

People Select Committee

Date: Monday 6 November 2023 at 4.00 pm

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

Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1TU

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

Cllr Michelle Bendelow Cllr John Gardner Cllr David Reynard Cllr Barry Woodhouse Cllr Ian Dalgarno Cllr Niall Innes Cllr Hugo Stratton

AGENDA

1	Evacuation Procedure	(Pages 7 - 8)
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4	Minutes	
	To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 October 2023.	(Pages 9 - 12)
5	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response	
	To receive evidence from Council Officers and representatives from Catalyst and Stockton Food Power Network.	(Pages 13 - 58)
6	Chair's Update and Work Programme 2023-2024	(Pages 59 - 60)



People Select 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: Scrutiny Support Officer Rachel Harrison on email rachel.harrison@stockton.gov.uk



KEY - Declarable interests are:-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

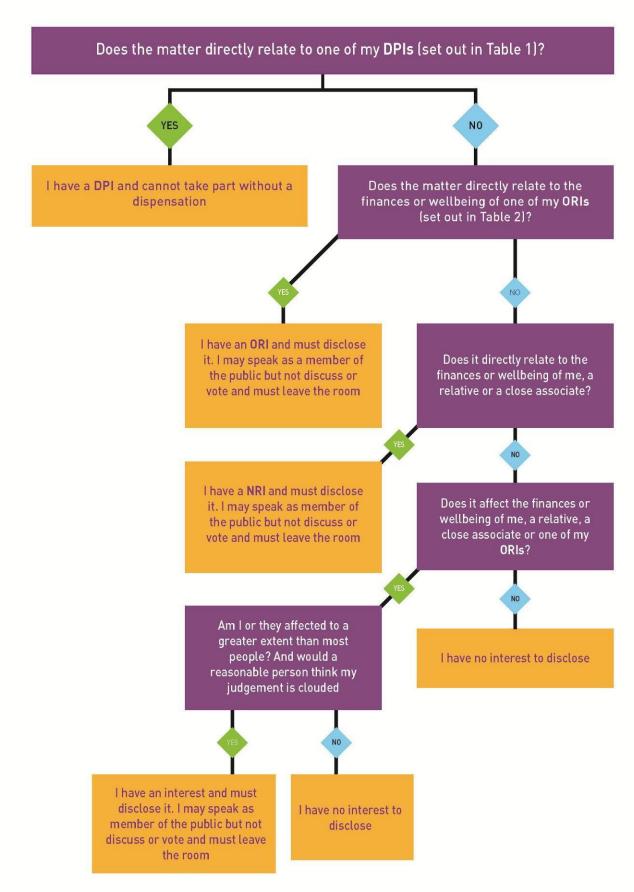




Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
	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

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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.

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Agenda Item 4

PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday 2 October 2023.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr

Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Shakeel Hussain (sub for Cllr Hugo Stratton), Cllr Sufi Mubeen (sub for Cllr Niall Innes), Cllr

David Reynard and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Haleem Ghafoor, Sophie Haste, Margie Stewart-Piercy (AH&W),

Neil Mitchell (CS, E&C), Luke McGurn and Rebecca Saunders-

Thompson (DoCS).

Also in Clare Branson (Catalyst), Tracey Herrington (Thrive Teesside) and

attendance: Vicky Nightscales (BMBF)

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes and Cllr Hugo Stratton.

PEO/11/23 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

PEO/12/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO/13/23 Minutes

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

PEO/14/23 Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response

An update was provided by the link officer for the Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response on requested actions from the previous meeting. It was confirmed that there would be an extension of the Tees Active discounted soft play sessions. 'The Bread and Butter Thing' initiative had been launched and site visits had been arranged as part of the review. Members were also informed that officers from the Economic Development Team would present evidence at the November Committee meeting. The Cost of Living quarterly newsletter had also been circulated to Members.

The Select Committee received a presentation regarding the Council's 'Warm Homes Healthy People' (WHHP) scheme, from the Head of Environment, Leisure and Green Infrastructure, which included:

- An overview of the WHHP scheme
- Information and data on fuel poverty
- Regional rates of fuel poverty
- What had already been delivered through WHHP
- An update on the WHHP scheme for 2023

The main issues highlighted from the presentation and discussed were as follows:

- WHHP leaflets had been produced for those who did not have access to the internet. Information on the WHHP scheme was also included in Stockton News, and leaflets were distributed to a wide range of community spaces.
- Those who used the WHHP scheme were mainly homeowners, however the Council was committed to assisting anyone in need. The Committee was also informed that Cleveland Fire Brigade provided emergency heating services, including electric heaters and blankets.
- The Council dealt with every request directly through the WHHP scheme and Heating Ventilation Electrical Building Services (HVE Services) colleagues assisted with the installation of replacement boilers, if necessary.
- Responses to requests were dealt with as soon as possible, and usually within twenty-four or forty-eight hours. Replacement boilers were usually installed within a week of a request. The Council ensured that residents were not left in a vulnerable position and Housing Support Officers also carried warm packs on house visits.

The Committee requested the following further information:

- If a breakdown of fuel poverty figures for each ward within the Borough was available.
- If there was any evidence of Stockton residents who had had standing charges waived on their energy bills.
- If private landlords were obliged to service boilers annually, and if information could be provided on the reporting procedure for private tenants with boiler issues. The Select Committee received evidence from a Council Community Engagement Officer and Bright Minds Big Futures' (BMBF) Head of Community Safety, which included:
- The work of BMBF in response to the ongoing issues associated with the cost of living. This included work with Tees Credit Union to develop a money management training programme for young people. The programme was available for schools, and youth groups. An online resource was also available. The programme was tailored for different age groups. Two schools have already utilised the programme.
- The Borough's Member of Youth Parliament had been involved in the campaign for free school meals.
- The Council's Community Engagement Team and BMBF have worked with three local primary schools to establish community pantries. This involved working with children for 6 weeks and activities included meal planning and soup making. The pantries were set up as a fundraising initiative for the school to remove the stigma of families accessing it as a food bank. Families were able to purchase 5 items for £1. Leaflets including information on further support available across the borough were included in each food pack.
- The 'pay as you feel' teddy bear stall at the Stockton Sparkles event was highlighted. Donations of teddy bears were received, and young people were able to purchase a bear for a price they could afford or name a bear if they were unable to purchase a bear.
- BMBF tried to be as inclusive as possible, and the group supported its young volunteers by providing food at group meetings and events and paid for travel expenses.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- The 'pay as you prom' saving scheme was discussed as an option to assist parents and carers with planning for end of school proms.
- The money management programme, and the possibility of using it in primary schools, was discussed.
- A discussion on the intake and retainment of BMBF members was held. BMBF was open to young people aged 11-19 (or up to the age of 25 for those with disabilities). Several previous BMBF members had continued to support the group once they had reached adulthood, for example during university summer breaks.
- The Chair thanked BMBF for their work.

The Select Committee received evidence from the Manager of Thrive, Teesside, a local organisation, which included:

- The 'grassroots anti-poverty charity' was established in 2007, and was originally based in Newtown, Stockton and was now based in Norton.
- The charity worked with people on a one-to-one basis and focussed on the importance of lived experience.
- Thriving Women, a project which was designed to give local women a voice through poetry was highlighted. A collection of poetry and essays was published as part of this project.
- National anti-poverty work included involvement in the APLE Collective (founding member) and Poverty 2 Solutions.
- Thrive worked to give a voice to people who felt silenced in local and national debates.
- It was reported that the ongoing cost of living situation had exacerbated existing poverty issues. There had been an increase in mortality and long-term illnesses for those living in disadvantaged communities.
- It was also reported that within the past twelve months, Thrive had experienced an increase in people asking for advice about debt, deductions in benefits, rent arrears, and problems with school costs, such as school uniform and school trips. Mothers had increasingly commented that they felt inadequate as parents because they could not provide for their children.
- Some parents and carers could no longer afford to fund paid activities for children which they had previously struggled to afford.
- Thrive had also experienced an increase in requests concerning mortgage difficulties. Staff were not trained to provide targeted mortgage support but assisted with referrals and signposting.
- It was commented that the cost of living situation was also linked with an increase in issues with mental health.
- A lack of access to online platforms increased some people's difficulties with accessing services and support.
- Persistent cuts to local authority budgets across the country was raised as an issue of concern.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

• Members questioned if there was anything that the Council could do to improve its cost of living support. The importance of retaining printed leaflets and promoting information in print and in person as well as online was highlighted. It was also noted that ward councillors were in a unique position to engage with residents and ask what specific support they needed.

- The addition of toiletries was suggested as an improvement for the 'The Bread and Butter Thing' initiative.
- Council officers confirmed that Thrive Teesside would be involved in the Council's anti-poverty strategy to ensure that the importance of lived experience was included.
- A discussion on proms, and the cost of end of secondary school celebrations, was held.
- Discussions on the cost of school uniforms and the issues of branded uniforms which had to be purchased from specified suppliers were held.
- Previous scrutiny reviews on the cost of school uniform and child poverty, undertaken by the Children and Young People Select Committee, were discussed.
- Members expressed concerns about the cost of school uniform from their own experiences or problems reported by residents.
- The issue of fining parents for children being absent from school was raised.
- Members praised the work of the Thriving Women poetry group.
- The annual International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2023 was highlighted.

The Committee requested the following further information:

• If the Council could invest in its own uniform shop to sell uniform to parents and carers at a lower price than current suppliers. Officers explained that the Council worked with schools and supported second hand uniform schemes. Officers agreed to investigate this suggestion and provide a response to Members.

AGREED that:

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

PEO/15/23 Work Programme and Chair's Update

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

The next meeting would be held on Monday 6 November 2023.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.



Foodbanks

and other food resources in Stockton-on-Tees

Please double check with the organisation before travel, as details are subject to change. Usually, <u>foodbanks require a referral from an organisation</u>, like the Stockton District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS): 01642 633877



Scan with phone camera to view interactive map

Billingham & Stockton Foodbank, Stockton Central (referral essential) Open Wednesdays & Fridays, 10am - 1pm.

Proof of identification is required when collecting a food parcel, such as a letter with recipient's name and address.

Hebron Church, Corner of Vicarage Street & Bishopton Street,

TS19 0AJ. Telephone: 07535 865140

Billingham &
Stockton Foodbank,
Norton Central
(referral essential)

Open Mondays & Fridays, 12.30pm - 2.30pm. Proof of identification is required when collecting a food parcel, such as a letter with recipient's name and address. St Michael's & All Angels Church, Imperial Avenue, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 2EN. Telephone: 07854 108393 Email: nortonfoodbank@gmail.com

Billingham & Stockton Foodbank, Billingham Central (referral essential)

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11 - 2pm. Proof of identification is required when collecting a food parcel, such as a letter with recipient's name and address. 4-6 West Precinct, Billingham Town Centre, Billingham,

TS23 2NH. Telephone: 07583 575522

Email: info@billinghamstocktonborough.foodbank.org.uk

Salvation Army Stockton Foodbank, Stockton Central (referral essential)

Open Mondays & Fridays, 9 - 12pm Palmerston Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1NU. Telephone: 01642 617629 Email: stockton.citadel@salvationarmy.org.uk

Thornaby Foodbank,
Thornaby
(referral essential)

Open Thursdays, 12pm - 1pm Thornaby Baptist Church, Thorntree Road, Thornaby, TS17 8DH.
Donations can be left directly on Wed 10.30 - 12pm & Thurs 10-12 noon. (Other drop off points are available, please message their Facebook page for more details). Telephone: 07469 920606

Email: thornabyfoodbank@gmail.com

NiteLite free monthly stall, Stockton Central (no referral required)

First two Mondays of every month, 11am - 1pm Free food, toiletries & hygiene essentials. First two Mondays of every month, 11am-1pm (except bank holidays, date is moved to the following Monday). On Stockton Highstreet, opposite Darlington Building Society. Telephone: 07790627499

Email: info@nitelightcic.co.uk

The Salvation Project,
Thornaby Methodist
Church (no referral
required)
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Open Wednesdays 1-2pm Help with food, toiletries, adult & child clothing/footwear and other household items, when available. Wednesdays food bag pick up at 1-2pm, community group with hot food & drinks at 4 - 5.30pm. Telephone: 07934 409010. Email: salvationproject@outlook.com. Stanstead Way, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 9DZ

Leaflet updated: October 2023







Community pantries & Ecoshops

Offering low-cost food items in Stockton-on-Tees

Please double check with the organisation before travel, as details are subject to change. Community pantries & ecoshops do not require a referral, just come along. Items are sold at discounted price.



Scan with phone
camera to view
interactive map

Items are sold at discounted price.			
Arlington Park EcoShop, Ropner	Open Thursdays, 11 - 1pm	Arlington Park, Adderley Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS Telephone: 07970 088003 or 07980 808920. Email: amalprojectteesside@gmail.com or info@littlespro	
Stockton Hope Community Larder, Hardwick	Open Wednesdays, 11 - 1.30pm	St. Andrews Methodist Church, Hardwick Rd., Stockton-On Telephone: 07810 521255 Email: glynnis01@hotm	
Sprouts Community Shop, Thornaby	Open Wednesdays, 10 - 12pm	Food, toiletries, clothes and kitchenware. Commu (behind Victoria Park Community Hall), Peel Street, Thou Telephone: 07980 808920. Email: info@littlesprou	naby, TS17 6HL.
Pantry in the Park, Billingham	Open Mondays, 10 - 12.30pm	Open Mondays 10 - 12.30pm (on bank holiday Mondays, r 10-12pm). John Whitehead Community Hub, John Whitehea TS23 2DD. Telephone: 01642 551171. Email: info@billingha	ıd Park, Billingham,
Holy Rosary Community Pantry, Billingham	Open Fridays, 1 - 5pm	The Medway, Sidlaw Road, Billingham TS23 : (building in between Holy Rosary Church and Holy Ro Telephone: 07757 062798	
Ragworth Community Grocery, Newtown	Open various days, see detail	Mon & Tues 9.30am – 4.30pm, Wed 9.30am – 7pm (Wed summer holidays), Thurs & Fri 9.30am - 4.30 The Shack, Dover Road, Ragworth, Stockton, TS Telephone: 01642 925115. Email: ragworth@communit	pm. 19 0JU.
St. John the Baptist Community Swap Shop, Newtown	Collection system	(For families of the school only) Collection system, see the 'St John The Baptist school community swap shop'. St John' Stockton on Tees, TS19 0FB Email: cate.taylor@ho	s Way, Ragworth,
Norton Methodist Church Pantry, Norton	Open Sundays 12.30 - 1.30pm	Pantry in building behind Church. 439 - 445 Norton Stockton-on-Tees TS20 2QQ. Telephone: 01642 Facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/nort	533379.
Norton Grange Community Pantry, Norton	Open Wednesdays 12 - 2pm	64 Somerset Rd, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS Telephone: 07881 940592 Email: Kelly.Potts@groun	
Chad's Pantry, Roseworth	Open Thurs 9 - 11.30am & Sun 9 - 10.30am.	St. Chad's Church, Ragpath Lane, Stockton-on-Tee Telephone: 07729 794222 Email: lana.green354@b	
Challoner House Community Pantry, Yarm	Open Fridays 1 - 4pm	Challoner House Community Centre, Challoner Road, \	arm, TS15 9DS
Mill Lane Primary Community Pantry, Stockton Central	Fridays 2.30 - 3.30pm, term-time only	(For families of the school only). Mill Lane Prima Wellington Street, Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland, T Telephone: 01642 860055 Email: milllane@sbcscho	S18 1QX.
Living Proof Pantry, Stockton Central	Open various days, see detail	Sat from 5pm, Sundays 2– 4pm, Mon– Wed from 5pm. 2 Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1DB. Telephone: 07496 rccglpscc@gmail.com	•

Leaflet updated: October 2023







The Bread & Butter Thing

Food hubs offering groceries at a discount

The Bread & Butter Thing food hubs do not require a referral. To access, you need to sign up via their text message system - see below.



Scan with phone camera to view interactive map

What is the Bread & Butter Thing?

Bread and Butter Thing food hubs offer groceries at a discounted price.

They are a new food support service in Stockton-on-Tees.

At Bread & Butter Food Hubs, residents can buy three bags of fruit and vegetables, chilled food, and cupboard staples for £8.50. It is estimated this helps save around £25 compared with buying the items elsewhere.

How do I access the new hubs?

Interested residents can register as members for free.

All you need to do is text 07860 063304 with a full name, postcode and which hub you would like to collect from.

Once registered, you will receive a text message 48 hours before your hub's 'service day' each week, asking if you would like to shop there. You then simply reply to the message to confirm if you would like to access the hub.

Prices at the hubs are as follows:

Single bags with a condensed offer are priced £5 Standard three-bag family packages are £8.50 Large family six-bag packages are £17

Cash, card, NHS Healthy Start credit & Aspen cards are all accepted as payment upon collection.

Bread & Butter - Food Hub locations

(two additional venues to be confirmed later in 2023)

Sprouts Community Shop, Thornaby	Every Monday at 1.30pm	Community Shop (behind Victoria Park Community Hall), Peel Street, Thornaby, TS17 6HL. Telephone: 07980 808920. Email: info@littlesprouts.org.uk
Salvation Army Stockton, Stockton Central	Every Tuesday at 1.30pm	Salvation Army Stockton, Palmerston Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1NU. Telephone: 01642 617629 Email: stockton.citadel@salvationarmy.org.uk
New Life Family Centre, Billingham	Starting Wednesday 11th October,	New Life Family Centre, Low Grange Avenue, Billingham, opening on October 11th at 1.30pm. Telephone: 01642 370880

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Leaflet updated:
October 2023



at 1.30pm

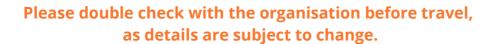
Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network





Hot Community Food - (page 1/3)

low cost or free in Stockton-on-Tees





Scan with phone camera to view interactive map

Community meals at Stockton Family Hubs - Stockton, Billingham & Redhill Booking essential - Telephone: 01642 528525

Join your community for a **free** meal - serving up a different meal every week.

Week 1: Jacket potato with Filling
Week 2: Spaghetti Bolognese with Garlic Bread
Week 3: Chicken Curry with Rice and Naan Bread
Week 4: Mince and Dumplings with Vegetables

Stockton Family Hub	Tuesdays 3.30 - 4.30pm	Stockton Family Hub, Yarm Rd, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3PJ
Billingham Family Hub	Wednesdays 3.30 - 4.30pm	Billingham Family Hub, Ochil Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees, Billingham TS23 2QL
Redhill Family Hub	Thursdays 3.30 - 4.30pm	Redhill Family Hub, Redhill Rd, Roseworth, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 9BX
Nitelight stall, Stockton Central	First two Mondays of every month, 11am - 1pm	70 free pie, peas and roasties meals in partnership with Just Love Pies, subject to availability. Other free food items, clothing and hygiene essentials on the stall. First two Mondays of every month, 11am-1pm (except bank holidays, date is moved to the following Monday). Telephone: 07790 627499 Email: info@nitelightcic.co.uk
Stockton Baptist Church, Stockton Central (booking necessary)	Thursdays 12 - 2pm	Booking necessary. Three course meal for £3, running weekly (except holidays). Everyone over 60 years is welcome. This service pauses over the summer (pauses in mid-July and resumes in September). Concessions available, ring to ask. A short Christian-themed talk is held at 1pm. The Square, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TE. Telephone: 01642 050696 Email: office@stocktonbaptistchurch.co.uk
Stockton Parish Church, Stockton Central	Wednesdays 12 - 2pm	Free soup, sandwiches & hot drinks. Everyone is welcome, no booking required. Part of the session is a Bible teaching, although there is no obligation to stay for this. High St, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1SP Telephone: 01642 611734 Email: office@stocktonparishchurch.org.uk
Stockton Salvation Army, Stockton Central	Mondays 12.20 - 1.30pm	Free takeaway meal every Monday from 12.20-1.30pm. Palmerston Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1NU Telephone: 01642 617629 Email: stockton.citadel@salvationarmy.org.uk
St. Peter's Church,		Free hot meal every Wednesday from 11-2.30pm (for asylum seekers and

Leaflet updated: October 2023

Ropner

(for asylum seekers &



Wednesdays

11 - 2.30pm





refugee community only). Craft activities from 11-12pm, lunch from 12-1pm.

Clothes and housewares available, advice & information available. Telephone: 07958 345177 Email: info@stpetersstockton.org



Hot Community Food - (page 2/3) low cost or free in Stockton-on-Tees

Please double check with the organisation before travel, as details are subject to change.



Scan with phone camera to view interactive map

The Lighthouse
Drop-in Centre,
Ropner

Mon to Fri 10 - 1.45 pm, Sunday 10 - 1.45pm

Low cost café with surplus food items, sold at 50p each at the counter, subject to availability. 34 Yarm Rd, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3NG. Telephone: 01642 640033

Purple Rose, Newtown

Fridays 4pm - 6.30pm, see details **Free** hot food drop-in meal & drinks, music, socialisation & donated items. Everyone welcome. Fridays 4pm - 6.30pm (except 1st Friday of the month). Newtown Community Resource Centre, Durham Road, TS19 0DE Telephone: 07359 573557 Email: purplerosehealthandwellbeing@yahoo.com

The Shack, Ragworth

Tuesdays & Fridays, see details

Tasty Tuesdays (term-time) - 10-1pm - food & hot drinks

(e.g. soup, breakfast buns, muffins, may vary)

Friday breakfast (term-time) - doors open 9am, food served at 9.30am:

breakfast with drink. Donations welcomed.

The Shack, Dover Rd, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 0IU. Telephone: 07557 381808

Email: theshackcommunityprojects@gmail.com

St. Michaels and All Angels Church, Norton

Specific Fridays, see details **Free** hot food on specific Fridays, please contact venue for further dates. Imperial Ave, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 2EW Telephone: 07854 108393 Email: nortonfoodbank@gmail.com

Norton Grange Community Centre, Norton

Wednesdays 12 - 2pm **Free** lunch club on Wednesdays 12-2pm, running alongside their community pantry. At the lunch club, access support & referrals for employment, housing, budgeting and more. Lunch club pauses during the six week summer holiday. 64 Somerset Rd, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees TS20 2ND. Telephone: 07881 940592 Email: Kelly.Potts@groundwork.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Hall, Norton Green

Specific Mondays, see details **Free** lunch on specific Mondays, check with venue for further dates. 70 The Green, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1DT Telephone: 07505 464005

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Hartburn

Thursdays 12 - 1.15pm (term time only) *Service temporarily postponed, contact organisation for reopening date*
Gener8 Luncheon Club - everyone is welcome. Food menu items between
£1.50 - £3.15. Soup, toasted sandwiches, specials, cake - subject to availability.

Upsall Grove, Stockton-On-Tees, TS19 7QU
Telephone: 01642 570102 Email: holytrinitywithstmarkoffice@gmail.com

Sprouts Community Café at Victoria Park, Thornaby Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10 - 2pm Serving low-cost hot food, snacks and drinks. Victoria Park Community Centre, Peel St, Thornaby, TS17 6HL. Telephone: 07980 808920 Email: info@littlesprouts.org.uk

The Vine Café at Teesside Vineyard Church, Thornaby

Wednesdays 10 - 12pm **Free** community café. Free hot drinks, pastries, cake (subject to availability). A place to connect with others, everyone welcome. **Free** childrens' breakfast (term-time) at the café. Runs alongside Grow Baby Teesside's free shop for baby clothes. Acklam Rd, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 7HD.

Email: hello@teessidevineyardchurch.co.uk

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Hot Community Food - (page 3/3) low cost or free in Stockton-on-Tees

Please double check with the organisation before travel, as details are subject to change.



Scan with phone camera to view interactive map

Teesside Dementia Link Services, various locations

Telephone: 07722 958610 Email: tdls2016@virginmedia.com

	Telephone: 07	722 958610 Email: tdls2016@virginmedia.com
Thornaby Methodist Church (over 60s welcome)	Every first Thursday of the month, 11.30 - 2pm	Thornaby Methodist Church hot meal, everyone over 60s welcome. Donation of £2.50 encouraged. Stanstead Way, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 9DZ
Breakfast Club at Café 81, Oxbridge Lane (see details)	Every Wednesday, 10.30 - 12pm	Breakfast Club at Café 81, Oxbridge Lane - every Wednesday 10.30- 12pm. Safe and welcoming breakfast group for those with dementia, their families and their carers to relax and make new friends. Full english breakfast starting at around £5.
		supportive cafés for people with dementia, their families and carers. ice & information. Hot drinks & light refreshments available.
Thornaby Dementia Café	Every second Friday of the month, 1.30 - 3pm	Thornaby Dementia Café at Thornaby Library, free refreshments.
Stockton Dementia Café	Every first Monday of the month, 11.30 - 2pm	Stockton Dementia Café at Stockton Parish Church, low cost refreshments.
Yarm Dementia Cafés (in two locations)	(See details)	Yarm Dementia Cafés: <i>Yarm Methodist Church</i> , low cost refreshments. Every first Saturday of the month, 10-12.30pm. Also runs at <i>Yarm Wellness</i> , every third Monday of the month, 12.30 - 2pm.
Billingham Dementia Café	Every second Monday of the month, 11.30 - 2pm	Billingham Dementia Café at St. Aidans Church, low cost refreshments.
Sunday Lunch Service, Billingham	Delivery service, referral required (see details)	Free two course Sunday meal for older residents within the Billingham Community, delivered to residents' homes. Referral required - this could be from social worker, GP or other agency. Billingham Town Council. Telephone: 01642 551171 Email: info@billingham-tc.gov.uk
Low Grange Community Centre, Billingham	Tuesdays 12 - 3pm	Free tea and toast with the Tea, Toast and Talk community group, everyone welcome. Run by Billingham Environmental Link Programme. Telephone: 01642 564077. 169 Low Grange Ave, Stockton-on-Tees, Billingham TS23 3PF
Yarm Wellness, Yarm Youth & Community Centre	Fortnightly Tuesdays, 1.30 - 3.30pm (see details)	Free coffee, cake and company, 1.30-3.30pm. Sept 26th and continuing on Tuesdays, fortnightly. Everyone is welcome - enjoy a warm space, and meet new friends. Wellness Centre, High Church Wynd, Yarm TS15 9BQ Telephone: 07732 395441 Email: yarmwellness@gmail.com
Casserole & Crumble, Yarm	Delivery service (see details)	Meals delivered to older residents, to be reheated at home. Enquire with organisation. Telephone: 07801 531044 Email: cschyde@hotmail.com
Yarm Lunch Club, Yarm Community	Fortnightly on Tuesdays,	Fortnightly on Tuesdays, a two course hot meal for older residents. Enquire with organisation, may be a waiting list. Yarm Community Centre,

Prægnær1e8



(see details)



High Church Wynd, Yarm TS15 9BQ. Email: yarmlunchclub@gmail.com





School Uniform

Scrutiny Recommendations



- 1. That Academy
 Trusts and Governing
 Bodies of Stockton
 Schools be asked to
 review their school
 uniform polices as a
 matter of urgency in
 consultation with
 parents and children
 taking account of the
 DfE advice to give the
 highest priority to cost.
- 2. That school governing bodies and leadership teams review the support they provide to families struggling to meet uniform costs taking account of the ideas and initiatives in place across Stockton schools gathered as part of this scrutiny exercise.
- 3. That all support provided by schools is clearly published on school websites alongside their uniform policies.
- 4. That improved coordination/
 signposting of
 community and
 school-based
 support is coordinated through the
 new Community
 Partnerships.
- 5. That Government is urged to pass legislation to put the DfE best practice guidance on a statutory footing and support is sought from local MPs towards this end.
- 6. That the findings from the scrutiny review and the best practice from the school survey be shared with all Stockton Schools and reinforced at appropriate forums.



Lage

School Uniforms

The DfE produced statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms which schools must have regard to when developing and implementing their school uniform policy. This guidance requires schools to publish their uniform policy on their website.

The published uniform policy should be easy to understand and, where a school has a school uniform, should:

- clearly state whether an item is optional or required
- make clear if the item will only be worn at certain times of the year (for example, if it's summer or winter uniform)
- make clear whether a generic item will be accepted or if a branded item is required
- make clear whether an item can only be purchased from a specific retailer or if it can be purchased more widely, including from second-hand retailers



DfE policy on school uniform

It is for the **governing body of a school** to decide . . . what (the school uniform policy) should be. This flows from the duties placed upon all governing bodies by statute to ensure that school policies **promote good behaviour** and **discipline** amongst the pupil body. It is also for the governing body to decide how the uniform should be sourced.



DfE policy on school uniform

The Department strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can play a valuable role in contributing to the **ethos** of a school and setting an **appropriate tone**.



Best Practice and Resources



aye

School Uniforms Guide

Child Poverty Action Group

https://cpag.org.uk/system/files_force/files/page/

Final-School-Uniforms-Guide_0.pdf



Affordable school uniforms: a guide











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School Uniforms Guide

Content

- New legislation
- Advice on updating school uniform policies
- Setting up a pre-loved school uniform shop
- Promoting pre-loved uniform provision
- Case studies





rage.

School Uniform

Considerations

- □ The impact of stipulating variations in uniform
- Avoiding frequent changes to minimise financial impact
- □ How the costs affect different groups of pupils
- □ The views of parents and pupils
- □ Avoiding additional uniform requirements for extra-curricular
- □ The use of branded items is kept to a minimum
- Parents are not required to purchase multiple expensive items
- □ Your contracts and arrangements with suppliers help parents get value for
- LINK: NGA information on affordable school uniform policy



Questions for governors/ trustees

- 1. Based on this information, what changes should be made to our uniform policy to ensure that it is affordable to families and reflects the circumstances of the communities we serve?
- 2. How are stakeholders including pupils and their families being consulted on our uniform requirements? Have we been proactive in seeking views from all groups?
- 3. What are parents telling us about the impact of our uniform policy on them?
- 4. Does the information/data on compliance with our uniform policy suggest any issues with affordability and inclusivity?
- 5. How do we support families to comply with our uniform policy and ensure that issues of non-compliance are dealt with sensitively?
- 6. How do we positively promote our second-hand uniform provision and remove any stigma parents may attach to it?
- 7. How are we using good procurement practice and developing relationships with uniform suppliers to ensure costs are kept low?





Poverty Proofing the School Day

Lorna Nicoll
Poverty Proofing the School Day Team Manager
Children North East
07809215387
Lorna.nicoll@children-ne.org.uk
@povertyproofcne
www.povertyproofing.co.uk

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Dissemination



Lage

School Forums

Headteachers and senior leaders

- Closing the Gap termly
- Education Matters
- Pupil Premium Leadership training

Governors

- Governor Briefings half termly
- Pupil Premium Governor training



Wider Forums

Stockton Borough Council

- Education Improvement Service
- Cost of Living
- Child Poverty
- Fairer Stockton

VCSE

Catalyst



School Uniform

Scrutiny Recommendations



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Stockton on Tees Borough Council

Welfare Support Approach in response to The Cost of Living

Michelle Connolly



THE IMPACT OF THE COST OF LIVING

22/23 record demand for advice and support

- 11,600 requests for support v 9,600 in 21/22
- Demand increased for food, energy, white goods
- Housing debt increasing
- Every ward in the Borough is impacted

Increase in Requests



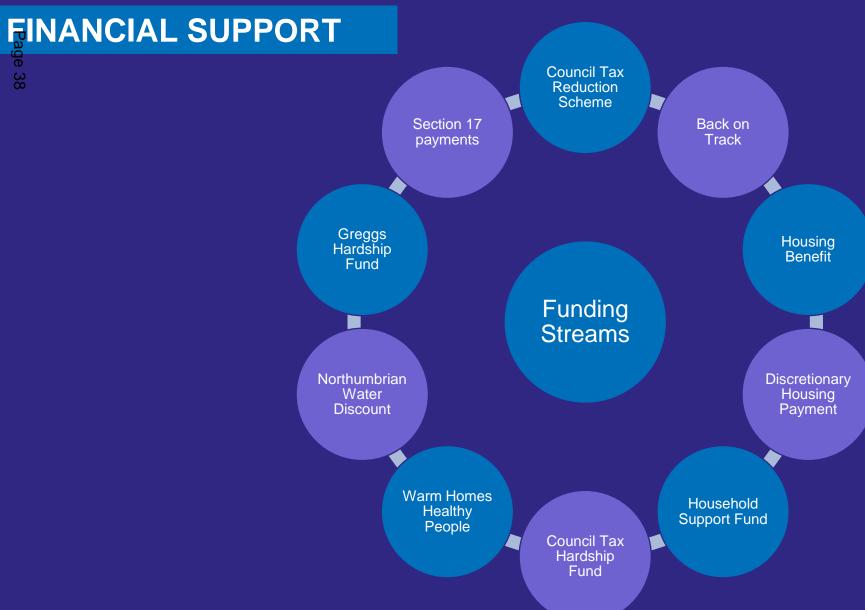


REVENUES, BENEFITS AND WELFARE SERVICE



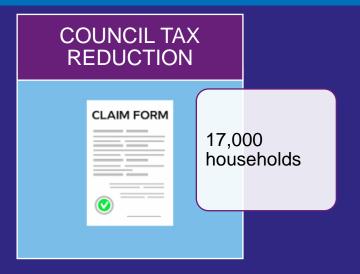






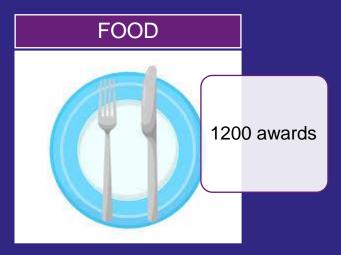


2022 FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

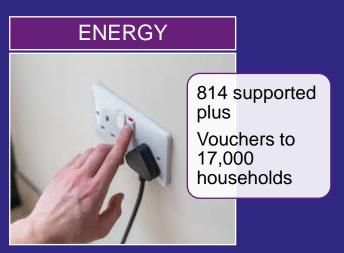




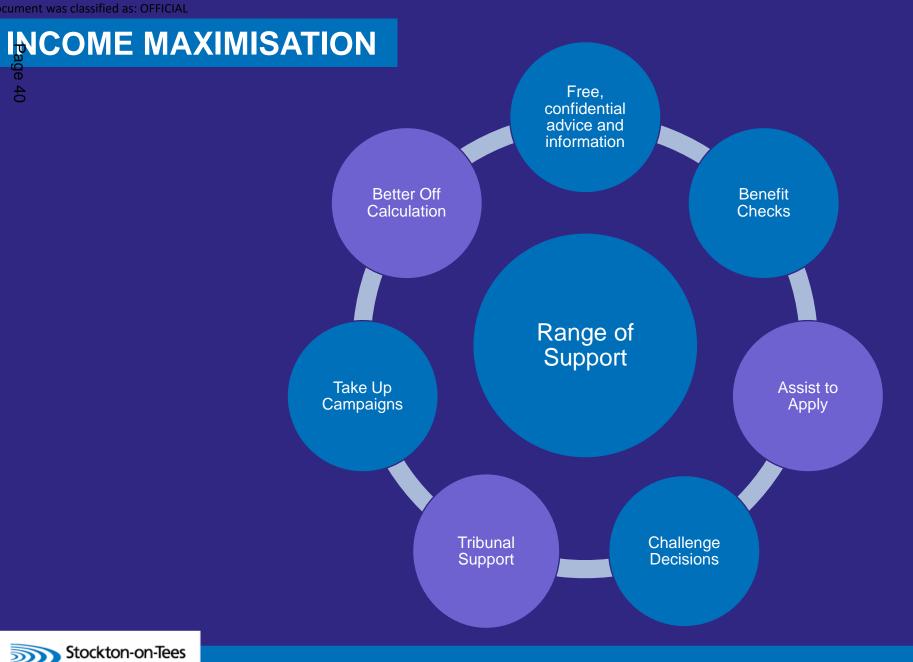














2022 - INCOME MAXIMISATION AT A GLANCE

- 1173 Basic Benefit Checks
- 501 Applications for Welfare Benefits
- 74 Decisions overturned at appeal
- £3.6m additional income raised for residents



INTERNAL PARTNERS:

Adults, Childrens, Fairer Stockton on Tees, Housing

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

Infinity Partnership Stockton
District
Advice and
Information
Service

Department for Work and Pensions

Money and Pensions
Service

Social and Private Landlords

ENGAGING WITH RESIDENTS AND STAFF

Newsletters, KYIT

Website, Social Media

Stockton News, Press Releases Using Data for Direct Awards

Targeted Campaigns

Referrals from Partners

Staff Cost of Living Events

Merged Service – council tax collection, benefit and support

Large Employer Events

Outreach Worker

Event Attendance

Care Home Drop In



REVENUES, BENEFITS AND WELFARE SERVICE

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Skills & Employment

Employment & Training Hub

- Over 500 people into work since hub launch Feb 2022
- Large Recruitment Events, over 300 attendees per event
- Sector Based Work Programmes Care Academy
- 'Work Ready Wednesday' support







Hub on Tour Pilot

Reaching residents across the Borough

- 10 locations across the Borough including cafes, churches and schools
- Locations selected to partner with existing 'warm spaces' provision
- Pilot will be extended over Winter
- Offer included CV support, advice, interview tips, promotion of the hub delivery
- Over 70 people registered via 'Hub on Tour'



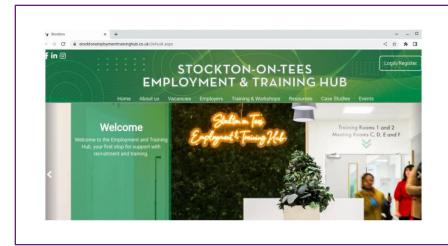


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New Portal

Residents can access support 24/7

- New portal launched July 2023
- Facilities for residents include:
 - CV upload function
 - Vacancy search and apply online
 - Register and search for courses
 - Resources and advice
- Businesses can upload their vacancies direct
- Over 5000 'hits' since launch





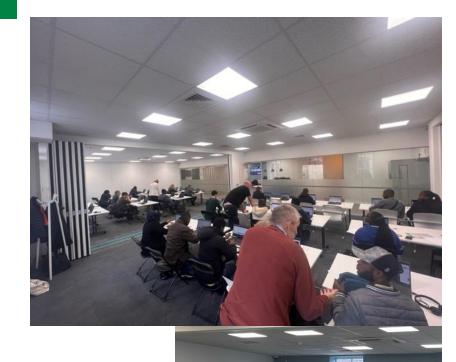


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Working with businesses

Our Offer

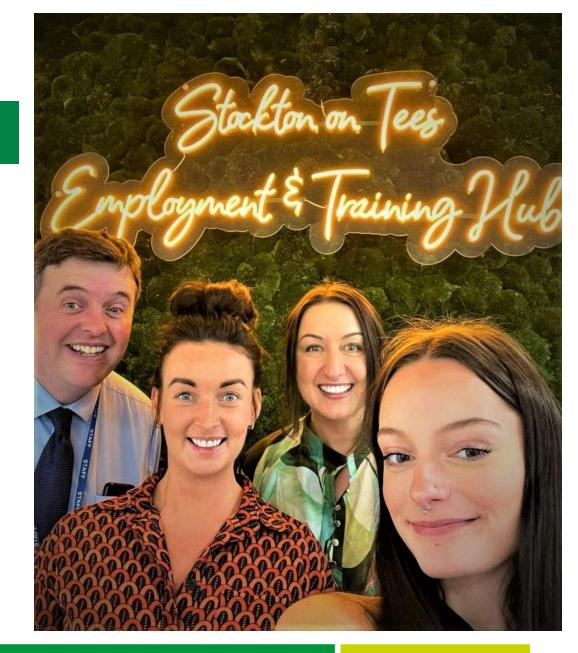
- Larger recruitment campaigns utilising the hub
- Worked with residents to get them 'job ready'
- Supported Amazon, B&M, Savers & Superdrug
- 200 people entered employment via campaigns





What's next?

- 3 full time roles
- 'Hub on Tour' & Community offer to grow
- Recruitment framework
- Portal developments





WELCOME TO THE HUB!

SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & LINKED IN, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE. KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH WHATS GOING ON AT THE HUB!











hub@stockton.gov.uk 01642 528392





www.stocktonemploymenttraininghub.com

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People Select Committee
Review of Cost of Living Response
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Marilyn Surtees	Contact details: Marilyn.Surtees@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Rebecca Saunders-Thompson	Contact details: Rebecca.Saunders- Thompson@stockton.gov.uk
Departmental Link Officer: Haleem Ghafoor	Contact details: Haleem.Ghafoor@stockton.gov.uk

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

This review will contribute to all areas of the Council Plan 2023-2026 vision:

A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm.

This means the Borough will be a place where:

- people live in cohesive and safe communities
- people are supported and protected from harm
- people live healthy lives

A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive.

This means we will enjoy:

- great places to live and visit
- clean and green spaces
- rich cultural experiences

A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed.

This means that the Borough will have:

- a growing economy
- improved education and skills development
- job creation and increased employment

A Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve.

This means that we will make sure that we provide:

- financial sustainability and value for money
- dedicated and resourceful employees
- strong leadership and governance

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

The North East Child Poverty Commission has stated that almost two in five children in the North East (38 per cent) are living in poverty, rising to almost half – 47 per cent – of North East children living in a household with an under five.

The consequences of inequalities are significant and impact on quality of life, life chances and life

expectancy. There are affluent areas alongside disadvantaged areas in the Borough. Nine of the Borough's 26 wards are in the 10% most deprived in the country and there is an average male life expectancy gap of 21 years between the most and least deprived areas.

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

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

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

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

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

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

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

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

Council, Cabinet, Government, public.

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

9 months (reporting to Cabinet in March 2024)
Approve scope and project plan – September 2023
Receive evidence – October – December 2023
Draft recommendations – January 2024
Final report – February 2024
Report to Cabinet – March 2024

What information do we need?

and-unitary-authorities-in-england

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

His Majesty's Government, 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024: Household Support Fund guidance for county councils and unitary authorities in England. Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils/1-april-2023-to-31-march-2024-household-support-fund-guidance-for-county-councils-councils-fund-guidance-for-county-councils-fund-guidance-fund-guidan

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, *Cost of Living Support webpages*. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-hub

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Officers

- > Background information and context setting:
 - Help and support provided across the Borough
 - o Staffing and HR related issues
 - Housing issues
 - A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees
 - Learning and Skills initiatives
 - Work with Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF)
 - Work with Community Partnerships
 - Future priorities and approaches

Representatives from another Council

➤ How have they responded to the cost of living crisis? Is there anything we can learn?

Representatives from Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) - For example Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network, Thrive Teesside, local faith leaders)

- > Examples of partnership working with SBC.
- Examples of best practice. Is there anything we can learn?

Citizens Advice Bureau and Tees Credit Union

- > Examples of partnership working with SBC.
- Examples of best practice. Is there anything we can learn?

How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)

Committee meetings, reports, research, benchmarking, site visits (TBC), consultations (TBC).

How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?

Committee meetings, information submissions, site visits (TBC).

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics. Public bodies must have due regard to the need to encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023:

All children and families get the best start in life.

All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer.

All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

This review would consider the key components of the cost of living approach adopted by the Council at a time of increasing service demands (for both advice and support). Consequently, it would seek to explore the possibility to develop, change and, if appropriate, grow the Council's services around the cost of living work to support more residents in our borough.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	July 2023	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	02.08.2023	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	04.09.2023	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence		02.10.2023	Select Committee
		06.11.2023	
		04.12.2023	
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	08.01.2024	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	TBC	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	05.02.2024	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	05.03.2024	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	15.03.2024	Cabinet / Approving Body

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Agenda Item 6 People Select Committee – Work Programme 2023- 2024

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 31 July 2023	Overview Reports:	Cllr Bob Cook/ Cllr Steve Nelson/ Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE/ Garry Cummings/ Reuben Kench/Julie Butcher/ Lorraine Dixon
Monday 4 September 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy
Monday 2 October 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response • Evidence Gathering	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Sophie Haste/ Neil Mitchell/ Tracey Herrington
Monday 6 November 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response • Evidence Gathering	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Clare Branson/ Jon Carling/Michelle Connolly/ Fallon Dunleavy/Vanessa Housley/ Julie Marsden/ Craig Taylor/
Tuesday 21 November 2023 (12pm-2pm Remote Session via Microsoft Teams)	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response • Local Government Association (LGA) Evidence Session	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Rose Doran
Monday 4 December 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response • Evidence Gathering	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Fiona Attewill/ Lorraine Dixon/ Ian Bartlett/ Rhys Stephens/ Reverend Martin Anderson/ Sharon Bailey/ Lee Williams/Diane Patterson/Annie Murphy

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2023- 2024

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
	Monitoring: Further Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough	Margie Stewart-Piercy
Monday 8 January 2024 (Informal via Teams)	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response • Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends
Monday 19 February 2024	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response • (Draft) Final Report	Bob Cook/ Carolyn Nice/ Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends
	Overview Reports	TBC
Monday 4 March 2024	Monitoring: Initial Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future (TBC)	Neil Mitchell/ Chris Renahan