

Date: Monday 4 December 2023 at 4.00 pm

Venue: Conference Room 1, Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library,
Stockton, TS18 1LD

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 6 November 2023. (Pages 9 - 12)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response**
To receive evidence from internal and external contributors as part of the Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response. (Pages 13 - 34)
- 6 Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough**
To receive a progress update on the Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough. (Pages 35 - 46)
- 7 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2023 - 2024** (Pages 47 - 48)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

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

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

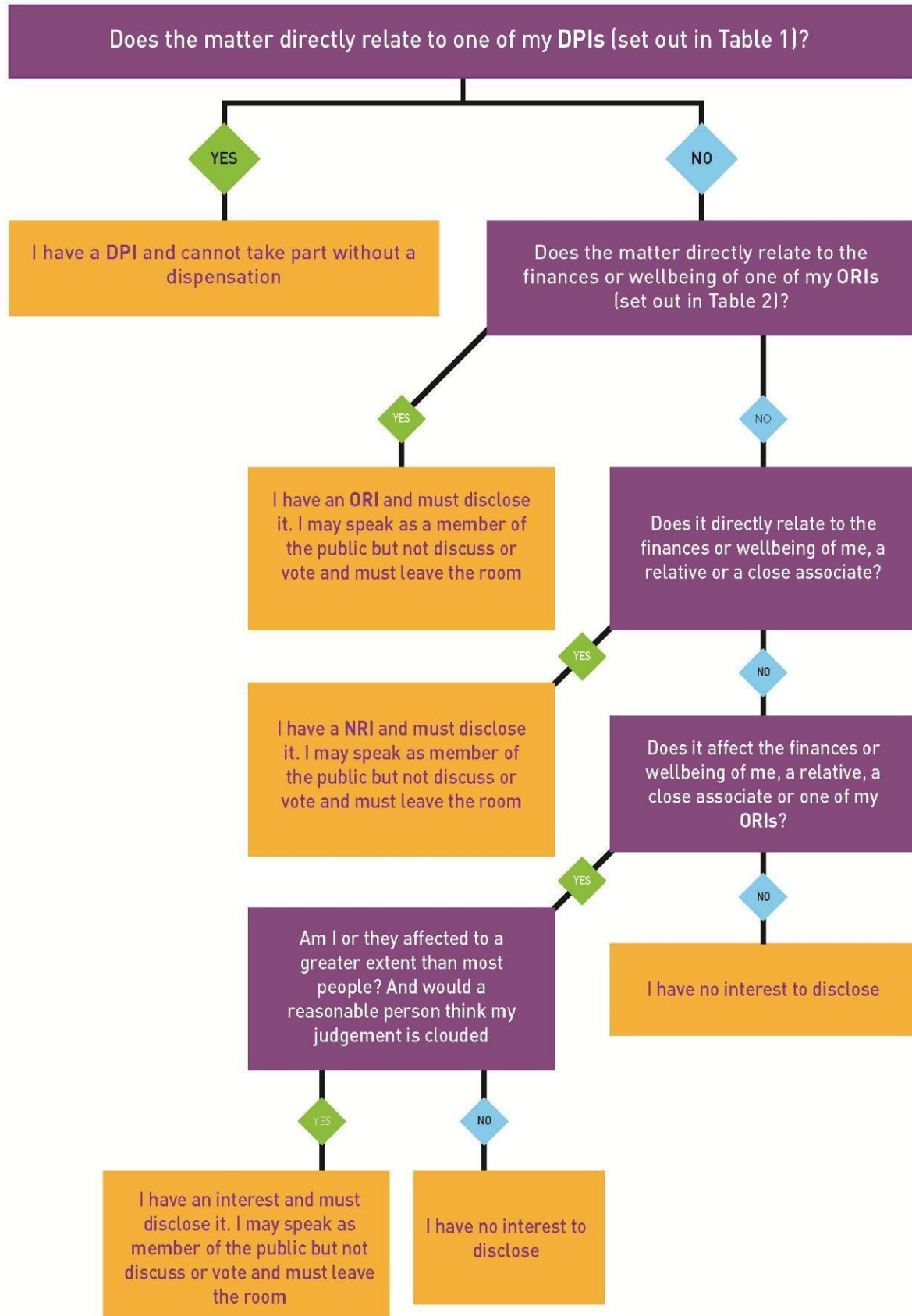


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Microphones

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

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PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday 6 November 2023.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair), Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Hugo Stratton and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Haleem Ghafoor (AH&W), Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (CS), Vanessa Housley (ChS), Michelle Connolly (FT&P), Fallon Dunleavy, Julie Marsden and Craig Taylor (R&IG).

Also in attendance: Clare Branson and Jon Carling (Catalyst)

Apologies: None.

PEO/16/23 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

PEO/17/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO/18/23 Minutes

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO/19/23 Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Council's Service Lead for Education and Wellbeing, which included:

- School Uniform: Scrutiny Recommendations
- School Uniform Statutory Guidance (Department for Education)
- Best Practices and Resources
- Child Poverty Action Group's School Uniforms Guide Content and Considerations
- Questions for Governors and Trustees
- Poverty Proofing the School Day
- Dissemination – School Forums, Wider Forums

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

- Members raised concerns about a perceived general lack of support from school governors to make school uniforms more affordable.
- It was acknowledged that the Council was restricted in its influence on academies and free schools.

- For maintained schools, an annual check of school websites was undertaken by council officers to ensure that schools were compliant with current legislation and school uniform policy was included in this check.
- Officers explained that the crucial role of school governors was to challenge and support school policies. Officers agreed that this was a continual process and regularly updated governors on school uniform and the promotion of 'pre-loved' uniforms. The Council also continued to run its termly 'Closing the Gap' sessions to ensure governors remained well informed.
- Catalyst had carried out an online mapping exercise to catalogue the different services available to recycle uniform and purchase/obtain pre-loved uniforms. The possibility of opening a pre-loved uniform shop in Stockton Town Centre had also been discussed.

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Chief Executive of Catalyst Stockton and the Project Coordinator for the Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network, Catalyst Stockton, which included:

- An information leaflet on Foodbanks and other food resources in Stockton-on-Tees
- Background information on Catalyst as the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) infrastructure organisation for Stockton-on-Tees
- Catalyst Partnerships
- What is the Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network?
- Community pantries in Stockton Borough- usage statistics
- Foodbanks in Stockton Borough - usage statistics
- Providing additional support for food support services
- Food support services & the Cost of Living
- Support to the VCSE Sector
- Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Coordinator –Tackling inequalities
- Holiday Activities and Food Programme/ Holiday Enrichment Programme
- Roseworth Big Local
- Charitable funding sources in 2022-23
- Conclusions
- What can the Council learn from the VCSE sector?

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

- According to the Trussell Trust, in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees, there had been a 30% increase in visits to foodbanks and a 50% decrease in donations over the last year.
- In Stockton, in September 2023, 470 children had received food parcels.
- The number of people receiving help from foodbanks and pantries that were also in employment was increasing.
- A discussion was held on reports of the increasing financial burden on parents and grandparents to support young people/adults struggling with the cost of living. Catalyst representatives were unable to provide data on this but were aware of cases.
- Members thanked those who worked and volunteered in foodbanks and pantries.
- Members questioned if Catalyst's 'Grantfinder' could be promoted as part of this review. Catalyst representatives expressed that demand for Grantfinder had increased each year and the promotion of Grantfinder and volunteering opportunities would be appreciated.
- A discussion on support and donations received from supermarkets was held. Catalyst representatives commented that they had a good relationship with

supermarkets, and had received generous donations from supermarkets, however, the amount of donations from supermarkets had decreased in general.

- It was explained that it was a requirement of 'The Bread and Butter Thing' to have access to a mobile phone to receive a text message for the service. However, if a service user did not possess a mobile phone, they could provide a friend or family member's phone number, with their permission.

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Council's Head of Revenue, Benefits and Welfare, which included:

- The Impact of the Cost of Living
- Revenues, Benefits and Welfare Service: Our Welfare Support Approach
- Financial Support: Funding Streams
- 2022 Financial Support at a Glance
- Income Maximisation: Range of Support
- 2022 Income Maximisation at a Glance
- Internal and External Partners
- Engaging with Residents and Staff

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Council's Economic Development Manager and Employment and Training Hub Manager, which included:

- Skills and Employment: Employment and Training Hub
- Hub on Tour Pilot: Reaching residents across the Borough
- New Portal: Residents can access support 24/7
- Working with Businesses: Our Offer
- What's Next?
- Further information

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

- Members thanked the Employment and Training Hub staff for assisting the public with CVs, training, and completing employment and apprenticeships applications. It was noted that the Hub also provided assistance to those who wanted a career change.
- Members congratulated the Hub staff for their recent achievement of assisting 500 people into jobs since the Hub's launch.
- Members questioned if the Hub charged for its services. Officers responded that the Hub did not charge for any of its services.
- Members were informed that an upcoming recruitment campaign for a well-known high street business was to be held in the Hub over a three-week period and this would bring money into the local economy.
- Members were also informed of an upcoming 'Green Jobs' employment week. Previous events provided networking opportunities for businesses as well as providing the public with options to meet prospective employers.

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Council's Adult Learning and Skills Manager, which included:

- Service Overview
- Learning for Inclusion
- Cost of Living Responsive Courses
- Wider Examples of Inclusive Courses
- Wider Examples of Skills Courses

- Cost of Living Future Plans

AGREED that the information be noted.

PEO/20/23 Chair's Update and Work Programme 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

An additional evidence session would be held, via Teams, on Tuesday 21 November 2023, 12pm-2pm.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 4 December 2023.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Cost of Living Response - Scrutiny Review

Customer Services and Digital

Summary

This paper responds to those lines of enquiry that are relevant to the work of Customer Services and the Digital functions.

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?

Customer Services and Digital and Web Teams have responded through the co-ordinated provision of services, promotion and signposting customers. This has been achieved through working in strong partnership with internal Council services and external partners and agencies, particularly colleagues in Libraries and Information, Revenues and Benefits and Fairer Stockton on Tees.

Customer Services

In response to customers who come through via the Customer Contact Centres, Telephone lines and email, Customer Services provide direct support and promote and signpost customers to various support schemes, services and charities as follows:-

- We have worked in partnership with the Money Advise Network to train our Customer Service Advisors to enable us to directly refer customers who would benefit from this advice
- Assisted customers to apply for extra support who are adversely affected by the change to Council Tax support schemes
- Increased support for customers to complete financial statements and make payment arrangements for Council Tax where they are struggling to pay
- Eligibility checks, advice and guidance for Warm Homes Healthy People (Summer and Winter Schemes)
- Provide support and advice regarding Household Support Fund
- Supported customers to obtain the Energy rebate payments
- Promotion and signposting to Warm Spaces (Community Spaces)
- Promotion and guidance for the Big Community Switch
- Promotion of the 'Bread and Butter Thing', including posters in Customer Service Centres
- Promotion of the Infinity Financial Inclusion Leaflet (Available in centres)
- Signposting to the Citizen's Advice Bureau where appropriate
- Signposting to the Stockton on Tees Food Power network
- Signposting and promoting Billingham Town Council food vouchers at Christmas, free meals for children, Period poverty, uniform exchange
- Signposting to the following pages on the Council website
 - Food Insecurity and Poverty Webpage
 - Cost of living support Webpage
 - Fairer Stockton on Tees Webpage

Digital Services

- Development and implementation of online booking solutions for Holidays Are Fun (HAF) working with Children's Services and Catalyst to deliver solutions for providers and parents.
- Development and implementation of online Household Support Fund Solution

- Development and implementation of online sign up solution for Warm Spaces (renamed to community spaces) -
- Development and implementation of a GOSS template to allow search and filtering solution and introduction of mapping to identify locations of Warm Spaces

How has advice and support been communicated to residents and SBC staff?

- KYIT
- Stockton News
- SBC Website
- Cost of living support intranet page
- Cost of living Newsletter
- Social Media
- Communication via Management meetings
- Email signature promotion
- Advertisement boards in town centres
- Seasonal Newsletters

Can this be improved?

- MyCouncil - Newsletter
- Use TVs in Customer Service Centres to promote help and advice
- Targeted messages on phones lines during hold periods

What are the main 'cost of living' issues facing residents? How have these changed over time?

- Change to the Council Tax scheme has impacted on residents
- Rent Increases
- Mortgage increase
- Council Tax increase
- Food
- Energy Bills
- Fuel prices

In what ways has the cost of living crisis impacted on staff retention and recruitment?

- The job role of a Customer Service Advisor has changed significantly since before the pandemic. Staff are supporting more customers with their mental health and financial situations as well as their service enquiry. Call handling times and call wait times have increased as a result.
- Staff sometimes find it difficult to switch off after work often thinking about calls they have dealt with during the day.
- There has been an increase in customers saying they are going to harm themselves.
- We have experienced a high turnover of Customer Services staff who deal with Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Back on Track and Welfare Support. This has had an impact on our capacity to respond to customers and as a result call wait times have increased.

How have SBC staff been supported if they are struggling financially and mentally as a result of the cost of living crisis?

- Staff have been provided with training to help them deal with customers in crisis and distress
- Staff have been signposted to the MIND service and encouraged to attend the Council's personal resilience training
- Staff have been granted additional short breaks to help relieve the pressure of the difficult conversations with customers.

Contact Officer: Lorraine Dixon, Assistant Director – Customer Services and Digital

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Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

Jill Douglas, Assistant Director - HR

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

The Council employees around 3,200 people, and two thirds of those employees live in the Borough.
This presentation relates to our work that HR undertakes around employee benefits.

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

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?

- The Council has been working with external partners to provide employees with a number of initiatives and employee benefits to assist employees, not only with the current cost of living crisis, but for a number of years. We continue to build on these initiatives and provide additional employee benefits.
- Details of these and the benefits and the impacts that they can have for employees have been circulated.

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

How has advice and support been communicated to residents and SBC staff? Can this be improved?

- In relation to employees, the new benefits and initiatives are communicated via:
 - KYIT
 - Employee benefits leaflet
 - Attending team meetings across the authority
 - Attending service away days
 - Employee Engagement Days
 - Digital Screens in Depots
- We continue to assess other options to communicate with employees

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

How does SBC's approach compare with other Local Authorities?

- We have a close working relationship with the other Councils within the Tees Valley. Whilst all Councils will provide services in slightly different ways there are also similarities. All of the 5 Boroughs provide counselling and physio services, they all have AVCWise and most have Vivup.
- Each authority has a car lease scheme but from our experience NHS Fleet Solutions provide a much better service to both the Council as the partner and employees.

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

In what ways has the cost of living crisis impacted on staff retention and recruitment?

- Recruitment is a major issue across the whole Council and this began post-covid as many people reassessed their priorities. The number of people applying for each role dropped significantly and we have had to change our approach to recruitment to attract candidates. We have done this by changing our advertisements, advertising more in social media and working with the Employment & Training Hub to promote our roles.
- Retention of staff in some areas is a challenge as organisations pay more than Stockton, for example, HGV drivers can earn more working for a private haulage company or an agency than we pay for a refuse driver. This is the same in children's social care where social workers are paid significantly more through an agency. Whilst we do pay recruitment and retention payments for some roles, this is not sustainable.
- The delay in the agreement of the NJC pay award has not helped the cost of living crisis for employees, but this has now been agreed and will be paid to employees in November pay.

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living

How have SBC staff been supported if they are struggling financially and mentally as a result of the cost of living crisis?

- The Council has a counselling services provided through Teesside Mind and Vivup can provide financial wellbeing support.
- Tees Credit Union can provide loans to employees at a reasonable rate.
- HR Advisors are aware of these services and if they are involved with an employee, they do signpost them to the service. Managers are also aware and can offer support.
- We have also undertaken some work with community services on men's health and wellbeing which included financial wellbeing. We have just won the LGC Award for Best Wellbeing Initiative.
- Vivup website also signpost to employees to financial help through Ask Bill.

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Employee Benefits and Initiatives

Benefit/Initiative	Details of the Initiative and the Impact on Employees
Counselling Service	The Council has had a Counselling Service for employees since January 2000 and the current provider is Teesside Mind. They provide free access for employees of up to 6 sessions (further sessions can be requested for approval if it's deemed critical for recovery or while external longer-term support is sought) to provide support for depression, anxiety and other mental health related issues which could stem from concerns about their financial situation. The Mind team have also attended away days/events/activities providing confidential drop-ins for employees.
Physiotherapy Service	The Council has had a Physiotherapy Service since 2000 and the current provider is Body2Fit. They provide free access for employees of up to 5 sessions for employees who are experiencing movement disorders arising from conditions, injuries, and diseases. The initial assessment will then determine if you require further appointments for treatment or if you can self-manage your condition with the aid of exercises and advice. In addition, they also provide workplace assessments and a podiatry service. Body2Fit also offer a 20% discount to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council employees who wish to pay for physiotherapy treatment privately.
Flu Vaccination Programme	The Council has provided a flu vaccination programme since 20???. Initially the programme was free for frontline employees with other employees being able to access the service at a small charge. Since 2021, the service has been free to all employees who wish to take up the offer.
Additional Annual Leave Purchase	Employees can purchase up to an additional 10 days holiday, the cost of which is spread over the year. This can assist employees who need additional time off such as, to assist with childcare.
Leave of Absence, Work Life Balance	The Council has a generous Work-life Balance Policy to allow employees who are struggling with certain caring responsibilities additional time off.
Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC)	AVCs are a tax-free way for employees to save for retirement. Any employee who is a member of the LGPS can contribute to AVCs. The Council has partnered with the Prudential for many years to provide this benefit to employees. In 2021 the Council partnered with AVCWise to provide Shared Cost AVCs to employees. The investment remains with the Prudential however, as it is a shared cost scheme the deductions from the employees pay is also free of National Insurance as well tax which makes it a very attractive pension saving option. The Council also benefits from employer NI savings.

Benefit/Initiative	Details of the Initiative and the Impact on Employees
	Whilst this might not seem it would be a benefit in the current climate more employees are planning for retirement and the number of employees accessing this benefit has increased from 132 before the introduction of this new scheme in September 2021 to 302 at August 2023.
Car Lease Scheme	The Council has had a car lease scheme since 2010 and the current provider is NHS Fleet Solutions. The scheme is for electric, hybrid and ultra low emission cars and the costs of the lease cover the car, insurance, servicing and breakdown cover. A car lease scheme is a salary sacrifice scheme which means that the payments are free of tax, NI and pension which is a saving for employees. The Council also benefits from employer NI savings.
Tees Credit Union	Tees Credit Union provides loans to employees at a reasonable rate. As the loan is deducted from the employee's salary at source there are no credit checks which means employees with a poor credit history can access these loans.
B&Q Trade Point Discounts	B&Q Trade Point give SBC employees discounts of 10% on the majority of products in store and on-line. This benefit was introduced in 2022 and has proved to be very popular with employees.
Tees Active Discounts	Council employees receive a discount on joining fees for gym membership with Tees Active. We have reached out to Tees Active to discuss other potential discounts for our employees.
Bus and Train Discounts	Council employees can take advantage of discount offers on annual tickets from Arriva, Stagecoach and Northern Rail.
Vivup	<p>In 2022 the Council partnered with Vivup to provide a number of employee benefits to employees. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee lifestyle savings which allows employees to access instant savings of around 7% on high street and online shopping, health and beauty, travel and entertainment, home and garden, mobile, broadband and utilities, restaurants and takeaways and supermarkets. These savings have been negotiated by Vivup and new discounts continue to be added. • Home and Electronics which allows employees to buy products at Currys PC World. and John Lewis and pay for them through the payroll. Employees being able to spread the cost of purchases over 12, 24 or 36 months as a payment directly from their pay. Whilst this is a net deduction scheme it has proved to be very popular with employees as there is no credit check and it is hoped that by accessing this benefit, they are not accessing pay day loans at extremely high interest rates.

Benefit/Initiative	Details of the Initiative and the Impact on Employees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle to Work Scheme which allows employees to purchase a bike from Halfords, Evans Cycles and also any local retailer. This is a salary sacrifice scheme which means that employees benefit from a reduction in tax, NI and pension contributions. • The Bike Shop which allows employees to purchase bikes and accessories for their family and pay directly from their salary over a 12 or 24 month period. This is a net deduction scheme. <p>There is no cost to the Council for these benefits and actually benefits from employer NI savings for the salary sacrifice. In addition, by partnering with Vivup for the above benefits we are able to access a free Employee Assistance Programme which would provide further choice for our employees to access support for mental health issues. In particular, the service has a number of self-help resources for employees to access, including assistance with financial well-being.</p>

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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?	
<p>This review will contribute to all areas of the Council Plan 2023-2026 vision:</p> <p>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm. This means the Borough will be a place where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people live in cohesive and safe communities • people are supported and protected from harm • people live healthy lives <p>A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive. This means we will enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • great places to live and visit • clean and green spaces • rich cultural experiences <p>A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed. This means that the Borough will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a growing economy • improved education and skills development • job creation and increased employment <p>A Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve. This means that we will make sure that we provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial sustainability and value for money • dedicated and resourceful employees • strong leadership and governance 	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>The North East Child Poverty Commission has stated that almost two in five children in the North East (38 per cent) are living in poverty, rising to almost half – 47 per cent – of North East children living in a household with an under five.</p> <p>The consequences of inequalities are significant and impact on quality of life, life chances and life</p>	

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

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

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

Council, Cabinet, Government, public.	
Expected duration of review and key milestones:	
<p>9 months (reporting to Cabinet in March 2024) Approve scope and project plan – September 2023 Receive evidence – October – December 2023 Draft recommendations – January 2024 Final report – February 2024 Report to Cabinet – March 2024</p>	
What information do we need?	
<p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <p>His Majesty’s Government, <i>1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024: Household Support Fund guidance for county councils and unitary authorities in England</i>. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils/1-april-2023-to-31-march-2024-household-support-fund-guidance-for-county-councils-and-unitary-authorities-in-england</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, <i>Cost of Living Support webpages</i>. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/cost-of-living-hub</p>	
Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)	What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Background information and context setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help and support provided across the Borough ○ Staffing and HR related issues ○ Housing issues ○ A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees ○ Learning and Skills initiatives ○ Work with Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) ○ Work with Community Partnerships ○ Future priorities and approaches
Representatives from another Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How have they responded to the cost of living crisis? Is there anything we can learn?
Representatives from Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) - For example Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network, Thrive Teesside, local faith leaders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examples of partnership working with SBC. ➤ Examples of best practice. Is there anything we can learn?
Citizens Advice Bureau and Tees Credit Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examples of partnership working with SBC. ➤ Examples of best practice. Is there anything we can learn?
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).
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions, site visits (TBC).</p>
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics. Public bodies must have due regard to the need to encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.</p>
<p>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023:</u> All children and families get the best start in life. All people in Stockton-on-Tees live well and live longer. All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities.</p>
<p>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</p> <p>This review would consider the key components of the cost of living approach adopted by the Council at a time of increasing service demands (for both advice and support). Consequently, it would seek to explore the possibility to develop, change and, if appropriate, grow the Council's services around the cost of living work to support more residents in our borough.</p>

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	Select Committee
		21.11.2023	Remote evidence session
		04.12.2023	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	08.01.2024	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	TBC	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	19.01.24	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	19.02.2024	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	05.03.2024	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to	Presentation of final report	15.03.2024	Cabinet / Approving Body

Cabinet/Approving Body	with recommendations for approval to Cabinet		
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Agenda Item

People Select Committee

4 December 2023

PROGRESS UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS – REVIEW OF DISABILITY INCLUSIVE BOROUGH

Summary

Members are asked to consider the evidence and assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Update on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in relation to the review Disability Inclusive Borough (the Committee's final report can be accessed via the following link: [https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202201201630/Agenda/\\$att41988.doc.pdf](https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202201201630/Agenda/$att41988.doc.pdf))

Detail

1. Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
2. Two main types of report are used. Initially this is by means of Action Plans detailing how services will be taking forward agreed recommendations. This is then followed by a Progress Update report approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan (unless requested earlier). Evidence is submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of '1' are then signed-off as having been completed.
3. If any recommendations remain incomplete, or if the Select Committee does not agree with the view on progress, the Select Committee may ask for a further update.
4. The assessment of progress for each recommendation should be categorised as follows:

5.	1	Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
	2	On Track (but not yet due for completion)	The evidence provided shows that implementation of the recommendation is on track but the timescale specified has not expired.
	3	Slipped	The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.
	4	Not Achieved	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved. An explanation for non achievement of the recommendation would be provided.

To further strengthen the monitoring process, from August 2020, the Progress Update report will also include references on the evidence of impact for each recommendation.

6. For Progress Update reports following the completion of a review, the relevant Link Officer(s) will be in attendance.
7. **Appendix 1** (Review of Disability Inclusive Borough) sets out the outstanding recommendations for this Committee. Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessments of progress.

Name of Contact Officer: Rebecca Saunders-Thompson
Post Title: Senior Scrutiny Officer
Telephone No: 01642 528957
Email Address: rebecca.saunders-thompson@stockton.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Disability Inclusive Borough
Link Officer/s:	Margie Stewart-Piercy
Action Plan Agreed:	March 2022

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 2:	That all Directorates be asked to review and demonstrate how disability inclusivity and co-production of services is embedded within their areas.
Responsibility:	All directorates SBC
Date:	ongoing
Agreed Action:	Service areas will look at gaps both internally and externally and work across directorates as appropriate to meet the needs. We will work with external partners / organisations when developing services Where the regulations only apply minimum standards then we can work with good up to date guidance on providing additional services. Look beyond the minimum needed Understand how certain teams already do this e.g. housing and adaptations.
Agreed Measure:	Success Encouragement, education and information when planning Working with communities / families who are impacted on through consultation and the town plan
Evidence of Progress (January 2023):	All directorates are continuing to work together on this recommendation.
Assessment of Progress (January 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 – On Track
Evidence of Impact (January 2023):	One example of this is the ongoing work of the town centres consultations.
Evidence of Progress (December 2023):	Powering Our Futures work is ongoing – meeting the needs of our communities. The work across directorates is evidenced in the various programmes of work such as Town Centre development,

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

	<p>Changing Places, public health work on healthy streets, Dunedin House refurbishment, ABCD community engagement. This work is ongoing.</p> <p>The Council is working with Public Health colleagues to deliver a 'Healthy Streets' pilot in the Newtown and Hardwick Wards. The pilot is focussed on wards with high health deprivation and seeks to work with communities in line with the Asset Based Community Design (ABCD) approach. This includes consultation events, workshops and Co-design to understand barriers and to deliver a strategy for improving the local environment which contributes to increased levels of physical activity across all abilities where possible. The pilot is funded by Public Health.</p> <p>As part of the Dunedin House refurbishment, the Council's Place Development team have engaged with the staff Disability Network to present the proposed office layout and to discuss access and facilities arrangements. This also included a follow up site visit by representatives of the network to 'test' access into the building.</p>
Assessment of Progress (December 2023): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (December 2023):	Examples include the Town Centres, Public Health projects, ABCD work, resident survey, Changing Places.

Recommendation 5:	That an external Equality Information Directory is developed to better inform the public and assist with signposting of services.
Responsibility:	Corinne Moore
Date:	2023/24
Agreed Action:	Development and update of Stockton Information Directory
Agreed Success Measure:	The directory is published and operational
Evidence of Progress (January 2023):	The Stockton Information Directory (SID) is currently undergoing a redesign and a migration onto the GOSS platform. The Council are taking a modular approach with a phased project plan and taking the opportunity to develop new content and interactive services. It is expected that all services will be live on the new SID by June 2023.

APPENDIX 1


PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

Assessment of Progress (January 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 – On Track
Evidence of Impact (January 2023):	
Evidence of Progress (December 2023):	Some information has been decoupled from the Stockton Information Directory (SID) and redeveloped onto the Stockton Council Website, where the information should sit.
Assessment of Progress (December 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 – On Track
Evidence of Impact (December 2023):	Wider developments have taken place as part of SID including the development of a SEND Microsite and content. SID due to go live December 2023.

Recommendation 9:	That a publicity campaign is developed to continue to highlight the problems caused by parking over dropped kerbs with opportunities for improvements investigated subject to funding.
Responsibility:	John Angus/Richard Bradford/Rob Morrow
Date:	A) End of qtr 2 2022/23 B) Ongoing in response to requests and available funding
Agreed Action:	To review the existing residents guide to pavement parking found on the Council's website and to promote this via a new publicity campaign. (https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2151/parking-on-pavements-a-residents-guide.pdf) Improvements to provide dropped kerbs investigated through the Community Participation Budget/Ward Transport Budget when requested. Dropped kerbs provided as part of major footway resurfacing schemes as required.
Agreed Success Measure:	New guide produced and promoted on the Council's website, social media, and Stockton News along with details circulated to Ward Councillors for inclusion in any newsletters. Improvements provided where funding is identified
Evidence of Progress (January 2023):	This financial year (2022-2023), 47 have been installed through the Community Participation Budget/Ward Transport and 14 have been installed as part of footway resurfacing schemes across the borough.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

	<p>A campaign will be arranged to start by the end of January 2023, with then programme set to provide regular updates throughout the year. The Civic Enforcement team have lots of images of examples of bad parking that could be used as part of the campaign to highlight the issues. The posts would, as well as highlighting the issue, advise residents of the reporting mechanism for how to contact the team for them to investigation and consider the appropriate enforcement action.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (January 2023): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>2 – On Track</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (January 2023):</p>	
<p>Evidence of Progress (December 2023):</p>	<p>As part of this financial year (23/24), 18 drop kerbs request have been received (and included in the current SBC works programme) as part of the Community Participation Budget /Ward Transport Budget and 39 drop kerbs will be installed as part of the footway resurfacing schemes across the borough.</p> <p>The following article was also included in the May 2023 edition of Stockton-on-Tees News, which is distributed to 90,000 homes:</p> <div data-bbox="485 1189 1385 1697" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px; margin-left: 10px;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Think before you park</h2> <p>Residents are reminded to park considerably on pavements – or they could risk receiving a fixed penalty notice.</p> <p>Pavement parking can cause an obstruction to road users and pedestrians. Residents with disabilities, visual impairments, older residents and those with prams or pushchairs are particularly vulnerable as it can make it difficult for them to use the footpaths and in some instances force them onto the road.</p> <p>You are permitted to park with two wheels on the pavement, as long as enough space is left for pedestrians.</p> <p>However, if pavement parking is considered a safety hazard, an Enforcement Officer may ask for the vehicle to be removed or a Police Officer can issue a £30 fixed penalty notice.</p> <p>Please consider others when parking and only park where it is safe to do so. If you spot a parked car obstructing a pavement, you can report it to our Enforcement team by calling 01642 528439 or emailing civic.enforcement@stockton.gov.uk</p> </div> </div> <p>In addition, a social media post was issued in June 2023. Engagement statistics for this post are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach – 32,579 • Reactions – 67 • Comments – 95 • Shares – 39

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Published by Hootsuite • 19 June • </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">*** THINK BEFORE YOU PARK ***</p> <p>🚗 Did you know you could face a fixed penalty notice if your car is parked obstructively on the pavement? If pavement parking is considered a safety hazard, an Enforcement Officer may ask for the vehicle to be removed or a Police Officer can issue a £30 fixed penalty notice.</p> <p>🙋 Please remember to park considerately!</p> <p>👉 And if you do spot a car causing an obstruction, you can report it to our Enforcement team by calling 01642 528439, or emailing civic.enforcement@stockton.gov.uk</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="background-color: orange; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Think before you park</div> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">Report it to our Enforcement Team</p> <p>01642 528349 civic.enforcement@stockton.gov.uk</p> </div> </div>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
	<p>A breakdown of the parking related calls below shows that following the article in the Stockton News in May and the social media post in June, the Council experienced an increase in calls in relation to parking issues.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: 0.8em;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Count of refno</th> <th colspan="2">month</th> <th rowspan="2">Grand Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>ward</th> <th>category</th> <th>Apr</th> <th>May</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td>9</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Billingham Central</td><td></td><td>6</td><td>10</td><td>7</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Billingham East</td><td></td><td>7</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Billingham North</td><td></td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Billingham South</td><td></td><td>6</td><td>17</td><td>4</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Billingham West</td><td></td><td>13</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>24</td></tr> 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Oxbridge		8	14	8	30	Rogner				6	6	Roseworth		4	4	11	19	Stainsby Hill		2	1	5	8	Stockton Town Centre		16	12	24	52	Village		9	3	8	20	Western Parishes		2	2	2	4	Yarm		37	21	27	85	Grand Total		211	191	254	656
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Stockton Town Centre		16	12	24	52																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Village		9	3	8	20																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Western Parishes		2	2	2	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Yarm		37	21	27	85																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Grand Total		211	191	254	656																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
<p>Assessment of Progress (December 2023):</p>	<p>1- Fully Achieved</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

(include explanation if required)	
Evidence of Impact (December 2023):	

Recommendation 11:	That lessons learnt from the upcoming refurbishment of the junior/toddlers play area at Preston Park be used to inform future play provision designs with respect to inclusion and accessibility.
Responsibility:	Keith Mathews
Date:	2023
Agreed Action:	Meetings held with members of the SEND group, both on site at Preston Park and site visit to Stewarts Park. Design brief to be rewritten based on information gathered.
Agreed Success Measure:	All future play provision will consider the learning from Preston Park
Evidence of Progress (January 2023):	<p>A design brief has been prepared for the refurbishment of the junior/toddlers play area at Preston Park which highlights the need to create a space, and provide a range of play equipment, which is accessible to a wide range of users.</p> <p>However, the Preston Park scheme will not be delivered until 2023, so while it will help to inform the future development of other play areas in the Borough, there are a number of other schemes where the Council can ensure that inclusion and accessibility are key considerations in the design process of other play areas.</p> <p>Key actions to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement that play area designers / suppliers provide an inclusivity and accessibility statement in relation to all items of play equipment (not that the Council would require all equipment to be accessible to all, but that on a given site there is an appropriate range of equipment and spaces to meet the needs of a wide range of users) • Proactively involving members of the Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) at the early stages in the development of a number of play areas projects, e.g. in November/December 2022 they have been invited to comment on proposals for a scheme at Victoria Recreation Ground, Thornaby, and members of SPCF will also be invited to comment on the design brief for improvements to the play area at Harold Wilson Recreation Ground, Thornaby.

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring ways in which the Council can maintain an on-going dialogue with the SPCP with the suggested aim of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ developing some broad design principles which we might apply to all schemes going forward ○ learning lessons from a range of schemes and using that learning to inform future projects ○ ensuring parents, carers and their children have opportunities to input the design of future schemes
Assessment of Progress (January 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 – On Track
Evidence of Impact (January 2023):	<p>It is too early to assess the success of the above actions, but there has been a very positive response from the Stockton Parent Carer Forum to date and a willingness to input to this work in the future.</p> <p>The Town Centres Team are working with colleagues and appointed professional consultants in designing new play equipment in Preston Park and Stockton Waterfront to be accessible and inclusive where possible.</p>
Evidence of Progress (December 2023):	<p>A number of schemes have now been assessed by the Parent Carers Forum (PCF) as part of the design and implementation journey. These include the proposed play areas for Elmwood Community Centre, Hardwick Green, the extension of Redbrook Park and the extension of Harold Wilson Play Area.</p> <p>Each design brief sent to potential contractors now includes a requirement to demonstrate how accessibility and inclusion has been factored into a design, is afforded weighting, and is considered by the PCF.</p> <p>On-site construction has not commenced at any of these sites yet, Hardwick and Elmwood are still subject to planning approval, and orders have been placed with contractors for both Harold Wilson and Redbrook play areas.</p>
Assessment of Progress (December 2023): (include explanation if required)	<p>2- On Track</p> <p>The PCF have undertaken an assessment of each play area scheme and have provided feedback to Council officers. This feedback is considered along with other factors and a decision made accordingly.</p> <p>The PCF are delighted to be involved and their feedback is very constructive and helpful. As things stand, they are happy with the process and there is no requirement for modification.</p>

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

Evidence of Impact (December 2023):	It is only when the play areas have been established or extended that we will be able to undertake any assessment of how successful they have been with regards to accessibility and inclusivity. Again, Council officers will work with the PCF to establish criteria for measuring success.
Recommendation 12:	That the provision of changing places toilet facilities be progressed, where practicable, as part the Town Centre Development Programme, subject to funding through the Changing Places Fund.
Responsibility:	Town Centres Team/Town Centre Programme
Date:	ongoing
Agreed Action:	Town centre team will continue to look at options for changing places as part of the future developments of town centres
Agreed Success Measure:	Maximum possible provision is created using all available funding sources
Evidence of Progress (January 2023):	<p>The outline design for the new civic hub includes a changing place facility and one will be considered as part of the new improvements to Preston Park.</p> <p>There are three Changing Places facilities in the borough.</p> <p>The Council is supporting the delivery of a Changing Places facility at the Catholic Church of the English Martyrs and Saints Peter and Paul within the Roseworth ward and are currently working on options to deliver a facility at South Thornaby Community Centre – both of which are funded from the national Changing Places Fund.</p> <p>A new privately funded facility has also been made available at Teesside Retail Park.</p>
Assessment of Progress (January 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 – On Track
Evidence of Impact (January 2023):	Changing Places provision is being considered for the following projects: (i) Stockton new Civic Building, (ii) Preston Park site and (iii) Thornaby Town Centre Pavilion/Pool development. Ongoing operation and management also need to be looked at for the end users of the building.
Evidence of Progress (December 2023):	A Changing Places is included in the new Stockton Urban Park & Waterfront development. The Council is providing a Changing Places at Preston Park. Both facilities are funded through the individual capital funds, not any Changing Places funding.

APPENDIX 1
PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Disability Inclusive Borough

	<p>The Changing Places at Catholic Church of the English Martyrs and Saints Peter and Paul within the Roseworth ward is close to completion before being assessed for official registration.</p> <p>The proposal to deliver a facility at South Thornaby Community Centres is no longer an option but the Council is supporting the development of a facility at the Arc in Stockton. This is currently at design and cost estimate stage before being submitted to MDUK for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Both of the above projects are funded from the national Changing Places Fund.</p>
Assessment of Progress (December 2023): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (December 2023):	The new privately funded facility at Teesside Park is now officially registered and able to view on the national website.

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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People Select Committee – Work Programme 2023- 2024

Date (<u>4pm unless stated</u>)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 31 July 2023	Overview Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Services, Environment and Culture Corporate Services Finance, Development and Regeneration 	Cllr Bob Cook/ Cllr Steve Nelson/ Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE/ Garry Cummings/ Reuben Kench/Julie Butcher/ Lorraine Dixon
Monday 4 September 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Draft) Scope and Project Plan Background Presentation 	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy
Monday 2 October 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Sophie Haste/ Neil Mitchell/ Tracey Herrington
Monday 6 November 2023	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	Haleem Ghafoor/ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Association (LGA) and Tees Credit Union (Moneywise) Evidence Session 	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Rose Doran/ Lee Williams
Monday 4 December 2023	Monitoring: Further Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Disability Inclusive Borough Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	Margie Stewart-Piercy Haleem Ghafoor/ Fiona Attewill/ Lorraine Dixon/ Ian Bartlett/ Rhys Stephens/ Reverend Martin Anderson/ Sharon Bailey

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2023- 2024

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 8 January 2024 (Informal via Teams)	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations 	Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends
Monday 19 February 2024	Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Final Report Overview Reports	Bob Cook/ Carolyn Nice/ Haleem Ghafoor/Margie Stewart-Piercy/ Jane Edmends TBC
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