve access to wider health and wellbeing support.
- Continue to build our work with social prescribers and VCSE to connect communities to support, including for loneliness and social isolation.

### **Long Covid-19 (also known as post Covid-19 syndrome)**

Fortunately, most people recover from Covid-19. It has also become clear that some people experience ongoing symptoms which have a significant impact on their daily lives. These ongoing symptoms are commonly known as 'Long Covid' or 'Post-Covid-19 Syndrome' which includes both ongoing symptomatic Covid-19 (from 4 to 12 weeks) and post-Covid syndrome (12 weeks or more) (NICE, 2021). A wide range of symptoms have been reported with the most common being fatigue, shortness of breath, and cognitive dysfunction (brain fog).

The Office of National Statistics report around 1.9 million people living in private households in the UK (2.9% of the population) were experiencing self-reported Long Covid as of March 2023 (ONS, 2023). To understand more about the local picture, we have worked with local partners such as colleagues from the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust specialist Long Covid clinic to share learning on who may be impacted, emerging trends and understand what support is needed.



As there was a lack of support available for those with less severe ongoing symptoms, we have worked with our partners at Tees Active to develop a pilot project supporting local residents with mild and less severe symptoms of Long Covid. These are individuals who would specifically benefit from increasing their physical activity levels, identified by a health professional. Following this pilot Tees Active have adapted their already well-established Active Health programme which offers physical activity support through referral for those with long term health conditions, to enable access for those suffering from Long Covid.

### Next steps

Building on our learning we will:

- Monitor the support of the Tees Active programmes in supporting people with Long Covid.
- Continue to learn from the emerging evidence base on Long Covid, to understand how we can support people together with partners.
- Continue activities to enable and support people across the borough to have the best possible mental and physical health and wellbeing, to help them to be resilient to other threats to the population's health.

## 4. Looking Ahead

The Covid-19 pandemic has left a significant legacy for us all. We have learned a lot through navigating this very challenging time together across our partners and with local people. Some of our work is summarised here and importantly, how we are using what we have learned to shape our work and how we doing things in future. There will be some key areas of focus that cut across all that we do, which are summarised here to close this report. They have emerged over the course of the last three years and will inform our approach to improving health and wellbeing and addressing inequality.

- 1) **Align our priorities through our [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)** for the borough (overseen by the local Health and Wellbeing Board). The Covid-19 pandemic shone a spotlight on the difference in experiences and outcomes across our local population and truly joined up action will be the only effective way to address inequalities. We will need a 'sliding scale' approach to tailoring support according to different communities to mitigate the widening inequality we are seeing emerging from the pandemic, added to by the impact of the cost of living. This approach will help protect the most at-risk of poor health and build and improve resilience in communities.
- 2) **Prioritise listening to and work alongside communities** in a meaningful way to understand and develop solutions and initiatives together. Many people within our communities have the knowledge and skills to support each other and improve their health and wellbeing with the right support and in an environment that enables them to do so. One size does not fit all - the strengths and needs in communities vary and so must our approach.
- 3) We must continue to work with our partners, communities and services to **support children, young people and families** to get the best start in life and seek to make up for the impact the pandemic has had.
- 4) Continue to **focus on preventing ill-health and building protective factors**. It will take time to fully understand the long-term consequences of the pandemic, however evidence already shows the negative impact on people's physical and mental health. A renewed focus on mental health and wellbeing is particularly important, including where we know

the pandemic has affected people's behaviours around alcohol consumption, smoking and physical activity.

- 5) Bring together our collective intelligence and use **timely, evidence-based, intelligence-lead approaches** to shape our collective planning and action that is locally relevant.
- 6) We will continue to **strengthen these relationships between organisations and communities** to guide how we work coming through the height of the pandemic. Local government, public sector partners, charities, grassroots organisations, the VCSE and community groups came together and worked in new ways, with common purpose. Building on this will improve our resilience for future challenges.

## 5. Progress in 2022/23

We are progressing work on the key areas and learning drawn out in this report. Some examples are described here and we will be developing these further in the coming year and beyond.

### Supporting system recovery work and standing up local services

We are:

- working with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) to understand why people do not attend for outpatient appointments and how we can support them to do so
- working across partners to understand and address inequality in uptake of bowel cancer screening
- supporting the 'Waiting Well' initiative with NTHFT and regional partners e.g. access to stop smoking support for those waiting for surgery to help improve patient outcomes
- working closely with GP practices to reinstate local NHS health checks delivered through GP practices. These checks are commissioned by Public Health and are offered to all 40-74 year olds to help detect risk factors for stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes and dementia – people can then be offered support and advice to reduce their risk and stay healthier for longer
- supporting our commissioned services e.g. substance misuse, sexual health, to reinstate face to face support where this is appropriate whilst maintaining the benefits of remote support where this is beneficial and well-received by our communities

### Refreshing strategic direction and nurturing partnerships

We are:

- currently clarifying our priorities for the coming year, in-line with work with partners to refresh the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the development of the Council's new corporate plan and learning from elsewhere including Michael Marmot's work on inequalities
- helping lead and facilitate the Council's work with communities and partners, to develop a new way of working alongside communities – aiming to empower communities and more effectively tailor support. For example we are embedding this approach in our public health work on a new model for children and young people's health and wellbeing; and working with our community wellbeing champions network to further broaden their representation of communities across the borough

- refreshing our approach to capturing outcomes and the impact we are making in the eyes of communities, in-line with the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Council's approach to working with communities
- progressing our work on domestic abuse, having worked across partners to develop the new Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-28 based on review of our position and new requirements such as the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This includes developing a new action plan focusing on key areas of development / change such as accommodation and support to children and families
- working alongside Council colleagues to develop our local places and resources so that people have the best opportunity to be healthy – for example informing development of the new waterfront site in Stockton town centre; learning from the Healthy Streets pilot and looking at how this learning can be applied more broadly; and informing the thinking and planning for the Care and Health Zone
- working closely with ICB Directors of Place and partners to understand how we can add value to our local work through collective approaches across the Tees Valley where this makes sense e.g. on links between health and work

### Designing models of support and commissioning services

We are:

- working with our local domestic abuse service having undertaken a full commissioning process on this in 2022
- developing a new model of support for children and young people's health and wellbeing which focuses on early prevention, tailoring support according to need and being more rooted in the community – this includes health visiting, public health school nursing and healthy weight and we are working closely with families and partners in its development
- developing our approach to healthy weight for all ages, having completed a comprehensive needs assessment working together with partners
- embedding a new approach to sexual health prevention following significant review work, to ensure the best outcomes for our local population
- continuing to monitor infectious disease e.g. Covid and flu and work with partners to develop tailored support as needed e.g. key public health messages on keeping well; and bespoke vaccination clinics to improve access for parts of our communities
- developing the infrastructure for joined up analysis of health and wellbeing intelligence, to help our joint planning with NHS and other colleagues on issues such as systematically identifying adults at risk of poor health and wellbeing and developing a more coordinated offer of support to prevent their health from deteriorating and maximise their wellbeing

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**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**22 NOVEMBER 2023**

**REPORT OF  
CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**APPOINTMENTS/AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2023/27**

**SUMMARY**

This report presents amendments to Committee appointments in line with the wishes of political groups and nominations to outside bodies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council is asked to approve the changes to Committee appointments set out in Appendix A and approve the changes/ nominations to outside bodies set out in B. Further nominations are also invited to outside bodies where there are outstanding vacancies.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Seats must be allocated to political groups as prescribed by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

**CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

Consultation has taken place with political group leaders.

Jonathan Nertney  
Head of Democratic Services  
[jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk)  
Tel number 01642 526312

Background Papers	None
Education Related Item	No
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors	All
Property Implications	None

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**Committees, Boards and Joint Committees**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Remove</b>	<b>Add</b>
Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee	Cllr Kevin Faulks	Cllr Ray Godwin
Children and Young People Select Committee	Cllr Nathan Gale	Cllr Paul Rowling
Crime and Disorder Select Committee	Cllr Sally Ann Watson	Cllr Shakeel Hussain
Place Select Committee	Cllr Alan Watson Cllr Ray Godwin	Cllr Shakeel Hussain Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

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Appendix B

**Outside Bodies – Changes and Outstanding Vacancies**

<b>Body</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>Nominations Received</b>
River Tees Port Health Authority	-	Remove Councillor Alex Griffiths and replace with Cllr Shakeel Hussain
Hartlepool Power Station Community Liaison Committee	2 Vacancies	
Standing Advisory Council of Religious Education	2 Vacancies	Councillor Sufi Mubeen
Teesside and District Society for the Blind	1 Vacancy	
NEREO*	1 Vacancy	
Tees Port Welfare Committee	1 Vacancy	Councillor Tony Riordan

\*Please note that under NEREO's rules of organisation:

*An employee of:*

*(I) an Organisation represented on the Trade Unions' Side of the Joint Council*

*Or*

*(II) a local or joint authority or admitted body and whose conditions of employment are within scope of the Joint Council shall not be appointed as an Employers' representative (or substitute representative) on the Organisation.*

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## MEMBER QUESTIONS

QUESTION
<p>Member Question submitted by Cllr Marcus Vickers for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration &amp; Housing (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-</p> <p>“The last 3 editions of the Councils “Stockton News” publication have included the same copy and paste information regarding Billingham. For absolute clarity to our residents in the Borough, particularly Billingham, can the leader of the Council please confirm that during round 2 of the Government’s Levelling Up Funds, made available in April 2022, this Council followed the application guidance and eligibility criteria?”</p>

QUESTION

Member Question submitted by Cllr Marcus Vickers for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Bob Cook):-

“I welcome all opportunities to work collaboratively and effectively with all partners and neighbours to ensure a greater quality, efficient and productive service to tax paying residents of Billingham and Stockton. To ensure Stockton Borough Council taxpayers money is spent only on our residents, will the Council Leader confirm that no conversations have taken place with other Local Authorities with a view to merging, and assure our residents that any proposal to merge in the future would be given short shrift?”

**QUESTION**

Member Question submitted by Cllr Niall Innes for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Bob Cook):-

“Can the Leader of the Council inform us the Total Amount it has cost the residents of this Borough to send Councillors/Cabinet Members to awards ceremonies for 2022 and 2023?”

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