

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 10.00 am

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Church Road,

Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TU

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

Cllr Pauline Beall
Cllr Carol Clark
Cllr Lynn Hall
Cllr Sufi Mubeen
Cllr Marilyn Surtees
Cllr Air Marc Besford
Cllr Marc Besford
Cllr Richard Eglington
Cllr Niall Innes
Cllr Tony Riordan
Cllr Laura Tunney

AGENDA

1	Evacuation Procedure	(Pages 7 - 8)
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4	Minutes	
	To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 September 2023.	(Pages 9 - 12)
5	Financial Update and Medium Term Financial Plan (2023/24 Quarter 1)	(Pages 13 - 22)
6	Council Plan Update	(Pages 23 - 36)
7	Forward Plan of Key Decisions	(Pages 37 - 42)
8	Select Committee Chairs' Updates	(Pages 43 - 58)
9	Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme	(Pages 59 - 60)



Executive Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

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



KEY - Declarable interests are:-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

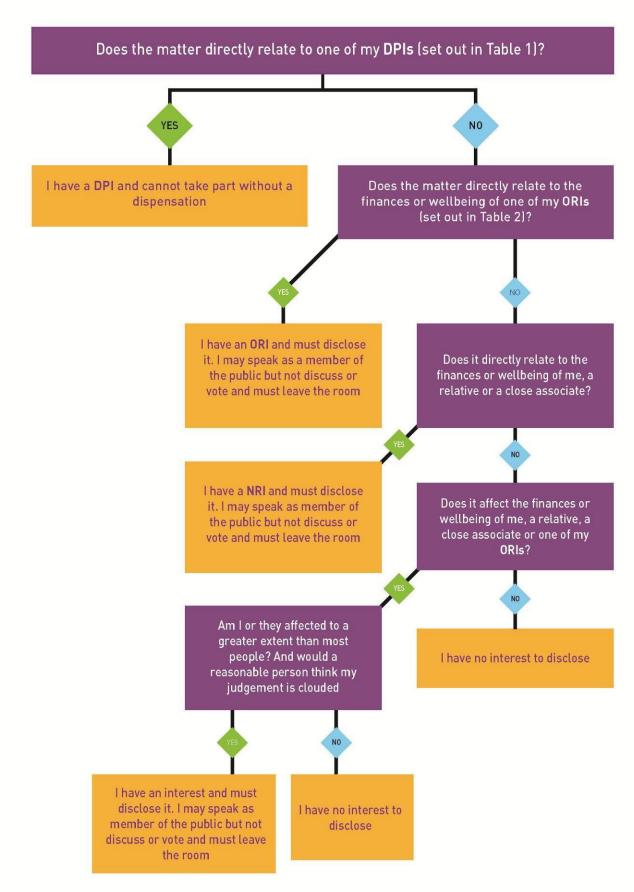




Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

^{* &#}x27;director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

^{* &#}x27;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

Agenda Item 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Microphones

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

Agenda Item 4

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 5 September 2023.

Present: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Ross Patterson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Barbara Inman (sub for Cllr Carol Clark), Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Marilyn Surtees

Officers: Clare Harper (FD&R), Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Rachel Harrison (CS)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllrs Carol Clark and Laura Tunney

1 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 July 2023 (for approval)

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 - Update

The Select Committee received an update on the draft financial performance position at 31 March 2023.

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

The report highlighted the inflationary pressures currently being experienced by Local Authorities which would be considered further in future MTFP update reports.

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

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

5 Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 – Update

The Committee considered a report which presented an additional topic suggestion for in depth scrutiny.

Executive Scrutiny Committee had agreed a work programme at their meeting

on 4 July 2023. A further topic suggestion had now been received from Councillor Steve Nelson regarding the access to and impact of vaping. Revised scoring under the scrutiny "Pick" system placed the topic suggestion as a high priority.

In addition to the above, as a result of scoping work and tri partite discussions regarding the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's next review of Safety of Staff in the Night Time Economy, it had become evident that this piece of work was unlikely to warrant a full in-depth scrutiny review and a lighter touch approach might be more appropriate. A report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee to provide context and background and provided the Select Committee received adequate assurances at that meeting, there might be capacity in their work programme, to take on an additional review.

The Committee discussed the "pick" prioritisation tool and it was emphasised that the scoring was not binding in any way. The Chair encouraged all Members to put forward topics for scrutiny.

AGREED that the further topic suggestion regarding the access to and impact of vaping be included on the current year's work programme for the Crime and Disorder Select Committee.

6 Forward Plan of Key Decisions

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted.

7 Select Committee Chairs' Updates

Members were provided with updates from the Chairs of each Select Committee. Updates and discussion included:

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee -

Members noted the update from the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair.

Children and Young People Select Committee -

Regarding the Select Committee's next review of Holidays are Fun (HAF) Programme, Members highlighted problems with the booking system and asked that the review should investigate take up. It was also suggested that all Member feedback into the review would be useful.

Crime and Disorder Select Committee -

Members noted the update from the Crime and Disorder Select Committee Chair.

People Select Committee -

Members noted the update from the People Select Committee Chair.

Place Select Committee -

Notes from the recent Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group would be circulated to Committee Members.

AGREED that the Chairs' updates be noted.

8 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

The Chair advised the Committee that she would be presenting the End of Term Report 2019 – 2023 to the September Cabinet meeting. She placed on record her thanks to Democratic Services Officers who had supported the work of the Select Committees.

The Chair highlighted the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review which was now available online.

Members discussed future potential items for consideration by Executive Scrutiny Committee and commented that performance management information should be scheduled to be considered by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

Agenda Item 5

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

7 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (2023/24 QUARTER 1)

SUMMARY

This report summarises the Council's financial performance and position at the end of the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

The financial position for the Council for the first quarter of the financial year (to 30th June 2023) highlights a projected overall overspend of £3.7m. The biggest pressures continue to be pay award and Children's Services and more details are provided in the body of the report. The position will continue to be closely monitored and managed throughout the remainder of the financial year, however if the pressures materialise as expected, we will need to review earmarked reserves to identify where the shortfall can be funded from in order to avoid using general fund balances.

The Report highlights the significant financial challenges presented by the current inflationary environment in both the current year and into the medium term. Whilst we are still awaiting details of the financial settlement for next year it is inevitable that there will be significant challenges in the future. These challenges are not unique to Stockton and are being faced by many Councils across the Country, many of which are in a more difficult financial position. Whilst we are able to re-direct earmarked reserves to resolve immediate pressures this is not sustainable over the medium to long term and the position needs to be addressed.

Members will be aware of the commitment to commence a transformation programme and this is underway with Children's Services a key area of focus. Work is underway to look at areas where savings can be materialised sooner as well as areas where spend can be reduced, through the transformation work.

The report also presents an update on the Capital Programme.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS

To update Members on the Council's financial performance and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the update to the Medium Term Financial Plan and the current level of General Fund balances be noted.
- 2. That the revised Capital Programme at **Appendix A** be noted.

DETAIL

FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

GENERAL FUND

 The following table details the projected budget outturn position for each Directorate in 2023/24, based on information to 30th June 2023. The position includes the emerging impact of inflationary pressures and details of the key variances are described in subsequent paragraphs of the report.

Directorate	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Q1 Over/(Under)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	86,453	86,453	0
Children's Services	48,754	53,754	5,000
Community Services, Environment & Culture	52,407	52,641	234
Finance, Development & Regeneration	13,246	13,101	(145)
Corporate Services	11,677	11,465	(212)
Corporate Items	9,747	7,070	(2,677)
Total	222,284	224,484	2,200
Pay Offer Pressure		1,500	1,500
Revised Total	222,284	225,984	3,700

2. The projected position indicates a significant financial pressure for the current financial year, largely as a result of inflationary pressures, the pay award offer and pressures on placements for children. The position will be kept under close review for the remainder of the year, with actions to be identified to mitigate the position.

Reasons for Variances over £100,000

Adults, Health and Wellbeing

- 3. We are seeing some early indications of financial pressures caused by an increase in number and costs of residential placements. Work is underway to mitigate these pressures which includes a continued focus on supporting people to live independently and given it is early in the year, it is currently envisaged that these actions will mitigate the pressures.
- 4. Inflationary uplift on Public Health contracts is increasing costs by £130,000. This is being funded by inflation on the Public Health grant which was announced recently.

Children's Services

- 5. Members will be aware of the ongoing financial pressures we are experiencing in relation to children in our care. The MTFP outturn report in July outlined another significant overspend against budget, and additional resources were allocated as part of the 2023/24 budget in February, however pressures are exceeding those additional resources. The costs of Children in our Care continue to be the main element of the pressure.
- 6. The transformation programme is now underway and there is a key focus on placement sufficiency and how we provide care for our looked after children. The work is wide ranging, linked to the overall Children's Services improvement journey and will focus on outcomes for children as well as cost but at this point in time it is difficult to predict financial savings. There were also assumptions on savings from initiatives incorporated into the budget however the activity to generate the savings has been delayed. These activities are being reviewed and incorporated into the transformation programme, which together with a robust programme management approach should ensure plans are implemented.

7. The service area is also experiencing higher staffing costs due to agency staff covering vacancies and this means that the turnover target agreed at budget setting is not being achieved and this is adding to the service pressure. Again, this is an area of focus of the transformation programme.

Community Services, Environment and Culture

- 8. Members will recall that additional resources have been allocated towards inflation costs, specifically energy and fuel. The Council procures energy through the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) and they aim to minimise cost increases by purchasing in advance where it is beneficial to do so. NEPO have purchased the majority of our energy for the current year in advance, in order to minimise any potential risks of supply shortage and higher prices. The result of this is that the lower energy prices will start to materialise in future years. The energy market continues to remain volatile and it is an area that we are keeping under constant review.
- 9. The costs of providing concessionary transport is expected to be lower than budgeted by (£400,000). This will be partly offset by lower car parking income of £230,000.
- 10. Income generated through the sale of recyclable materials is higher than budgeted due to a positive market value for these items currently being experienced (£120,000).
- 11. There is an anticipated overspend on grounds maintenance costs of £230,000 due to additional activity including at grass verges adjacent to highways.
- 12. The Service are experiencing cost pressures relating to Community Transport Services of £264,000 due to an increase in the volume of services required to be delivered.

Finance, Development and Regeneration

- 13. A small percentage of local housing rent allowances are not eligible for subsidy creating a pressure of £220,000.
- 14. These are offset by employee savings of (£540,000).

Corporate Services Directorate

15. Employee savings due to staff turnover are forecast to be (£300,000).

Corporate Areas

- 16. Treasury Management costs (AMRA) are expected to be lower than budget (£1,000,000). The Council is currently benefiting from an improved cash flow position meaning that external borrowing will not be required as soon as originally anticipated. The recent increases in interest rates also result in significantly higher than projected income from external investments.
- 17. The Council receives grants from Government for business rate reliefs and our business rate 'top up' that we receive as part of the overall Local Government Finance system. These grants have benefited from inflationary uplift which has been higher due to the higher rates of inflation and income is anticipated to be (£1,800,000) higher than budget.

Pay Offer 2023/24

18. The National Local Government Employers organisation have offered a pay award to local government employees of a flat rate £1,925 per annum. The unions have rejected this offer and are balloting its members on potential industrial action. If this offer were implemented, employee costs would increase by around 5.9% in 2023/24. Members will recall that the Budget for 2023/24 was set including a provision for a pay award of 4%. The additional cost should the offer be accepted is projected at £1,500,000. It should be noted that this additional cost will also carry forward in future years.

Employee Turnover

19. Members will recall in the budget report to Council in February 2023, we introduced an employee turnover provision in staff budgets. This is a budgeted saving of £2,500,000 across all staff budgets reflecting financial savings that arise naturally through staff turnover and vacancies during recruitment periods. The projected performance against this saving is included in the numbers above by directorate, but the overall total is a shortfall of £300,000 mainly due to the agency costs outlined in Children's Services.

General Fund Balances & Reserves

- 20. The Council aims to retain General Fund Balances at a prudent level, currently at £8,000,000. There are no additional balances available to fund the overspend.
- 21. Should the position summarised in the paragraphs above materialise at year end and reductions in spending are not identified, then the balances available at the end of the financial year would be £4,300,000. This would be below the £8m threshold by £3,700,000 and then those balances would require to be replenished in 2024/25.
- 22. In addition to the £8m General Fund balances the Council holds a number of earmarked reserves. This is funding earmarked for specific reasons such as insurance fund, fleet renewal fund, Public Health and Adults Integration reserves but could be re-directed to fund core expenditure. If savings do not materialise to fund the overspend, in order to replenish the general fund reserves, we would need to look at redirecting funds from these reserves.
- 23. Members will recall from the MTFP report in July that the overspend last year was funded by surplus balances of £1.4m as well as releasing earmarked reserves of £2.3m. The use of reserves to fund overspends is not sustainable and it is a key area that we must work to avoid as part of the transformation programme.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

- 24. There continues to be a high level of uncertainty in terms of future funding for local government:
 - There is limited information available for indicative national funding totals for 2024/25, however there is no further information available for future years.
 - The Local Government Finance Settlement is unlikely to be announced until mid/end December.
- 25. This funding uncertainty coincides with significant volatility and uncertainty on expenditure and income pressures. Inflation and interest rates will continue to impact on future position and the pay award for 2023/24 is uncertain.
- 26. Members will recall that savings were built into the budget in February 2023 alongside the introduction of the Council's transformation programme. This will be intrinsically linked to the MTFP and update reports will be presented to Cabinet.

CAPITAL

- 27. As with revenue expenditure and income, the public sector and local authorities are now experiencing significant pressures relating to capital schemes and construction contracts. The position will be closely monitored and any impact on the Capital Programme identified.
- 28. The Capital Programme is shown at **Appendix A** and summarised in the table below:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2026	Current Approved Programme £'000	Programme Revisions £'000	Revised Programme £'000
School Investment Programme & Childrens Services	46,630	1,217	47,847
Housing Regeneration Development & Growth	35,754	1,819	37,573
Town Centres	118,524	1,002	119,526
Transportation	43,239	661	43,900
Community & Environment,			
Culture & Leisure	17,743	1,765	19,508
Adults & Public Health	447	170	617
Total Approved Capital MTFP	262,337	6,634	268,971

Reasons for movements over £100,000

New schemes

Transportation

- 29. A S278 contribution totalling £120k in respect of Green Lane/Yarm housing developments, funding via the developer has been added to the programme.
- 30. Grant funding from TVCA for £660k for road widening works on the A19 / A689 has been added to the programme

Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure

- 31. Improvements to the play provision at Redbrook Park has been included, £110k funded from developer agreements.
- 32. Habitat restoration scheme at Billingham Beck has been included, £120k funded from developer agreements.

Other

33. Works at Whitton Landfill site have been included, £170k funded from RCCO.

Additional funding

Schools Investment Programme

34. Grant funding for Schools Capital Maintenance for 2023/24 has been added to the programme, £1,162k.

Transportation

35. National Highways funding has been agreed for West Stockton, £150k.

36. A contribution for £270k has been agreed with Middlesbrough Borough Council for works at Newport Bridge, along with £150k allocated from the City Region Sustainable Transport grant.

Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure

- 37. Building planned maintenance programme has been added to the programme, £1,222k funded from RCCO.
- 38. £197.9k has been added to the capital programme to deliver improvements at Wynyard Woodland Park, funded from developer agreements.

Housing

39. Grant funding for Disabled Facilities for 2023/24 has been included in the programme, £1,804.6k.

Town Centres Investment

40. The Capital Programme has been revised to reflect the match funding element for Yarm LUF, £1,952k which includes additional funding of £323.6k from external contributions and RCCO.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

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

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

42. No direct implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

43. The report summarises the financial position for 2023/24 based on information for the first quarter of the financial year.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

44. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

45. This update to the MTFP is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

46. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy – Council 22 February 2023. Financial Outturn Report – Cabinet 13 July 2023

Name of Contact Officer: Garry Cummings

Post Title: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance

Telephone No. 01642 527011

Email Address: garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix A

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2026	Current Approved Programme	Programme Revisions	Revised Programme	Expenditure Apr 2017 - June 2023
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME &				
CHILDRENS SERVICES	00 005 705	4 400 074	00 407 000	10.051.501
School Investment Programme	38,325,765	1,162,074	39,487,839	16,251,524
Children Investment	8,304,268	54,663	8,358,931	505,279
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES	46,630,032	1,216,737	47,846,769	16,756,802
HOUSING REGENERATION, DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH				
Housing Regeneration	1,465,311	0	1,465,311	5,451
Inclusive Growth & Development	6,986,642	0	6,986,642	370,718
Private Sector Housing	220,881	1,819,293	2,040,174	412,158
Office Accommodation	27,080,721	0	27,080,721	471,066
HOUSING REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH	35,753,555	1,819,293	37,572,848	1,259,393
TOWN CENTRES				
Stockton Town Centre Schemes	2,864,451	50,000	2,914,451	982,073
Reshaping Town Centres	10,662,960	(1,000,000)	9,662,960	427,843
Billingham Town Centre	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	245,956
Thornaby Town Centre	29,800,440	0	29,800,440	1,854,245
Re-Development of Castlegate Site	43,635,313	0	43,635,313	15,241,848
Yarm & Eaglescliffe LUF	20,048,000	1,952,000	22,000,000	1,584,976
Infrastructure Enhancements, Regeneration & Property Acquisitions	1,512,366	0	1,512,366	54,248
TOWN CENTRES	118,523,530	1,002,000	119,525,530	20,391,189
TRANSPORTATION				
City Regional Sustainable Transport	20,047,605	(170,000)	19,877,605	0
Other Transport Schemes	19,778,305	781,439	20,559,744	14,547,549
Developer Agreements	3,413,351	50,000	3,463,351	3,027,134
TRANSPORTATION	43,239,261	661,439	43,900,700	17,574,683
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE				
Energy Efficiency Schemes	1,132,724	0	1,132,724	1,131,078
Environment and Green Infrastructure	11,578,774	467,889	12,046,663	2,376,598
Building Management	2,187,916	1,222,002	3,409,918	613,097
Vehicle Replacement	2,843,438	75,266	2,918,704	1,283,710
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE	17,742,852	1,765,157	19,508,009	5,404,483
ADULTS & HEALTH				
Adults & Public Health Investment	446,628	170,000	616,628	89,872
ADULTS & HEALTH	446,628	170,000	616,628	89,872
Total Approved Capital MTFP	262,335,858	6,634,626	268,970,484	61,476,422

Agenda Item 6

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

7 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the priorities included in the Council Plan.

Recommended that the report be noted.

REASONS FOR PRODUCING THIS REPORT

To update on the progress in implementing the Council Plan priorities.

DETAIL

- 1. This report focuses on the implementation of the Council Plan 2023/26. This is therefore the mid-year update on progress during 2023/24.
- 2. An update on each of the Council Plan priorities is set out in Annex 1. The report indicates significant progress in all areas of this year's priorities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. No direct implications.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

4. No direct implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. No direct implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. No direct implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This Council Plan Update is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

8. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. Not applicable.

Name of Contact Officer: Ian Coxon

Post Title: Assistant Director – Strategy and Performance

Telephone: 01642 527019

Email: <u>ian.coxon@stockton.gov.uk</u>

'Closing the gap' briefings are being tailored with new government information to provide support for all education providers (inc. post 16). The 'Strengthening Services' improvement plan is now in place which maximises corporate resources 2. Deliver improvement programme focusing on workforce, practice and partnerships for and has oversight from a multi-agency board to ensure collective accountability across the Children's children and families in need system. Additional interim capacity is also in place to drive the delivery of the plan. An interim senior leadership structure is being implemented to re-focus improvement activity. The ASYE academy which will work to continuously improve the quality of social work practice is now operational. The application for an Alternative Provision (AP) Free School in partnership with DELTA academy 3. Continue to develop and enhance provision and support for children and young people with trust was submitted and a subsequent interview took place in July 2023. We expect to hear from DfE additional needs or accessing alternative whether we have been successful during Sept/Oct 2023 and if we are successful will move forward provision with the implementation of this provision. In Sept 2023 the multi million pound development at Bishopton Pupil Referral Unit opened its doors for the first time. The well-established and successful Abbey@Northshore provision was expanded with building works and refurbishment completed whilst the children were on their Summer break leading in increased numbers of children being able to access this provision from September 2023. Placement Sufficiency has been confirmed as one of the key pillars of the corporate transformation 4. Implement the investment proposals for children in our care, including new provision programme and a work programme has commenced which will implement proposals on new models and new models of delivery of delivery for fostering and external residential placements.

Po		
Page 26		One new children's home has been purchased and is in the process of planning to enable it to open in January 2024. One existing children's home has been refurbished with additional capacity added to open during September 2023. An interim senior leadership structure will introduce an Assistant Director post for children in care and care leavers to sharpen focus on support for care leavers and reunification for children who can return home.
5.	Support the Arson Reduction Strategy in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade	A new arson reduction strategy was launched in the summer of 2023 following the successful completion of the previous multi-agency strategy. Deliberate fire setting has reduced in Stockton on Tees but the significant partnership working must continue to ensure this is consistent across all wards. Joint patrols in deliberate fire setting hotspots has taken place and will continue throughout the summer months when we see an increase in deliberate fire setting during the school holidays. A dedicated preventative approach has been taken through the 'bonfire' period to tackle seasonal increases in deliberate fire setting across Stockton on Tees which was a success. A Crime and Disorder Select Committee review of bonfires on public land has been undertaken, with recommendations aligned to the arson reduction strategy agreed. A report on action progress is due in September 2023.
6.	Maximise the effectiveness of the additional investment made in our community safety related services in order to protect residents	Following the additional investment made by the Council within our Community Safety related services we appointed an additional 12 Civic Enforcement Officers. These officers are new resources on top of the existing team of 20 Civic Enforcement Officers already employed by the Council. The additional 12 Civic Enforcement Officers are now in position and are actively working within all of our town centre settings, with the objective of ensuring they are safe and welcoming places to visit and shop. A particular area of focus has been the recent Public Space Protection Order in both Stockton and Norton Village. The investment in additional resources for the town centres has also meant that the existing Civic Enforcement Officers are able to spend much more time within our wider communities with a focus on tacking ASB, environmental crime and issues related to vehicles, including parking.
7.	Consider and develop a new serious violence reduction strategy in partnership with other responsible authorities	A new serious violence reduction strategy was introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Court Act in 2022 and came into effect in early 2023. As a result, we are now under a duty to understand the implications of serious violence on our communities, produce a strategy to tackle the causes and work in partnership with other responsibly authorities. The introduction of serious violence reduction duty in the Community Safety Plan has been completed and is now live. A Violence Reduction Unit (CURV) has been introduced following additional funding from the Home Office, in Cleveland. Stockton BC is represented on this group and part of the decision-making process for funding allocation and the introduction of new initiatives to tackle serious violence.
8.	Give due consideration to the new Protect Duty placed on local authorities as part of the wider national counter-terrorism strategy	In July 2023, the government released a draft Bill which covers the new duties under the Protect element of the CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy. The draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill aims to place a duty on qualifying public premises or events to take certain steps to deter and minimise the threat and impact of terrorism to the public. Whilst yet to be confirmed, we are expecting

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Page 27	much of this duty including a duty to co-ordinate locally and potentially enforce the requirements to fall on the Local Authority. Locally, the Publicly Assessable Locations (PALs) pilot, seen as a pre-curser to the new Bill, has now concluded and information fed back to government to inform future policy setting. Further help and support is being provided by the Home Office and Counter-Terrorism Policing in order to ensure our designs for the new town centre provide a safe and secure area for the public to enjoy.
9. Support people to live healthy lives and address health inequalities through a focus on early prevention, long term conditions, substance misuse, smoking, obesity / physical activity, and mental health	Our multi-agency Tobacco Alliance is progressing work on smoking pregnancy, vaping (including understanding perceptions and reported levels of vaping in schools) and we are a regional pilot site for the national NHS swap to stop scheme (provision of free vapes to support adults with quitting smoking in line with national guidance). We continue to develop our asset-based community working approach, exploring different models of co-production in the design and commissioning of our support including 0-19 and our peer advocacy pilot to support people with multiple complex needs (particularly domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill health). Good progress is being made on implementing the new Domestic Abuse Strategy, including a comprehensive workforce development programme available to multi-agency partners; a programme for those in the community where DA may be disclosed e.g. hairdressers, beauticians, barbers; and the work of dedicated IDVAs (independent domestic violence advisor) in both our local NHS trust and in primary care. We continue to work across agencies to improve the opportunities for people to be physically active e.g. the healthy streets pilot which is currently being evaluated. A comprehensive healthy weight needs assessment has been completed working across partners with clear recommendations for Health and Wellbeing Board partners.
Continue to lead the public health response to Covid and support the approach to recovery and addressing the impact of Covid, working with partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board	The multi-agency Health Protection Collaborative continues to meet, reporting to Health and Wellbeing Board to maintain oversight and provide assurance on health protection issues. This includes maintaining an overview of the current position on Covid and flu and links into the wider NHS Winter planning infrastructure. The public health team continues to link to key settings particularly our care sector, working with the UK Health Security Agency, to understand the current picture and provide any support as well as conveying and discussing key health messaging going into Autumn and Winter. The team has arranged a Winter health conference for 19/09/23 which aims to empower the VCSE sector and community groups with information, networks, sharing of good practice and resources to support the community this Winter. Over 70 attendees from across the community have registered. We continue to work closely with NHS partners to promote access to the Autumn / Winter Covid and flu vaccination programmes as this is rolled out, including communications and comms work to help mitigate inequality. The staff flu vaccination is also being planned, lead by HR.

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1. Support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and offer help to people who are feeling lonely	Intermediate Care Services and social workers continue to deliver services supporting people to remain independent at home. Interactions through the assessment processes consider if a person is isolated and lonely and tailored support is offered. Business unit plans are being refreshed and will have a golden thread of identifying people who may be lonely or isolated and supporting with their wishes. Developing schemes in place to further support people living independently include enhancing the digital offer within Adults Social Care and utilising 'One Call' to support in urgent situations.
12. Continue to work with adult residential care and care at home providers to improve quality of care and to continue to support them as they respond to the challenges arising from COVID-19	The Transformation Team have maintained several initiatives for both care home and care at home services to support or improve quality of care, including leadership network, activity coordinator network, provider forums, activity network, care academy, care quality group and the Well Led Programme. The Transformation Team and providers continue to engage and work with other partners, including community matrons, employment and training hub, environmental health, North Tees & Hartlepool Training Alliance and the Medicines Optimisation Team to ensure support is timely and focussed on areas where it is most needed.
13. Engage with individuals, families, carers and communities when developing adult social care support and continue to collaborate with the NHS to ensure health and care services work effectively together	Relationships with Integrated Care Board (ICB) and North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NT&HFT) continue to be in a very strong position, frequent and specific dialogue take place in a variety of forms including workshops to agree joint working actions. Routine business and escalation measures have clear processes and decision-making ensuring people get care and health services when they need them most. Adult Social Care staff have undertaken a programme of strengths-based learning and community asset approaches to practice, ensuring people, families, carers and communities form part of discussions and any support needed.
14. Review out of area placements and day options provision for adults	People in out of area placements are reviewed by the social workers on a regular basis. A review of in house day options has taken place which has made the service more flexible to support the individuals who attend.
15. Develop a new model for the health and wellbeing of children and young people 0-19 (25 for SEND), working across key partners and including service commissioning	We have worked closely with partners including children, young people and their families to develop the overarching approach to improving children and young people's health and wellbeing. This will focus clearly on early prevention, based on research evidence and the local picture with the aim of improving outcomes, addressing inequalities and supporting work to prevent escalation of need and demand on services. Working alongside the community and provider as this approach develops and is mobilised will be key. Through this the 0-19 model (encompassing health visiting, public health school nursing and healthy weight support for families) will be further embedded in the community and wider support across partners including the healthy schools approach, work of maternity services and links to primary care.
16. Work with our communities and partners to develop our approach to healthy places, in the context of regeneration plans and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Locally we are looking at how we embed impact on health and wellbeing into key policy e.g. the revision of the Local Plan and feeding into developments such as the town centre blueprint. We are also looking at learning from other areas to maximise the impact planning, place-shaping and licensing have on creating places that enable people to be healthier. Our local needs assessment

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17. Work with our partners in the VCSE sector and the Community Partnerships to tackle food poverty in the Borough	work has identified recommendations across the Council and partners to shape an environment that enables people to be more physically active and to have access to healthier food options for example. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed this year, working across partners in the context of the Council as place-shaper and lead for place and the developing ICS. Healthy place and a focus on the wider determinants of health will be key. Working with Tees Valley partners and linking to the Tees Valley ICP, we will be developing a programme of potential areas of work across Tees Valley on healthy place including on Anchor institutions, work and health and health and transport. Via monies secured through Household Support Fund Round 3 and Thirteen and working in partnership with our VCSE partners, The Bread and Butter Thing (an award winning charity) have been commissioned to deliver 5 low cost food hubs across the borough. The first will launch on the 12 ^{th of} Sept in partnership with the Salvation Army (in central Stockton), followed by Victoria Community Hall on 18 th Sept in partnership with Little Sprouts. With the remaining three Hubs expected to be up and running by December. The Councils wider commitment to the Stockton Food Power Network, community food pantries and
	Holiday Enrichment Programme (an extensive programme supporting children and their families during the summer holidays through the provision of health food and free activities) all continue in partnership with Catalyst.
18. Continue to prevent and relieve homelessness	To ensure that a holistic approach is taken to support individuals and families experiencing or threatened with homelessness the service now includes a Domestic Abuse worker, a specialist refugee worker, and a Welfare Support colleague.

OUR ECONOMY			
Making the borough a place wit	Making the borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed means creating:		
A growing economy	Improved education and skills development	Job creation and increased employment	
Priority	Upd	ate	
19. Continue to develop the Invest Stockton-on- Tees branding campaign and attract inward investment into the Borough	Reviewing options to market in North West region (Manchester) Continuing to utilise B"B media (Tees Business, Commercial Property publications etc) Website averaging about 350 views monthly and expect to rise with marketing campaign described above		
20. Develop options to bring forward development on vacant employment land	 Durham Lane Business Park Survey's completed and Agent appointed to market the site Procurement process for a preferred development partner is ongoing Masterplan and planning application targeted during 2024 Design work currently ongoing with NPG to bring power into the site Extension of Cleasby Way complete which has unlocked land for proposed eastern access rail station car park 		
21. Continue to deliver the objectives in the Inclusive Growth Strategy and using an agreed Action Plan	Review of current strategy being undertaken by Inte	rim Director of Inclusive Growth & Regeneration	
22. Continue to develop the successful Employment and Training Hub Model	470 people into employment, estimate will reach 500 by end of October 3500 people registered with the Hub Introduction of Hanlon system and the new portal has enabled people to apply direct for jobs who has increased number of applications and employment outcomes Portal launched end of July 2023. Traffic – since its launch 3300 visits, vacancies page is the movisited Events – August Summer jobs event – largest attendance yet with 340 people, 3 customers med employers at the event, had interviews later that day and received job offers that day Hub on Tour – visited 10 locations over the summer, partnered with the Warm Space Initiative, we have the standard and backing to account the summer.		

attended and looking to continue over Autumn.

courses for residents

Network Provider Event Sept 6th – over 40 providers/ support agencies attended, all given hub update and portal tutorial. The providers have started registering to create a library of resources and

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ω pro ar	revelop a procurement charter with partners to romote social value and identify potential reas of development of supply chains in order a support local business	New Social Value Policy approved by Cabinet. Discussions started with other Tees Valley Local Authorities.
ind an In	dvance our major transport-related projects icluding the Portrack Relief Road, Billingham and Eaglescliffe Station improvements, Elton iterchange, and improvements along the A689 crridor.	Portrack Relief Road – On hold due to budget gap of around £15m. Billingham station – All works due to be completed by mid-October 2023 with new bridge, lifts and platform enhancements already in place. Eaglescliffe Station – Car park planned to start Winter 2023/24. Car park to planning committee in October 2023. Programme for bridge awaited from Network Rail. Elton Interchange – Programmed to be completed early October 2023 with new signals going live Saturday 23rd September 2023. A689/A19 interchange – Detailed design commenced following commission from TVCA who are funding the project. Arup appointed to support SBC Design Services with the detailed design. Draft programme is indicating a start on site in June 2024 and a completion date of June 2025. A689 corridor improvements – On hold as the Government has turned down the A689 Major Road Network bid.

Page 32	OUR PLACES		
	Making the borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive means creating:		
	Great places to live and visit	Clean and green spaces	Rich cultural experiences

Priority	Update
25. Continue the redevelopment of Stockton Town Centre including demolition of Castlegate and development of the Urban Park, new leisure centre, library, customer services and registry office.	Demolition progressing. Detailed design of urban park and start on site in Q3 2023/24.
26. Deliver interventions for Town Deal in Thornaby	Interventions progressing in line with business case. Public engagement on cycleways in September 2023
27. Finalise the plans for improvements in Yarm, Preston Hall Museum and Grounds and cycleway infrastructure in line with the Levelling Up fund allocation	Planning application submitted for Preston Park interventions. Further design work underway on other elements in park. Yarm High Street works out to tender Q3 2023/24
28. Conclude the continued redevelopment of the Sycamores	The development of The Sycamores in partnership with Keepmoat Homes continues (on track for a further 41 sales between Nov 22 - Oct 2023)
29. Development of a business case to actively accelerate the provision of affordable and specialist housing provision within the borough	Work is ongoing across directorates (Regeneration and Adults, Health & Well-being) to explore delivery models which have the potential to accelerate the delivery of affordable and specialist housing provision.
30. Develop blueprints for before phases of redevelopment of town centres.	Development of the Blueprint for Stockton Central Area underway. Planning for others to follow shortly
31. Develop structures and models for future development of Stockton and Billingham town centres.	Blueprint for Stockton and site specific master planning underway. Assessment of future redevelopment options in Billingham complete Q3 2023/24
32. Continue the programme of road / pavement maintenance and repairs and deliver our City Regions Sustainable Transport programme schemes	Programme of road/pavement maintenance and repairs is ongoing. The carriageway programme is 20% (8 of 40) complete by our framework contractor (Tarmac). The footway programme is 38% (9 of 24) complete. All remaining schemes are scheduled to be completed within the financial year. CRST – Programme in place for scheme development, design and delivery and work progressing. Awaiting funding agreements from TVCA.

Reduction and Environmental Sustainability Strategy action plan which includes coalitions with residents, businesses, and partners.	We continue to work with service teams to deliver actions identified within the 'live' action plan. The action plan is monitored by a Senior Management Team Oversight group. The data collection and analysis framework continues to work well, proving to be a useful tool for many areas of the authority. The four independently chaired Climate coalitions (Creative, Youth, Community and Business) continue to meet and develop individual action plans. All four coalition chairs meet to share good practice and challenges to delivery. A new Carbon Literacy training course has been developed with our learning and skills colleagues; this will work alongside our carbon awareness training for members, school governors and our business communities.	
34. Development and implement the 2023 boroughwide events programme, incorporating celebrations for the King's coronation and ongoing preparations for Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary	Range of coronation events supported across the Borough including 75 street parties and 9 community events. Ongoing support for community event organisers across the Borough Appointment to senior, jointly funded, post responsible for planning and overseeing all aspects of the festival programme 2-year S&DR countdown announcement is planned for September 2023	
35. Support the Combined Authority and Bus Operators in delivering the agreed outcomes set out in the Tees Valley Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan and Scheme	Stockton working on bus corridor improvement schemes across the Borough funded by the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement to provide better bus priority measurers. SBC staff involved in working groups looking at ticketing, fares, marketing and network improvements to encourage people back to bus following covid pandemic. Tees Flex extended for a further 18 months. £2 Fixed Single Fare Cap in place and extended until end of October then will be £2.50 until end Nov 2024.	

Financial sustainability and value for money

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OUR COUNCIL

We are committed to being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve, this means we will provide:

Dedicated and resourceful employees

Strong leadership and governance

Priority	Update
36. Review of Medium Term Financial Plan including delivery and funding.	The first quarter financial update report was presented to Cabinet in September. The MTFP is under constant review considering inflationary pressures, demand pressures and future NNDR position. Reserves are also under consideration given the financial position. A report will be presented to Cabinet in December outlining the updated position for the current year but also a refresh of the MTFP for future years.
37. Develop a Corporate Debt Strategy	Identified debt position across the Council at March 2023. Meetings with internal services arranged to understand collection process and methods.
38. Respond to and implement Government's review of Business Rates and Revaluation	Enquiries reduced since initial billing under new rating list. 39 check/challenges received since implementation of new list. 14 determined and 25 outstanding (21 of which at check stage and 4 at challenge). Increase in overall RV from £196m 2017 list to £201m 2023 list. Consultation exercise at present relating to 'avoidance and evasion in the business rates system'.
39. Develop and deliver a transformation programme across all services to support the Medium Term Financial Plan	Report presented to Cabinet in July outlining the transformation programme incorporated with the Powering our Future programme. Member briefing sessions undertaken in September. The programme is being developed with a range of reviews underway with particular focus on Childrens Services.
40. Deliver proposals for the redevelopment of Dunedin House to support flexible working arrangements and the re-location of staff from current buildings	Refurbishment works on site and progressing well. Regular updates provided to staff through the Intranet pages. Relocation of staff to start in 2024.
41. Review the Council's land and assets and develop plans for disposal or for any potential development	Review of administration buildings on-going linked to decant of staff/tenants Other land and assets being reviewed monthly by Place Asset Group as new requirements/opportunities emerge
42. Add new features and functions to the Council website and improve online services for customers	The new website went live in February 2022, along with 152 live self-serve transactions. Since then we have continued to add content and have developed a total of 222 online solutions. Up to 31 August 2023, 27,063 customers have signed up for My Council accounts. We are working on the final

P age မွ	development stages of a new Stockton Information Directory which is due for completion by the end of October 2023.	
43. Launch a new Council Volunteering Strategy to support our employees to volunteer in the community and to provide additional volunteering opportunities at the Council	Council Employee Volunteering Policy approved by Cabinet 13 th July 2023 – employees able to have 1 days paid leave in a rolling 12 month period to volunteer in the borough. Team volunteering also encouraged as a team building exercise.	
44. Implement the new flexible working arrangements to capitalise and build on the technological advancements and new working practices developed during the pandemic	Flexible Working arrangements continue to be available to eligible employees – further guidance and policy will be provided with the planned moves to Dunedin House	
45. Continue to develop the Bright Minds Big Futures initiative to ensure that the voice of young people is heard and valued in the development and delivery of Council policies and services	Recent BMBF activity has included SIRF reporting and the delivery of the 'Different Altogether' initiative which included the delivery of a series of events, activities and workshops aimed at educating, empowering, and celebrating all things that make young people different. Looking ahead BMBF will have a key role in engaging young people as part of the Councils 'Powering our Future' resident conversations.	
46. Respond to and implement the Local Government and Parliamentary boundary reviews	For the Local Government ward boundaries within the Borough. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England review is complete. The 2023 local elections held in the Borough were successfully delivered on the new ward boundaries. For the Parliamentary Boundaries. The Boundary Commission for England have concluded their review and published their final recommendations for the Tees Valley region and those specifically for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The Boundary Commission has recommended some changes which will affect the current Stockton North and Stockton South parliamentary constituencies. Work is currently being undertaken by the Electoral Services team, to ensure the Electoral Register is ready to implement the new Constituency arrangements when the Order is laid, and the UK Parliamentary General Election is called.	
47. Continued implementation of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework to address poverty and inequality in the Borough	As noted in action 17, 5 community food Hubs are being rolled out through The Bread and Butter Thing. Work is also ongoing to develop a corporate 'Poverty Plan' in partnership with a range of key partners and those with lived experience. Planning for Winter 2023 has also commenced to ensure the Council and our partners are prepared to support our residents facing cost of living challenges (this will include the continuation of 'Social Spaces' formerly known as 'Warm Spaces', a series of 'Here to Help Events' and continued working with our local business community to maximise their support via Social Corporate Responsibility initiatives).	
48. Continue the development and roll out of the Cost-of-Living Hub to support the Borough's residents	The Councils on-line Cost-of-Living hub will continue to evolve to promote for example those initiatives noted above (Social Spaces, Help to Help events, The Bread and Butter food hubs) and in response to resident needs and feedback.	

Statutory Forward Plan

Key Decisions

1 August 2023 - 30 November 2023

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Required CO Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision- takers and end date for represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consider- ation	Notes / Comments
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment To fulfil our duty to produce a report on demand and supply of high quality, affordable and flexible childcare available in the area on a yearly basis, this document is called the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. Key	Director of Children's Services	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Cabinet	12 Oct 2023	Cabinet	Meetings and emails	elaine.redding@st ockton.gov.uk 01/10/23	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment	To fulfil our duty to produce a report on demand and supply of high quality, affordable and flexible childcare available in the area on a yearly basis, this document is called the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.
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Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste To receive the final report of the Place Select Committee	Director of Corporate Services Director of Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for Enviroment and Transport Cabinet Member for Enviroment and Transport	Cabinet Director of Corporate Services	15 Feb 2024 15 Feb 2024	Cabinet	Cabinet report	Rebecca.Saunder S- Thompson@stockt on.gov.uk, Sarah.Whaley@st ockton.gov.uk N/A	Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste	Key Decision CIA is not required.
Key									

Description of Matter / Decision	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision- takers and end date for represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy The report to Council to set the Council's budget and Council tax for 2024/25 and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan.	Director of Finance, Development & Regeneration and Deputy Chief Executive Director of Finance, Development & Regeneration and Deputy Chief Executive	Leader of the Council Leader of the Council	Cabinet Director of Finance, Development & Regeneration and Deputy Chief Executive	15 Feb 2024 15 Feb 2024	Cabinet and Council	Members briefings and meetings will be held with Councillors	clare.harper@stoc kton.gov.uk, Sarah.Whaley@st ockton.gov.uk N/A	Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy	Key Decision A CIA is not required.

Description of Marter / Decision ORequired	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision- takers and end date for represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
O to 19 Childrens Public Health Programme: Partnership with Harrogate & District Foundation Trust This report sets out the intention for the future commissioning of the O-19 Public Health programme for children, young people, and their families. It is recommended that this is achieved through the development of a partnership model which delegates 'prescribed health functions' to Harrogate District Trust under a section 75 agreement. As a consequence of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Council became statutorily responsible in 2013 for the public health services provided by the school nursing service, and in 2015 for the health visiting service. In line with these statutory responsibilities, the current contract commissioned by	Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Health Leisure and Culture Cabinet Member for Health Leisure and Culture	Cabinet Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	16 Nov 2023 16 Nov 2023	Cabinet 4	Meetings and emails	carolyn.nice@stockton.gov.uk N/A	0 to 19 Childrens Public Health Programme: Partnership with Harrogate & District Foundation Trust	Key Decision A CIA is not required

Description of Matter / Decision ORequired	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision- takers and end date for represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
Selective Licensing of Private Rented Housing (scheme proposal) Selective licensing scheme proposal to be considered for 3 areas of the borough (Central Stockton, North Thornaby and Newtown). The proposal will include; the information/busine ss case, the proposed designated areas, the free structure, proposed license conditions and consultation plan).	Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Cabinet Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	12 Oct 2023 12 Oct 2023	Cabinet and Private rented tenants and landlords/managin g agents with properties within the designation area (or in the proximity). Local residents and stakeholders. Local ward councillors.	Meetings and emails. Formal consultation (will be undertaken post Cabinet as per the statutory Selective Licensing requirements) – via an online survey (which will be posted out if requested). Distribution of consultation paper.	jane.edmends@st ockton.gov.uk N/A	Selective Licensing of Private Rented Housing (scheme proposal)	Key Decision A CIA is required
Key									

Scrutiny Review – Ac	cess to GPs and Primary Medical Care
Achieved since last meeting	At the meeting in September 2023, the Committee received a background briefing regarding this scrutiny topic. Consideration was then given to the draft scope and plan for the in-depth review which Members subsequently approved.
	 The key aims of this review would be to: Understand the existing local 'access to GPs' landscape in the context of national / regional developments around this ongoing issue. Ascertain current systems for accessing general practice services, the communication of these to the public, and how effective they are (including any variations across the Borough's providers). Determine any areas which may assist in improving the experience of the local population, and practices themselves, when individuals wish to contact and / or access general practice services. Share any identified good practice within the Borough's Primary Care Networks (PCNs).
	Several contributors had been identified for this work, namely the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), Local Medical Committee (LMC), Hartlepool & Stockton Health GP Federation, Primary Care Networks (PCNs), individual practices, Healthwatch, and, crucially, residents of the Borough. It was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be presented to Cabinet in April 2024.
	The first evidence-gathering session was held at the Committee meeting in October 2023 and involved a detailed presentation by a NENC ICB representative covering existing primary care arrangements, how general practice works, current GP provision across the Borough, and the impact of the COVID pandemic on access. A national / regional context was also outlined in terms of recovery planning and how this was being approached locally.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The second evidence-gathering session is scheduled to involve contributions from the Local Medical Committee (LMC) and Hartlepool and Stockton Health GP Federation.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance		
Key Issues /	Healthwatch: The Committee received an overview of the latest	
Problems or	Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report (2022-2023) in	
Concerns	September 2023 which included the three priorities for 2023-	
	2024, namely a Growing Older project, a focus on pharmacy, and	
	a rolling programme of coffee mornings to help reach deprived	
10	areas and aid in reducing inequalities. Presented by the	

organisation's Chair, Members subsequently raised questions on the new Youthwatch initiative, whether the coffee mornings would tap into existing gatherings or involve new opportunities, and the need to explore the impact of recent pharmacy closures on remaining providers.

CQC / PAMMS Report Updates: The Committee considered the latest CQC quarterly report (Q1 2023-2024), including PAMMS assessment feedback published during this period, at its meeting in September 2023. Members raised concerns about the continuing lack of CQC focus on three of the five established inspection domains, the completion (and quality) of the required post-inspection Action Plan for one particular provider, and the overall upgrading of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) despite it not meeting legal requirements.

In related matters, the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) for 2022-2023 was due to be considered in September 2023 but was deferred due to officer illness. This report was instead presented to the Committee in October 2023, with Members subsequently raising concerns about ongoing medication management issues within local care homes and downward trends in overall ratings.

Well-Led Programme: The Committee was presented with an update on the SBC Well-Led Programme at its meeting in October 2023. Praising the impact of this initiative, Members encouraged SBC to do what it can to sell the programme to those from providers currently graded 'Requires Improvement'.

Public Health: Awaiting confirmation of when the SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report (a statutory responsibility) will be available for the Committee to consider.

'Health Structures' Presentation: To assist in understanding the current Integrated Care System (ICS) landscape, an informal 'health structures' presentation was arranged for the Committee on 17 October 2023 – this was delivered by the NENC ICB Director of Place (Stockton) and covered roles / responsibilities of ICBs, ICPs and the new 'place-based' partnership which held its first meeting in June 2023.

Requests for more information

Healthwatch: The Committee requested further details of the Mental Health (Wellbeing) Hub which was referenced during the Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report 2022-2023 presentation – this had since been provided and circulated to Members for information.

CQC / PAMMS Report Updates: A number of CQC-related queries were raised during consideration of the latest quarterly report regarding published inspections (Q1 2023-2024) – these were relayed to local CQC representatives, and responses by the CQC have since been shared with the Committee.

NHS Updates / Consultations Key Issues / North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) & Problems or South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT): The Concerns 'hospital group' comprising NTHFT and STHFT has recently appointed a new joint Chief Executive Officer (Stacey Hunter) who will commence post in early-2024. **North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust** (NEAS): Held its Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2023 (attended by Chair of ASCH Select Committee). The presentation slides, including a look ahead to 2023-2024, can be found at https://www.neas.nhs.uk/media/209349/neas_agm_21_sept_2023.pdf. Smoking: Leaders and national health experts gathered in the North East on 27 September 2023 to explore how the region can condemn its biggest driver of ill health and death to history. The event explored a range of topics around smoking, including the role of vaping and harm reduction, media campaigns in helping raise motivation to quit and reduce smoking prevalence, how stop smoking support can help high priority groups, and key policy levers to reduce smoking further. Further details can be found at https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/posts/can-the-northeast-lead-the-way-to-a-smokefree-future/. **Health Inequalities**: Healthworks, a Newcastle-based community health charity which the ICB is partnering with to tackle the growing health inequalities that exist in the region, has published their latest Impact Report for 2022-2023 - this can be found at https://www.healthworksnewcastle.org.uk/about-us/impactreview2022-23/. North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT): The Trust has now gone live with their patient engagement platform which will help patients book and amend appointments and receive their letters digitally. A new app-based booking system is being piloted for gastroenterology outpatients – further details can be found at https://www.nth.nhs.uk/news/trust-pilotsnew-booking-system/?mc_cid=97c7e3651f&mc_eid=36e08daf91.

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None

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns

information

Requests for more

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: As part of the agreed rotational arrangements, the chair and support function for the Committee is being undertaken by SBC during 2023-2024.

The last meeting took place on 6 October 2023 (*note: the meeting was inquorate*) with agenda items covering the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Strategy and accompanying Joint Forward Plan (JFP), along with TEWV updates on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Adult Learning Disability Respite Provision. The next meeting is scheduled for

15 December 2023 – anticipated items include a winter plan update, future plans for non-surgical oncology, an update on the state of dentistry, and community water fluoridation proposals.

In other matters of interest, details of a proposed 'Partnership Agreement' have also recently emerged as part of the ongoing development of the Group Model between NTHFT and STHFT. An engagement phase is taking place during October 2023 before a Joint Partnership Board and the boards of the two Trusts intend to approve the final document in November 2023. Consideration is being given as to how the Committee may wish to provide input into this development.

Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.

North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.

Requests for more information

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: Further details requested from TEWV about Mental Health Support Team (schools-based) coverage and the current capacity at Aysgarth and Bankfields Court respite sites.

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns

The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:

Care Homes for Older People

The fifth update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Care Homes for Older People was considered in September 2023. Only one recommendation (that all care homes be required to work towards Dementia Friendly accreditation as part of the new contract arrangements) was yet to be signed-off as complete, and Members were informed of positive developments regarding Positive Approach to Care (PAC) training for care home staff. It was also noted that seven care homes were now accredited with dementia friendly status (surpassing the original target group of five), with the Council working with a further five providers to achieve a similar standing. Members subsequently agreed that the Action Plan approved by the Committee following the original review could now be signed-off as complete (no further updates required).

Day Opportunities for Adults

The second update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Day Opportunities for Adults was considered in October 2023. Members expressed disappointment at the lack of training sessions with bus providers to help raise awareness on how they can deliver their services to people who use day opportunities, as

well as concern around the clarity of bus stop locations in Stockton High Street (it was stated that SBC has a key role here and that this was not all down to the bus companies). Since some actions were still not complete, a further update would be required in early-2024 (this would need to include feedback on a forthcoming event at Newtown Community Centre which would include considerations around the day opportunity needs of those individuals transitioning from Children's Services into Adult Social Care). Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews

will be received by the Committee as follows:

- Day Opportunities for Adults (TBC)
- Care at Home (TBC late-2023 / early-2024)

Requests for more information

None

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

Adult Safeguarding

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

Tuesday 21 November 2023 Tuesday 19 December 2023 Tuesday 23 January 2024

Tuesday 20 February 2024 Tuesday 19 March 2024

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

Scrutiny Review – Narrowi	ng the Gap in Educational Attainment
Achieved since last meeting	Following tri partite discussions and an informal meeting of the Select Committee on 11 October, work has commenced to conduct this review using an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) model. An AI model is a collaborative process that involves all stakeholders, from top management to frontline employees and, in the case of this review, much stronger involvement with the education sector to create a shared vision and find solutions in a creative and innovative way. An informal meeting of the Committee was held on 11 October where Members were joined (remotely) by Anthony Douglas CBE. Anthony is an experienced and much respected professional in children's services. He works with organisations internationally about the service developments needed for children with special needs of all types, with a view to improving those services.
	We are very fortunate to have Anthony's support for this piece of work and his guidance as the Committee embarks on this new approach.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The November meeting will consider scoping and an engagement plan for this piece of work.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and	Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance		
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	No reports since last update.		
Problems or concerns	None		
Requests for more information	None		

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	An action plan in respect of the Review of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships was presented to the Select Committee for approval in July 2023. Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:
10	

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

Care Leavers EET –November 2023
Child Poverty – November 2023
Contextual Safeguarding – July 2024

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

Holidays are Fun (HAF) Programme

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

15 November 2023

13 December 2023

17 January 2024

14 February 2024

13 March 2024

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

Scrutiny Review – Sa	fety of Staff in the Night-Time Economy
Achieved since last meeting	Further to the report presented to the Executive Scrutiny Committee in early-September 2023 summarising discussions at the initial tri-partite meeting in August 2023, a report was presented to the Committee later in September providing context / background around this issue and recommending that the objectives set out in the original topic suggestion could be met through existing mechanisms as opposed to an in-depth scrutiny review.
	The report emphasised that transport to and from work is not a licensable activity and therefore cannot be considered as a condition attached to a licence and, as such, cannot be enforced. Following consideration of other elements such as a jointly commissioned Cleveland-wide problem profile of understanding violence in the night-time economy, the national PubWatch initiative, and already established multi-agency partnership arrangements, the Committee agreed that an in-depth scrutiny review was not required. Members did, however, request a future update on any developments in relation to this issue.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	A future update on any developments in relation to this issue will be scheduled for 2024.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Ou and Physical Accessi	tdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, bility
Achieved since last meeting	The initial tri-partite meeting was held in early-October 2023 to discuss the potential scope and plan for this review. Draft proposals were then considered by the Committee later in October 2023, with the key aims identified as:
	 Examine the Borough's existing outdoor play offer in terms of play value and distribution, and identify locations where there is currently an imbalance in provision. Ascertain who is responsible for individual facilities and what the management / maintenance and sustainability requirements are now, and are likely to be in the future (including revenue costs). Consider accessibility / inclusivity factors in relation to play provision so practical and financial implications are understood and factored into decisions around existing and future plans. Contribute to future policy around play area provision, giving an appraisal of potential options.

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

	Several contributors were identified including a number of SBC departments, the Association of Play Industries (API), RoSPA, Play England, Stockton Parent Carer Forum, Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF), and the Local Government Association (LGA) / other Local Authorities. Site visits were also planned as part of the evidence-gathering phase, with a view to presenting the Committee's findings and recommendations to Cabinet in April 2024. The Committee subsequently approved the scope and plan.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	Evidence-gathering would begin in November 2023 with initial contributions from SBC departments.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Manitaring	
Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting: Bonfires on Public Land The second update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Bonfires on Public Land was considered in September 2023. Only one recommendation (to further deter the construction and lighting of unauthorised bonfires, SBC identifies any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future) was yet to be signed-off as complete, and Members were informed that SBC Case Management Officers had been tasked with engagement activity over the next few months to identify potential sites and discuss with residents and businesses. Work was also being undertaken with SBC Licensing and SBC Corporate Communications to identify and publicise organised events across social media platforms. Since the agreed actions for this recommendation were still to be completed, a further update was requested for the Committee meeting in December 2023.
	Fly-Grazed Horses The fourth update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Fly-Grazed Horses was considered in October 2023. Four recommendations were yet to be signed-off as complete, central to which was the ongoing issue of Cleveland Police not yet implementing the intended joint formal policy document to address the fly-grazing of horses on both Council and non-Council land, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of the relevant organisations. Cleveland Police acknowledged that this

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

was a protracted matter that effects all police forces in the country and therefore requires a national approach. The force's procurement team were currently engaged with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) working group (who are developing a national approach) and were awaiting an indication of timescales. The Committee therefore agreed that no further progress updates would be scheduled until something of significance could be relayed in the attempt to tackle this issue on a wider countrywide level. Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: • Bonfires on Public Land (December 2023) • Tree Asset Management (TBC – late-2023 / early-2024) • Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC) Requests for more None information

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	Work Programme 2023-2024: An additional 'Other Information Sources / Updates' section had been added to the Committee's work programme document – this reflected some key crime and disorder / community safety issues (with links included providing more detail) which the Committee may be interested in scrutinising further (outside of any ongoing in-depth review work). Members were encouraged to contact either the Chair / Vice-Chair or Scrutiny Officer if they had queries on any of the stated topics.
Requests for more information	None

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

Access to and Impact of Vaping

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Thursday 9 November 2023 Thursday 21 December 2023 Thursday 25 January 2024	Thursday 22 February 2024 Thursday 21 March 2024

People Select Committee Chair's Update – November 2023

Scrutiny Review – Cost of Living Response	
Achieved since last meeting	The draft scope and project plan was approved by the Committee in September 2023. A background presentation was provided by the link officer. In October, the Committee received evidence from Council Officers on the Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) initiative, and collaborative work between the Community Engagement team and Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) in response to the ongoing cost of living situation. This included the development of a money management programme for young people which has already been used in schools.
	The Committee also received evidence from the Manager of Thrive Teesside, a local 'grassroots anti-poverty charity'. The organisation's focus is the importance of lived experience and providing a voice to those who feel marginalised in national debates. Discussions centred on financial difficulties facing residents, including issues with school uniform costs.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	November's Committee meeting will be the second evidence session. Contributors include Officers from the Council's Learning and Skills, Revenues and Benefits, Education and Wellbeing and Economic Development teams. External contributors include representatives from Catalyst and Stockton Food Power Network. An additional evidence gathering session will be held via
	Microsoft Teams on 21 November. Members will receive evidence from a representative from the Local Government Association (LGA).
On track - yes/no	Yes.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None.

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or	Future progress updates regarding previously completed
concerns	reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:
	 Disability Inclusive Borough – December 2023
	 Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the
	Future – March 2024

People Select Committee Chair's Update – November 2023

Requests for more	None.
information	

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

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

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – November 2023

Scrutiny Review – Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections	
Achieved since last meeting	The draft scope and project plan was approved by the Committee in September 2023. The link officer also provided a background presentation.
	The first evidence session took place at October's Committee meeting. Evidence was provided by a Local Authority Technical Consultant from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). This included support provided to the Council by WRAP, an outline of forthcoming legislative changes, local and national context and benchmarking and future options for the Council's waste and recycling service.
Problems or concerns	None.
Planned next month	At November's Committee meeting, analysis from WRAP's assessment of alternative collection scenarios will be presented. A site visit (location TBC) has been arranged for 30 November 2023.
On track – yes / no	Yes.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or	No further updates have been received since the previous
concerns	meeting.
Requests for more	None.
information	

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	 Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: Highways Asset Management (including Potholes and Flooding) – November 2023 Burial Provision -December 2023 Residents Parking Zones – January 2024 Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space -March 2024 (TBC)
Requests for more information	None

Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group

At October's Group meeting, evidence was provided by the Executive Chairman and Harbour Master of PD Teesport Limited on maintenance and capital dredging. The presentation covered current maintenance dredge disposal licence conditions, dredging

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – November 2023

vessels and methods, and information on the UKD Orca maintenance dredge carried out in September and October 2021.

The upcoming meeting dates are:

- 3 November 2023
- 1 December 2023
- 12 January 2024

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

Roadside Advertising

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

Monday 13 November 2023

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

Monday 11 December 2023

Monday 15 January 2024 (4pm - 6pm)

Monday 12 February 2024 (4pm - 6pm)

Monday 11 March 2024 (4pm - 6pm)

Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023-2024

In addition to the Standing Items:

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

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