

Date: Thursday 15 February 2024 at 4.30 pm

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

Cllr Robert Cook (Leader)

Cllr Nigel Cooke
Cllr Clare Gamble
Cllr Steve Nelson

Cllr Lisa Evans
Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy
Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE

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 18 January 2024. | (Pages 9 - 14) |
| 5 | Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste | (Pages 15 - 50) |
| 6 | Reference from the Council - Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth | (Pages 51 - 54) |
| 7 | Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Strategy (ES&CRS) 2022-32 Monitoring Report | (Pages 55 - 68) |
| 8 | Annual Report of the Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG) | (Pages 69 - 82) |
| 9 | School Performance 2022 – 2023 For Vulnerable Pupils | (Pages 83 - 100) |
| 10 | Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary and Secondary Schools in September 2025 | (Pages 101 - 120) |
| 11 | Stockton-on-Tees SACRE Constitution | (Pages 121 - 122) |

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

Contact: Democratic Services Officer, Peter Bell on email peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk

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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CABINET

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday 18 January 2024.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Leader), Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member), Cllr Lisa Evans (Cabinet Member), Cllr Clare Gamble (Cabinet Member), Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Cabinet Member), Cllr Steve Nelson (Cabinet Member) and Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Cabinet Member).

Officers: Mike Greene (CE), Garry Cummings (DCE&F, T&P), Ged Morton, Julie Butcher, Geraldine Brown, Peter Bell (CS), Elaine Redding (ChS), Reuben Kench, Tara Connor (CS,E&C), Carolyn Nice (A,H&W) and Chris Renahan (R&IG).

Also in attendance: Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Ted Strike and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

Apologies: , .

CAB/60/23 Evacuation Procedure

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

CAB/61/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CAB/62/23 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

CAB/63/23 Powering Our Future - Programme Update

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the Powering Our Future Programme. It included:

- Draft Mission Statement and Council Missions for Cabinet approval
- Communities Powering Our Future
 - o Building intelligence and insight to inform our future approach to community development
- Partnerships Powering Our Future
 - o Developing a 'Team Stockton' approach with our partners
- Transformation Powering Our Future
 - o Details of scope for Phase 1 reviews, for Cabinet approval
- Our Colleagues Powering Our Future
 - o Employee Survey results informing our Workforce Development Strategy
 - o Smart Working Policy for Cabinet approval
- Regeneration Powering Our Future

- o Driving economic growth to increase prosperity and wellbeing in communities.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The draft Mission Statement and Council Missions set out at Sections 2 & 3 of the report be agreed.
2. The approach to Communities Powering Our Future, set out at Section 4 of the report be agreed.
3. The areas of focus for Team Stockton, set out at Section 5 of the report be agreed.
4. Agree in principle the scope of Phase 1 Transformation reviews set out at Section 6 of the report. It is recommended that the Powering Our Future Programme Board has responsibility to agree the final scope, based on the outcome of the rapid review (detailed in Section 6 of the report) and consideration of full Project Initiation Documents.
5. The findings from the Employee Survey be noted, and the priority work strands for the Workforce Development Strategy (Section 7 of the report) be agreed.
6. The Smart Working Policy set out at Section 7 of the report be and attached at appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
7. The areas of focus for Regeneration Powering Our Future (Section 8 of the report) be noted and agree to receive future updates on individual areas of activity.

CAB/64/23 Minutes of Various Bodies

In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below are submitted to members for consideration:-

TVCA Cabinet – 15 December 2023
TSAB – 11 October 2023
SSP – 20 September 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes be received.

CAB/65/23 Local Plan 5 Year Review

Consideration was given to a report on the Local Plan Five Year Review.

The development plan (a local plan) was at the heart of the planning system, setting out a vision and strategy for future development of the Borough. Included within it were a series of policies which supported the delivery of that strategy and against which planning applications were assessed.

Under regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, there was a legal requirement to 'review' local plans at least once every 5 years from their adoption to ensure they remained fit for purpose. In the case of the Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan that is required to be complete by the 31 January 2024.

Cabinet were being asked to ratify the outcomes of the Local Plan review and to recommend to Council to begin the process of a full update of the Local Plan.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The findings and recommendations of the internal officer review of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan (Appendix 1 of the report) be agreed.
2. The findings of the Local Plan review are made publicly available and published on its website.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

3. A full update of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan commences.
4. The Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth be authorised to commence work on preparatory work for a new local plan with a review of the evidence base, related project management activity and consultation on updated Conservation Area Appraisals in advance of the details on government's new local plan process.

CAB/66/23 Consent Street Trading Policy Review 2024

Consideration was given to a report on Consent Street Trading Policy Review 2024

The report informed Cabinet of the results of a public consultation, a draft consent street trading policy and the proposal to designate the whole borough a consent area for the purposes of street trading.

“Street Trading” was defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (LG(MP) Act 1982) – as “the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street”. For the purposes of the Act this would include private land that the public has access to without payment.

Under the provisions of Schedule 4, a Local Authority may designate streets within its borough as either:

- Prohibited Streets - in which street trading is not allowed.
- Licence Streets - in which a licence to trade is required.
- Consent Streets - where prior consent requirements operate.

In 1987, the resolution to adopt Schedule 4 of the LG(MP) Act 1982 was taken, members approved a list of consent streets and prohibited streets, in 1999 the current street trading consent conditions were agreed and in 2001 the policy was amended to add Yarm Lane as a prohibited street, the regime has remained largely unchanged since.

The Council had no control in areas where it had not designated a street as either a consent or prohibited street. This had resulted in the Council being ineffective to respond to complaints associated with trading and inefficient in responding to requests to trade in areas where no provisions exist.

In addition to this the current list of prohibited and consent streets was no longer relevant in redeveloped areas and was inflexible with the developing Town Centres and Place strategies.

Consultation was critical to ensure any changes to the street trading resolution were clear and transparent for businesses, members, responsible authorities and the public. The statutory consultation process was followed including an advert in the Evening Gazette dated 11 July 2023. A report containing a summary of the results of the online public consultation was attached to the report.

Alongside the online consultation in depth discussions had helped to shape the revised policy and the application / determination process. These discussions had included:

- Existing traders
- Potential Traders
- Voluntary Sector
- Charity and non-profit groups
- Parish Councillors
- Members
- Council Departments

A copy of the revised draft consent street trading policy 2024, which outlined how officers would manage and review the regime including the application / determination process was attached to the report.

The most significant changes following the consultation had been around:

- Non for profit and charity fundraising (detailed at pg. 3 of the draft policy document)
- DBS and convictions information (detailed at pg. 8 and Appendix 3 of the draft policy document)

The revised policy document had been circulated for comments to all respondents to the consultation who provided contact details and again internally with Council departments. Additional responses to the revised policy were attached to the report.

On 14 November 2023 the General Licensing Committee considered the revised policy document, no further comments were received on the policy and the Committee agreed and noted the report. Officers explained to members the draft policy would also help as a regulatory tool for nuisance pedlars at events.

With regard next steps, the resolution to designate the whole borough a consent area for the purposes of street trading, the draft policy document and the summary of the consultation would be considered full Council for the final decision on 24 January 2024.

If the resolution is agreed the Council shall publish notice of the final resolution in a local newspaper and on the Council website advertising of the decision. (This should be no later than 28 days before the date of operation of the new scheme).

Taking these dates into consideration it was proposed any changes would come in to effect after 1 March 2024.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of this report be noted.
2. Cabinet members comments be received.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the proposed resolution to designate the whole borough as a consent area for the purposes of street trading be agreed.

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 FEBRUARY 2024

**REPORT OF PLACE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Cllr Clare Gamble

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTIONS, KERBSIDE RECYCLING AND GREEN WASTE

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023-24. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Place Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the Council adopt a fortnightly refuse collection service.
- 2) That scenario 3 (fortnightly refuse collection with a weekly 'multi-stream collection of dry recycling and food waste) in the Place Select Committee report is adopted as the Council's new waste and recycling collection service. That consideration is also given to timescales around national mandated services and local waste disposal arrangements.
- 3) To review the green waste collection service in line with updated government guidance.
- 4) That a comprehensive communications and community engagement plan on proposed changes is implemented to ensure residents are sufficiently informed prior to the enactment of any changes, and to help embed the changes, to the waste and recycling service.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste. In conducting the review, the Select Committee were aware that:
 - Levels of recycling in the Borough are amongst the lowest in the country
 - The cost of the weekly collection of general waste is increasing rapidly
 - Food waste collection is likely to be a requirement in the coming years and a proactive approach could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets

- The collection of garden waste/green waste also benefits some communities more than others
3. Overall, the Council's approach to waste reduction could be improved to reduce the financial and carbon cost. Therefore, this review aimed to consider the potential public reaction but also give appropriate consideration to the importance of the environment, the costs of service delivery, and the direction of national policy over food waste.
 4. The Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers and a representative from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The Committee also visited the J&B Recycling plant, Hartlepool as part of this review.
 5. Following approval by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee for their endorsement.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

6. The introduction of national legislation on weekly food waste collections, the unprecedented financial pressures exerted on local authorities and the Council's commitment to carbon reduction to combat climate change means that the Council must implement an alternative waste management strategy which is both financially viable and reduces the Council's carbon impact.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no corporate parenting implications identified at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. Government have committed to providing local authorities funding to meet reasonable new costs to implement separate food waste collections. There are still a number of unknowns in respect of timing and amount of funding to meet the ongoing operational costs. The move to alternate weekly is expected to result in cost savings, which will be reviewed as part of the transformation review of waste.
9. Further work will be carried out on subsequent phases of this work as new information becomes available following the creation of an action plan and the financial implications reported through the Transformation Board process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications identified at this stage. The Council's duties with regard to the collection of household waste and recyclable waste will continue to be met if the recommendations are agreed.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. There are some specific risks around the project as a result of the complexity and timing around some of the national announcements around nationally mandated services, local waste disposal provision as well as other operational around resourcing requirements e.g new vehicle requirements. These areas are being mitigated through effective project management and the identification of key milestones which will align with an agreed service roll out date. Communication and engagement with all residents in the borough is another key area of risk although one which will require a comprehensive and appropriately resources communications and engagement plan to ensure an effective transition to new collection arrangements.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. All wards will be affected by the recommendations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. None.

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Place Select Committee

Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste



Final Report January 2024

Place Select Committee
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1LD

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Select Committee – Membership

Councillor Richard Eglington (Chair)
Councillor Katie Weston (Vice Chair)
Councillor Michelle Bendelow
Councillor Stefan Houghton
Councillor Shakeel Hussain
Councillor Andrew Sherris
Councillor Marilyn Surtees
Councillor Hilary Vickers
Councillor Sylvia Walmsley

Acknowledgements

The Select Committee thank the following contributors to this review:

Cllr Ray Godwin, former Place Select Committee Member
Cllr Alan Watson, former Place Select Committee Member,
Cllr Clare Gamble, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Dale Rowbotham, Service Manager (Community Services and Transport), Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Craig Willows, Assistant Director – Community Services and Transport, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Reuben Kench, Director of Community Services, Environment and Culture, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Edward Tannahill, Waste Strategy Manager, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Abigail Kiddell, Waste Strategy Officer, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Paul Steele, Care for Your Area – Operations Manager, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Mike Gardner, Local Authority Technical Consultant Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)

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Foreword

I would like to thank the officers and contributors who have worked so hard on this report. I would also like to thank the Committee. This is the first review that I have chaired, and it could have been very difficult.

Due to national changes, the increasing costs, and our commitment to the environment and net zero, we, as a Council, need to change the way we collect and dispose of our waste. It is a difficult decision. For many years, the Council has had a fantastic waste team who work extremely hard, and Members and residents should be proud of the service provided. However, we must admit that the figures show that our recycling rate is not where we would like it to be.

This report will hopefully be a blueprint for the future, allowing the Council to move forward with its commitment to the environment, reduce costs and, most importantly, continue to give an outstanding service to our residents.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to the members of the Committee who have worked collaboratively and constructively to come to a unanimous decision, and I hope that all Members will continue to support this report.

Cllr Richard Eglington – Chair



**Councillor
Richard
Eglington
Chair – Place
Select
Committee**



**Councillor
Katie Weston
Vice-Chair –
Place Select
Committee**

Original Brief

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

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

A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive.

This means we will enjoy:

- great places to live and visit
- clean and green spaces

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

The project would contribute to the Council's Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Strategy, specifically Aim 3 to "Maximise the use of existing resources, minimise waste and achieve high levels of re-use and recycling".

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

Main Issues

Waste and recycling collections impact every resident in the Borough and are a key service and a statutory duty that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) deliver to residents. The service is highly visible and impacts on every household. The Council's waste and recycling provisions are very popular with residents and have regularly received excellent customer service feedback.

However, collecting refuse weekly in a 240L bin does bring with it a negative effect on the overall household waste recycling rate which the council can achieve. Residents currently have access to a large residual waste disposal capacity of 240 litres every week. This amount of refuse disposal capacity acts as a key disincentive for residents to recycle due to the convenience factor which the 240L green wheeled bins provide. Generally, only those residents with a keen interest in recycling, will recycle.

Due to new Government legislation, councils will need to rollout mandatory weekly food waste collections by 1st April 2026. As a result of this rollout date, which also aligns with the start date of the council's new waste disposal contract, SBC's current waste and recycling collection services should be reviewed to ensure an efficient, effective and resilient service in the future.

There are major financial pressures which local authorities will need to deal with over the coming years and, with the expected increase of gate fees from the new waste disposal contract on 1st April 2026, reviewing waste and recycling collections should be seen as an opportunity to help with the financial pressure on the authority.

The most common reason given for retaining weekly collection is the potential for food waste to create a smell and a hazard if it is uncollected for up to 2 weeks. This is particularly likely in warm weather. However, the introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections from 1st April 2026, would resolve this issue and the benefits of alternative weekly collection of other residual waste may then outweigh the disadvantages.

The Council's continued failure to increase recycling and reduce its carbon impact could become the subject of national Government challenge and penalties as climate change accelerates.

Stockton's current recycling rate is the lowest in the Tees Valley at 24.3% in 2020/21, ranking SBC 328 out of 338 authorities nationally. This compares to the Tees Valley average of 30.58%, the northeast average of 32.84% and a national average of 42%.

Stockton's 240L weekly residual waste capacity has a significant impact on residual waste per household (KG/HH), which can be seen when compared to other Northeast Authorities, with Stockton having the highest KG/HH of the 7 authorities.

The Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) and the Tees Valley Outline Business Case (TV OBC) has a target of a 45%-50% Tees Valley Recycling rate by 2027, with a national target of 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035. Without significant collection model changes this would not be achievable.

The requirements of the *Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018* and the *Environment Act 2021* places a statutory duty on all waste collection and unitary authorities in England to collect food waste separately and to treat this waste by recycling. The Council is awaiting clarity around the details of start date and funding, however, after discussions with Defra it is expected that SBC will need to collect food waste by 1st April 2026.

Also, the Government has now released their response to the *Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)* consultation. DRS will be introduced nationally from October 2025 and will include single use drinks containers of plastic bottles and cans. Glass will be excluded from the scheme. Local Authorities will now need to understand how the introduction of DRS will impact the kerbside recycling collections, as any drinks container in scope that would have been placed in the kerbside recycling container will now find its way to a DRS drop off point. It is anticipated that a 'levy' of around 20p will be added to each drinks container upon purchase and this will be refunded to the customer once the item has been returned.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is another element of the strategy and places the responsibility onto packaging producers to cover the full net cost of dealing with the packaging they place on the market. It is expected local authorities will receive payments from 2024/25 for any packaging which finds its way to kerbside waste streams. The details of how this funding mechanism will work is not yet known, though it is believed to be based on the quality and quantity of collected material.

Consistency in Collections is another consultation which will impact SBC collections with legislation which has placed a requirement on councils to collect glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food and garden waste separately. Whether green waste collections should be free of charge or not is also the subject of discussions as part of this consultation.

Overall aim

Levels of recycling in the Borough are amongst the lowest in the country. The cost of the weekly collection of general waste is increasing rapidly. Food waste collection is likely to be a requirement in the coming years and a proactive approach could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets. The free collection of garden waste/green waste also benefits some communities more than others.

Overall, the Council's approach to waste reduction could be improved to reduce the financial and carbon cost. Therefore, this review aims to take into account the potential public resistance but also give appropriate consideration to the importance of the environment, the costs of service delivery, and the direction of national policy over food waste.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- What is the current waste management strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and how does this align with the joint waste management strategy for the Tees Valley?
- What financial and strategic challenges does the authority face regarding waste management in the short, medium and long term?
- How do the key issues surrounding domestic waste, recycling and green waste vary across the Borough?
- How do SBC's recycling rates compare with other local authorities in the Tees Valley/ the North East/ nationally?
- What actions need to be taken following the Government's introduction of mandatory food waste collection?
- How will the introduction of the (Deposit Return Scheme DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) impact on kerbside waste and recycling collections?
- How can the anticipated rise in gate fees be managed to ease additional financial pressures?
- What are the viable options to alter the current system of kerbside waste and recycling collections?

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

Due to the introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections, there are significant opportunities to deliver carbon reductions and environmental benefits across the whole service.

If changes are made from the review of waste and recycling collections, this would also help to support the Council's aspirations to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The review would also help in achieving the targets set out in the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (TVJWMS) which aims to increase recycling levels, reduce the carbon impact of waste management and reduce the amount of waste generated by households.

1.0 Executive Summary

This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Place Select Committee's scrutiny review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste.

Levels of recycling in the Borough are amongst the lowest in the country. The cost of the weekly collection of general waste is increasing rapidly. Food waste collection will be a requirement in the coming years and a proactive approach could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets. The collection of garden waste/green waste also benefits some communities more than others.

Overall, the Council's approach to waste reduction could be improved to reduce the financial and carbon cost. Therefore, this review aimed to consider the potential public resistance but also give appropriate consideration to the importance of the environment, the costs of service delivery, and the direction of national policy over food waste.

The Select Committee's key findings were as follows:

- Nationally, due to the Resources & Waste Strategy & Environment Act 2021, weekly food waste collections will become mandatory by 2026.
- As part of the Government's 'Simpler Recycling' reforms, the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will also be introduced from October 2025. Local authorities will also be able to charge for the collection of green waste.
- Locally, from 2026, the energy from residual waste gate fee is expected to double following the necessary procurement of a new residual waste disposal facility.
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) currently has the lowest recycling rate in the Tees Valley (25.2% in 2022/23) and the highest level of residual waste per household in the country. SBC is also one of a small number of local authorities to collect weekly residual waste in a 240-litre bin.
- Therefore, SBC's waste management service must be re-evaluated to ensure it is sustainable and financially viable. This includes the frequency of recycling and residual waste collections.
- An assessment of SBC's waste and recycling service by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has provided the Committee with additional data on the Council's current performance compared to similar local authorities.
- WRAP's review also included an assessment of 4 alternative collection scenarios. This included performance levels (percentage recycled and amount of residual waste), carbon impact, and revenue and capital costs.
- Scenario 3 (fortnightly refuse collection with a weekly 'multi-stream collection of dry recycling and food waste) resulted in the lowest levels of residual waste, the highest levels of recycling and the lowest level of carbon impact. This scenario had the joint highest level of projected number of staff.

- In a closed session, the Committee received information on the projected costs for each scenario. Scenario 3 had the lowest level of:
 - projected total revenue costs (excluding garden waste)
 - projected annual 'whole system' costs relative to the current baseline costs assuming 2026 and 2028 EfW (Energy from Waste) gate fee (the only scenario to achieve savings). However, container capital costs (vehicles included in projected revenue costs) also had to be considered for scenario 3.
- SBC has enjoyed high levels of customer satisfaction for its waste and recycling collection service. Material collected for recycling is also of a high quality with low levels of contamination. Both factors need to be considered when deciding on any changes to the service.
- A comprehensive communications plan on proposed changes is vital to ensure residents are sufficiently informed before changes are implemented. Following this community engagement would be required for a short time to help embed the changes. A project manager and ICT software would also need to be resourced.

Conclusion

Through this review, the Committee has evaluated the Council's current waste management strategy. It has been evidenced that the Borough has the highest level of residual waste per household in the country and the lowest recycling rate regionally.

Owing to several factors, the Council must implement an alternative waste management strategy which is both financially viable and reduces the Council's carbon impact. These include the introduction of national legislation on weekly food waste collections, the unprecedented financial pressures exerted on local authorities and the Council's commitment to carbon reduction to combat climate change.

Therefore, the Committee has considered four alternative collection scenarios and has concluded that weekly dry recycling and food waste collections and fortnightly residual waste collections is the most appropriate choice. The implementation of a comprehensive communication and community engagement plan to inform residents of these changes has also been recommended. Additionally, it has emerged that the Council's green waste collection service should be reevaluated in light of the Government's 'Simpler Recycling' reforms.

Recommendations

1. That the council adopt a fortnightly refuse collection service.
2. That scenario 3 (fortnightly refuse collection with a weekly 'multi-stream collection of dry recycling and food waste) is adopted as the Council's new waste and recycling collection service, when considering timescales around national mandated services and local waste disposal arrangements.
3. To review the green waste collection service in line with updated government guidance.
4. That a comprehensive communications and community engagement plan on proposed changes is implemented to ensure residents are sufficiently informed prior to the enactment of any changes, and to help embed the changes, to the waste and recycling service.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Place Select Committee's scrutiny review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste.

2.2 Levels of recycling in the Borough are amongst the lowest in the country. The cost of the weekly collection of general waste is increasing rapidly. Food waste collection will be a requirement in the coming years and a proactive approach could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets. The collection of garden waste/green waste also benefits some communities more than others.

2.3 Overall, the Council's approach to waste reduction could be improved to reduce the financial and carbon cost. Therefore, this review aimed to consider the potential public resistance but also give appropriate consideration to the importance of the environment, the costs of service delivery, and the direction of national policy over food waste.

2.4 It was envisaged that a review of domestic waste collections, kerbside recycling and green waste could potentially lead to the following efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

- Due to the introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections, there are significant opportunities to deliver carbon reductions and environmental benefits across the whole service.
- If changes are made from the review of waste and recycling collections, this would also help to support the Council's aspirations to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- The review would also help in achieving the targets set out in the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (TVJWMS) which aims to increase recycling levels, reduce the carbon impact of waste management and reduce the amount of waste generated by households.

2.5 The Committee undertook the following key lines of enquiry:

- What is the current waste management strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and how does this align with the joint waste management strategy for the Tees Valley?
- What financial and strategic challenges does the authority face regarding waste management in the short, medium and long term?
- How do the key issues surrounding domestic waste, recycling and green waste vary across the Borough?
- How do SBC's recycling rates compare with other local authorities in the Tees Valley/ the North East/ nationally?
- What actions need to be taken following the Government's introduction of mandatory food waste collection?

- How will the introduction of the (Deposit Return Scheme DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) impact on kerbside waste and recycling collections?
- How can the anticipated rise in gate fees be managed to ease additional financial pressures?
- What are the viable options to alter the current system of kerbside waste and recycling collections?

2.6 The Committee received evidence from Council Officers and a representative from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

2.7 The Committee visited J&B Recycling, Hartlepool in November 2023 as part of this review.

2.8 Recognising the increasing pressures on the Council's finances, it is imperative that in-depth scrutiny reviews promote the Council's policy priorities and, where possible, seek to identify efficiencies and reduce demand for services.

3.0 Background

3.1. Further background information in relation to this scrutiny topic includes:

His Majesty's Government, *Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England* (2021). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf

Environment Act 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/enacted>

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *Waste Management Plan for England* (2021). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955897/waste-management-plan-for-england-2021.pdf

Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy 2020 to 2035. Available at: https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/2591/Tees-Valley-Joint-Waste-Management-Strategy-2020-to-2035/pdf/Tees_Valley_Joint_Waste_Management_Strategy_2020_to_2035.pdf?m=637813895580900000

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, *Bins, rubbish and recycling webpages*. Available at: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/bins-rubbish-and-recycling>

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), *Citizen Insights: UK Household Food Waste Tracking Survey 2022*. Available at: <https://wrap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/20230309%20Food%20Trends%202022.pdf>

4.0 Evidence

Waste and Recycling in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees: Overview

4.1 Key dates of changes to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's (SBC) waste management service are:

2002 – Introduction of first phases of kerbside recycling (paper collections via Cheshire Recycling) in a pilot area

2003 – Transfer to SWS recycling with additional roll out of tins and glass using a phased approach over 18 months

2004 – Service brought in-house

2005 – Green Waste collection service introduced (initially for 30 weeks)

2007 – Plastic and Cardboard Collections introduced over a period of 18 months (3 phases)

2008 – Removal of the 'side waste' policy for refuse collection and the launch of a three pronged strategy to ensure compliance and increase recycling participation –operational effectiveness, waste awareness and measured use of enforcement powers. Two year funding to support increased recycling.

4.2 The Council's current collection schedule is as follows:

- Weekly Refuse Collection (13/14 domestic rounds)
- Fortnightly Kerbside Recycling Rounds (7/8 rounds)
- Seasonal (30 week) Green Waste Collection, funded for 26 weeks

4.3 Currently, the receptacles available to residents to dispose of residual waste, recycling and garden waste are:

- 240L Wheeled Bin for residual waste
- 55L box (glass)
- 120L bag (plastic, cardboard, cans, paper pouch)
- Reusable green waste sack or roll of disposable bags



Waste Disposal

4.4 For the current year, 2022/2023, 83,000 tonnes of household waste were collected from 89,050 households. Of this, 56,400 tonnes of household waste was collected from the green wheeled bin. Residual waste per household per year is currently 698.

4.5 This waste is deposited at the SUEZ Household Waste facility at Haverton Hill. The current contract for waste disposal, which includes a competitive gate fee, has been extended until April 2026. In the meantime, local authorities across the Tees Valley are in the process of procuring a new facility to be utilised from April 2026. This process is ongoing and a site has yet to be confirmed. The current landfill rate is 5.9%, and 93.1% of non-recyclable waste is deposited at the Energy from Waste (EFW) plant.

Kerbside Recycling

4.6 The 2018 Waste Strategy for England states, “[the] Government continues to support separate collection of dry materials as the default to achieve high quality recycling in particular separating glass and fibres”.

For the current year, 2022/23, 20,890 tonnes of recycling were collected, and the Council’s recycling rate is 25.2%. The contamination rates are less than 5% and ‘desirable’ recyclable material generates income.

Recycling Rate and Targets

4.7 SBC’s current recycling rate is the lowest in the Tees Valley at 25.2% in 2022/2023. This compares to the Tees Valley average of 30.58%, the North East average of 33.5% and National average of 42%.

4.8 The Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) has a recycling target of a 45%-50% for the Tees Valley by 2027. A national target, of a recycling rate of 65%, has also been set for Municipal solid waste by 2035.

How does the Council compare?

4.9 SBC currently has the highest Residual Waste per household in the country and is one of the only local authorities to collect weekly residual waste in a 240L bin. In 2020/21 SBC were ranked 328 out of 338 local authorities nationally for recycling performance.

North	East	Comparison	4.10
Year	Authority	Residual Household Waste per household (KG/HH)	
2020-2021	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council		783
2020-2021	Middlesbrough Borough Council		714.19
2020-2021	County Durham		612.3
2020-2021	Hartlepool Borough Council		607.4
2020-2021	Darlington Borough Council		601.6
2020-2021	Redcar and Cleveland		581.8
2020-2021	Newcastle-upon-Tyne		499.6

Top Performers

4.11

Year	Authority	KG/HH Residual	Residual Frequency	Recycling rate	Food Waste	Recycling Frequency
2020-21	St Albans City and District Council	335.5	Fortnightly 180L	64.2%	Weekly	Weekly/Fortnightly
2020-21	South Oxfordshire District Council	336.3	Fortnightly 180L	63.6%	Weekly	Fortnightly
2020-21	Three Rivers District Council	333.6	Fortnightly 140L	63.1%	Weekly	Weekly/Fortnightly
2020-21	Vale of White Horse District Council	325.2	Fortnightly 180L	62.6%	Weekly	Fortnightly
2020-21	Surrey Heath Borough Council	364.9	Fortnightly 180L	61.3%	Weekly	Weekly/Fortnightly
2020-21	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	450.7	Fortnightly 240L	60.8%	Mixed with Green	Fortnightly
2020-21	North Somerset Council	405.7	Fortnightly 180L	60.4%	Weekly	Weekly
2020-21	Dorset Council	392.0	Fortnightly 140L	60.1%	Weekly	Fortnightly
2020-21	East Devon District Council	269.4	3 Weekly 140L	60.0%	Weekly	Weekly
2020-21	Tandridge District Council	379.6	Fortnightly 180L	59.9%	Weekly	Weekly/Fortnightly

SBC comparison 698.13 Weekly 240L 25.2% N/A Fortnightly

Stakeholders

4.12 Customer Satisfaction levels are very high on both Refuse & Recycling Collection Services. Refuse Collection is currently tracking at 94% and Recycling Collection at 91%. Both have regularly been over 90%. SBC collect high quality material with very low levels of contamination.

4.13 A review of SBC's Kerbside Recycling Collection was last undertaken in 2015/16 with the following recommendations made:

1. *Undertake consultation exercise to obtain residents views on current collection methodology*
2. *Assess the suitability of current recycling receptacles*
3. *Communications strategy to encourage greater recycling participation*

Future National Strategy

4.14 The following national initiatives will come into effect by the dates listed:

- Mandatory Food Waste Collections - April 2026
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – October 2025
- Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) – October 2025
- Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) – 2028

Challenges and Risks

4.15 There is a significant financial risk associated with residual waste disposal if the Council continues to collect at current levels with gate fees expected to significantly increase. Also, the current collection arrangements do not encourage residents to recycle and there is a need to educate residents on being more environmentally responsible. There is also uncertainty around the National Strategy.

4.16 SBC currently has the highest kg's of residual waste per household in the country and are one of the only councils to collect weekly residual waste in a 240ltr wheeled bin. The need to increase recycling rates was discussed at length by the Committee and it was suggested, by the Committee, that recycling could be collected weekly and residual waste could be collected fortnightly. The Committee highlighted that the introduction of weekly mandatory food waste collections, and the requirement for separate food receptacles, could decrease the need for weekly residual waste

collections. It was agreed that sufficient communication plans to inform residents of changes to services and to encourage higher recycling rates were essential.

4.17 The Committee raised concerns over the additional pressures on waste and recycling collection services arising from new housing developments currently under construction across the Borough. Concerns about additional bin/receptacle storage for residents in multi-occupancy properties were also raised. It was explained that the Council was working with DEFRA on this issue and this would be considered as part of the review.

4.18 In terms of income generated from the collection of clean recycling, the Committee were informed that this was included in the annual budget for waste collection and disposal and fluctuated depending on market prices for materials. Income generated in the previous financial year amounted to around £190,000.

Waste and Recycling in Stockton: M.E.L Waste Analysis

M.E.L Waste Insights

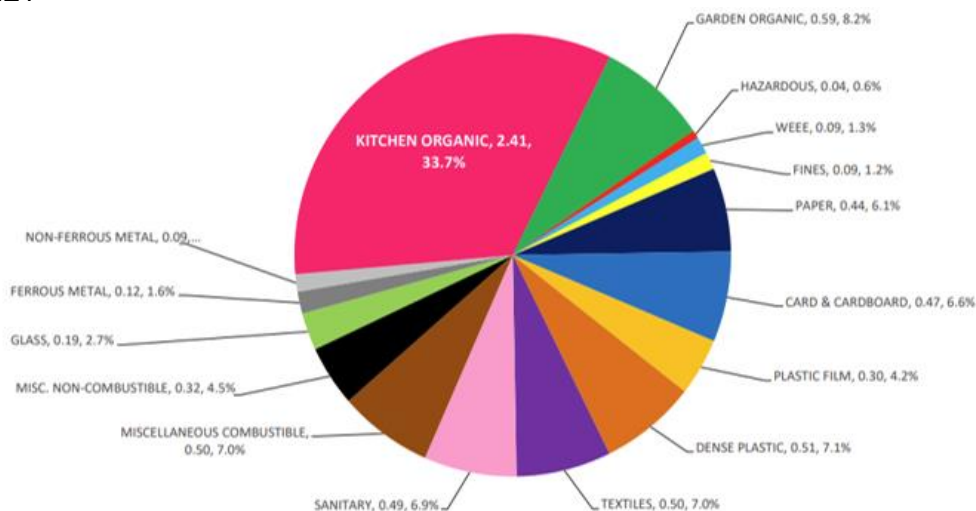
4.19 M.E.L was commissioned to provide analysis of kerbside and residual waste. Data was collected from approximately 200 target properties equally representing 4 of the 5 socio-demographic properties (Acorn categories).

4.20 Acorn Categories

- Acorn 1: Affluent Achievers
- Acorn 3: Comfortable Communities
- Acorn 4: Financially Stretched
- Acorn 5: Urban Diversity

Composition of Residual Waste

4.21



4.22

Waste Type	Percentage of Recyclable in Residual Waste	Percentage Alternatively Recyclable at Kerbside
Paper	6.1%	42%
Card and Cardboard	6.6%	64%
Plastic	11.4%	25%
Metallic	2.9%	64%
Glass	2.7%	79%
Food Waste	33.7%	85%*

Table shows proportion of recyclable waste in residual waste and proportion alternatively recyclable at the kerbside. *If food was offered a kerbside collection.

Participation Rates

4.23

Set Out Rates	Acorn 1	Acorn 3	Acorn 4	Acorn 5	Average
Residual Waste Bin	76%	58%	61%	56%	63%
Blue Box (Glass)	48%	26%	25%	37%	34%
White Bag (Mixed Recycling)	67%	48%	43%	28%	47%
Garden Waste	64%	28%	23%	25%	35%

Food Waste

4.24

	Acorn 1	Acorn 3	Acorn 4	Acorn 5	Average
Total Food Waste	34.4%	24.2%	34.6%	36.4%	33.7%
Proportion of Food Waste Avoidable	80.0%	91.1%	80.8%	86.8%	84.8%
Proportion of Food Waste Packaged	37.3%	41.1%	39.7%	15.6%	32.8%

4.25 33.7% of all residual waste was food waste. 85% of food waste was deemed as avoidable. 33% of all discarded food waste was still packaged.

Summary

4.26 On average, 63% of residents place their wheeled bins out for collection weekly. Food waste makes up around 34% of the waste in the residual bin equating to 2.41kg/hh/wk. 19% of residual waste could have been alternatively recycled at the kerbside with 5.4% of this being garden waste. If all recyclable items were correctly recycled Stockton could achieve a 43% recycling rate, based on current collection models.

WRAP support to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council: Helping the Council review and assess its household waste collection service

4.27 In October and November, the Committee received evidence from a representative from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The purpose of WRAP'S assessment was to review and update the findings of the 2017/18 WRAP support with the aim of helping officers and Members to understand how the Council's household waste collection service could be reconfigured to meet the anticipated future financial pressures and regulatory requirements.

National context

4.28 Key points from the Resources & Waste Strategy & Environment Act 2021 which were highlighted were:

- Requirement to separately collect 'recyclable waste streams' including food waste
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) significant new (replacement?) funding stream
- Funding will come from producers of packaging waste
- Modelled net costs
- 'Efficient and effective collections'
- Deposit Return Scheme
- Quality the common factor linking all the above

Local context

4.29 A new waste disposal facility was currently being procured with other Tees Valley Authorities. Consequently, the future residual waste gate fee was likely to be significantly higher than it was at present.

Benchmarking performance

4.30 WRAP’s assessment included a comparison of:

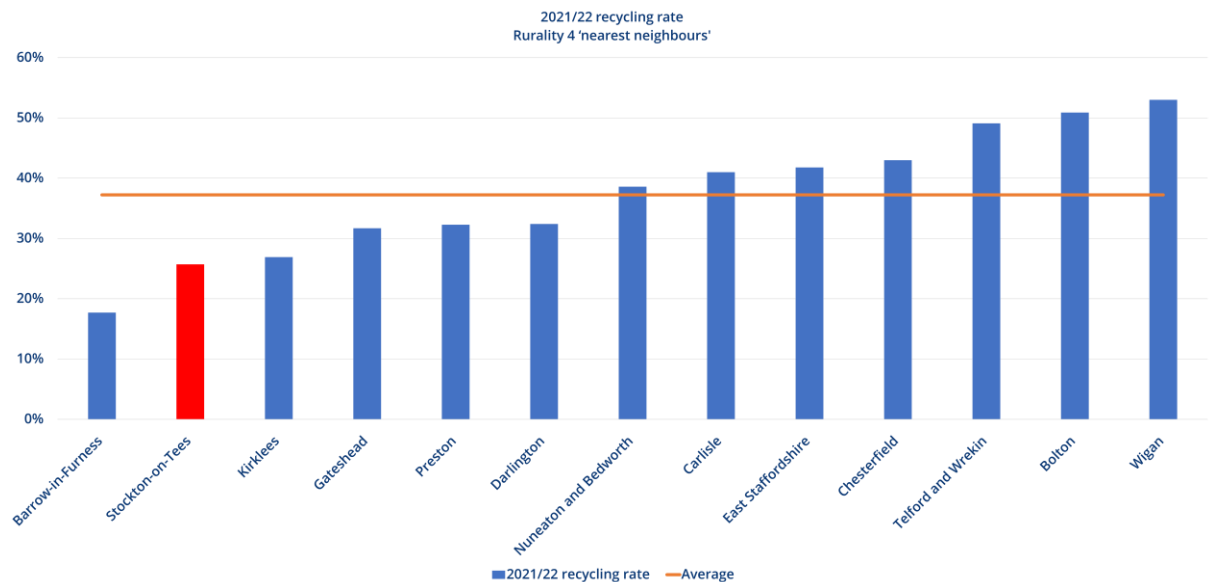
- SBC’s recycling rate with WRAP ‘nearest neighbour’ Rurality 4 authorities
- SBC’s residual waste arisings with WRAP ‘nearest neighbour’ Rurality 4 authorities

4.31 SBC was included in the WRAP Rurality Group 4 (suburban/ high deprivation) and the list of ‘nearest neighbours’ comprised:

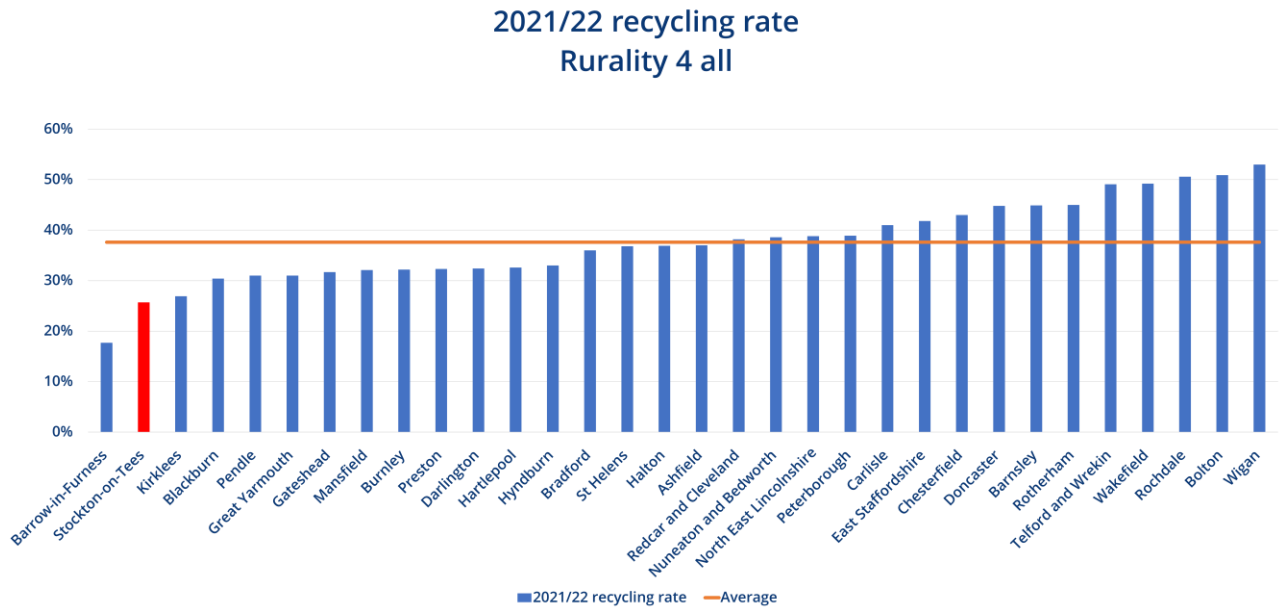
- Barrow-in-Furness
- Kirklees
- Gateshead
- Preston
- Darlington
- Nuneaton and Bedworth
- Carlisle
- East Staffordshire
- Chesterfield
- Telford and Wrekin
- Bolton
- Wigan

4.32 The following graphs provide comparison data with SBC’s ‘nearest neighbours’:

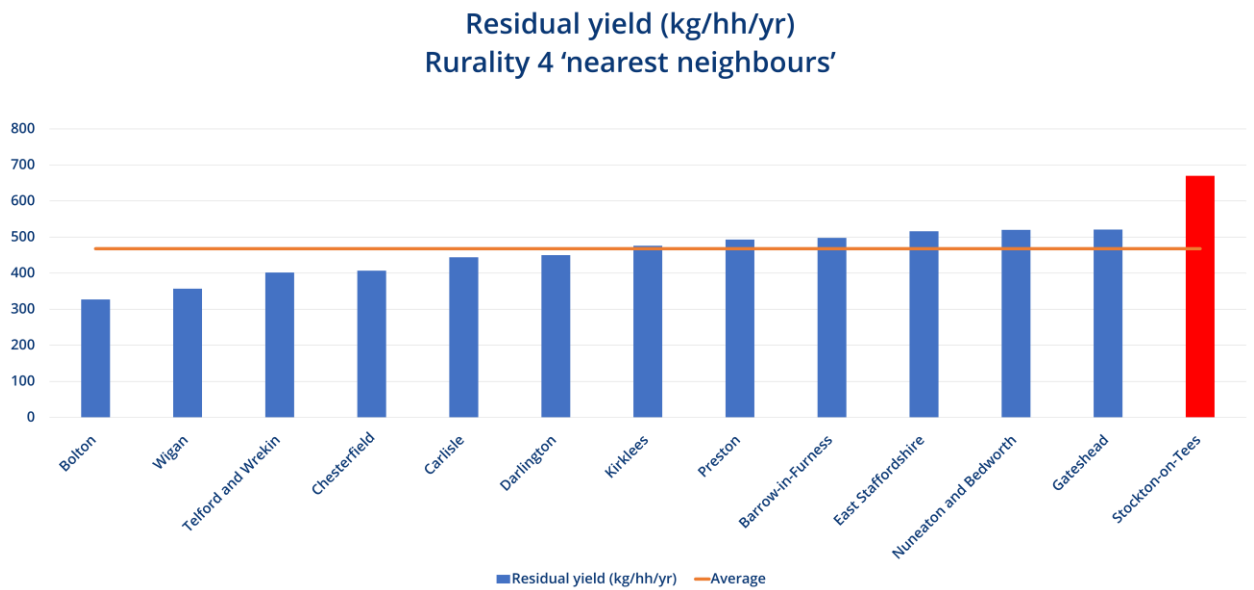
2021/22 recycling rate Rurality 4 ‘nearest neighbours’



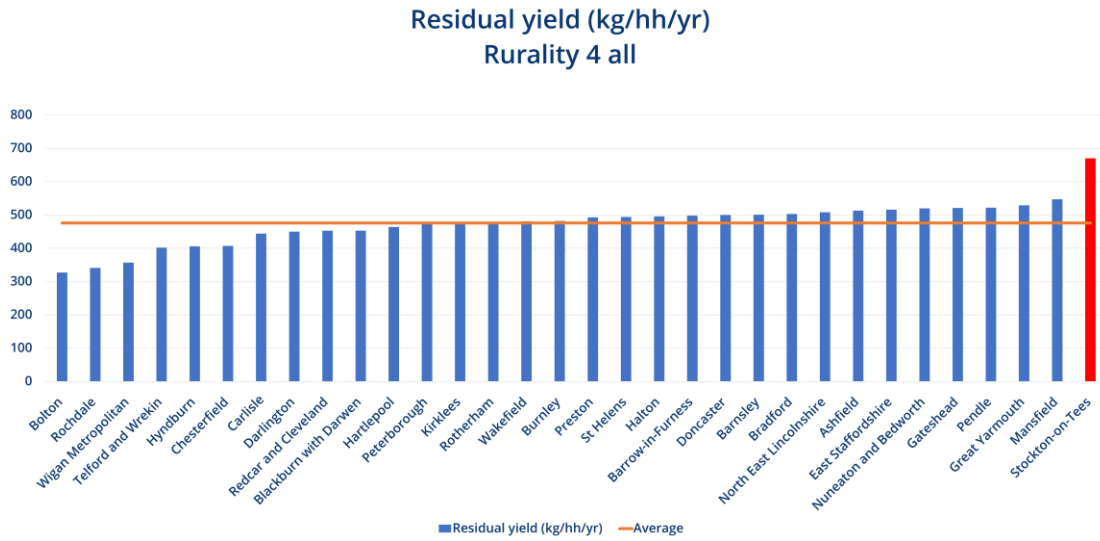
2021/22 recycling rate: Rurality 4 all



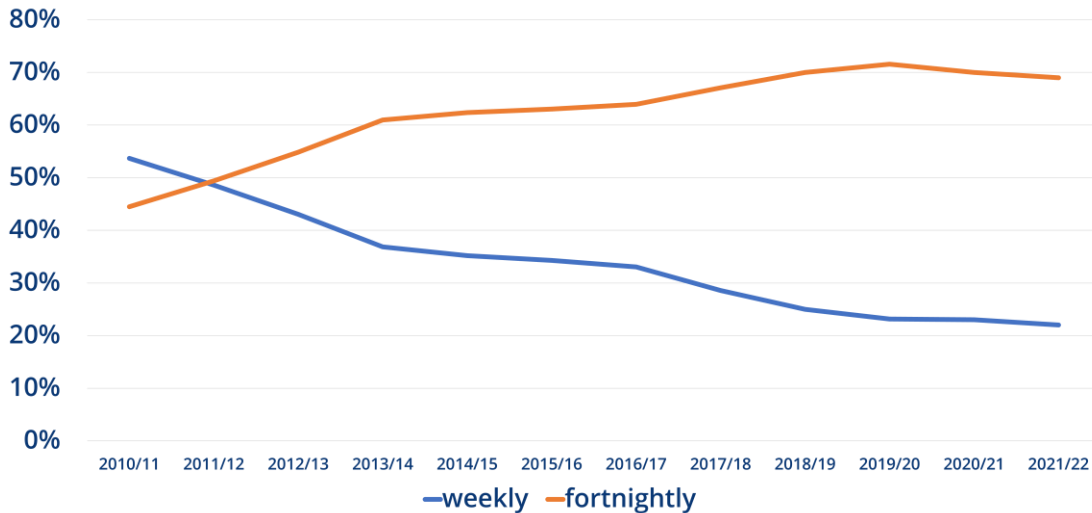
Residual yield (kg/hh/yr): Rurality 4 'nearest neighbours'



Residual yield (kg/hh/yr): Rurality 4 all



Refuse collection frequency over time (% households in England)



4.33 Following the coronavirus pandemic, national waste composition had changed because of a change in buying habits. There was an increase in cardboard packaging disposal, due to an increase in online purchasing, and a decrease in paper disposal, due to a decrease in purchasing of printed newspapers.

4.34 SBC’s Current service comprises a weekly collection of residual waste (i.e. refuse), a fortnightly collection of dry recycling (3 streams) and a fortnightly seasonal collection of garden waste.

4.35 In terms of benchmarking, it was highlighted that SBC collected high quality recycling but only collected a low amount compared to other authorities. SBC also collected its residual waste more frequently than other Councils and provided residents with a larger bin. Barrow-in Furness Council was the only other Council within the Rurality Group 4 that collected residual waste weekly.

4.36 Other local authorities had experienced a reduction in overall waste tonnage by reducing the capacity of residual waste bins (either by reducing the size of bins or the frequency of collections).

4.37 The Committee questioned if there had been an increase in fly tipping if bin sizes or frequency of collections were reduced. WRAP had researched this issue previously and could not find a clear link between an increase in fly tipping resulting from a decrease in the frequency of collection or size of bins. However, it was noted that fly tipping was reported through various channels, and this made it difficult to assess the situation fully.

Summary of the Government’s Simpler Recycling reforms

4.38

Summary of the Simpler Recycling reforms

What?

- Reforms to recycling collections in England
- Household and non-household premises to have separate collections of:
 - Residual
 - Organic recyclable waste
 - Dry recyclable waste

Why? Contribute towards reaching: **65%** municipal recycling rate by 2035

Environmental, economic or social benefit

- Reduced landfill and incineration and associated carbon emissions
- Reduced carbon emissions as a result of reduced production from virgin materials
- Support growth of UK recycling industry

Who?

All households in England including flats

Non-household municipal (NHM) premises in England

- Businesses:

MICRO	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
≤10	≤50	≤250	>250

 (number of full-time equivalent employees)
- Residential homes
- Educational establishments
- Hospitals or nursing homes

Subject to consultation:

- Places of worship
- Penal institutes
- Charity shops
- Hostels
- Public meeting places

Collectors

- (Subject to consultation) Local authorities / other waste collectors can co-collect dry recyclables and/or co-collect organic waste to reduce the number of containers required
- Local authorities must provide a weekly food waste collection to all households
- Local authorities must provide garden waste collections to households where requested

When?

- 31st March 2025: Small, medium, and large NHM premises recycle all waste streams, except plastic film
- 31st March 2026: Households recycle all waste streams, except plastic film
- 31st March 2027: Micro-firms recycle all waste streams; Plastic film collections from all properties

How?

- Funding will be provided to local authorities for the household collection requirements:
 - Local authorities will receive payments from packaging producers under EPR from October 2025
 - Local authorities will receive new burdens funding for providing food waste collections
 - Local authorities can charge for garden collections

*Garden waste requirement only applies to households and only where specifically requested by the householder.

4.39 It was now a requirement for local authorities to collect garden waste separately and this service could be chargeable. Two-thirds of local authorities currently charged for the collection of green waste and SBC was included in the remaining third that did not currently charge. It was acknowledged that some residents would deposit their green waste in their residual bin. In general, those who currently paid for a garden waste service tended to have larger gardens or produced a higher amount of garden waste.

WRAP's Four Alternative Scenarios

4.40 Scenario 1

Same as your current service except for the addition of a separate weekly collection of food waste.

Scenario 2

Same as Scenario 1 except refuse is collected once every fortnight rather than once a week.

Separate weekly food waste collection.

Scenario 3

Fortnightly refuse collection with a weekly 'multi-stream collection of dry recycling and food waste.

Scenario 4

Fortnightly refuse collection with a fortnightly 'comingled' collection of dry recycling and weekly food waste.

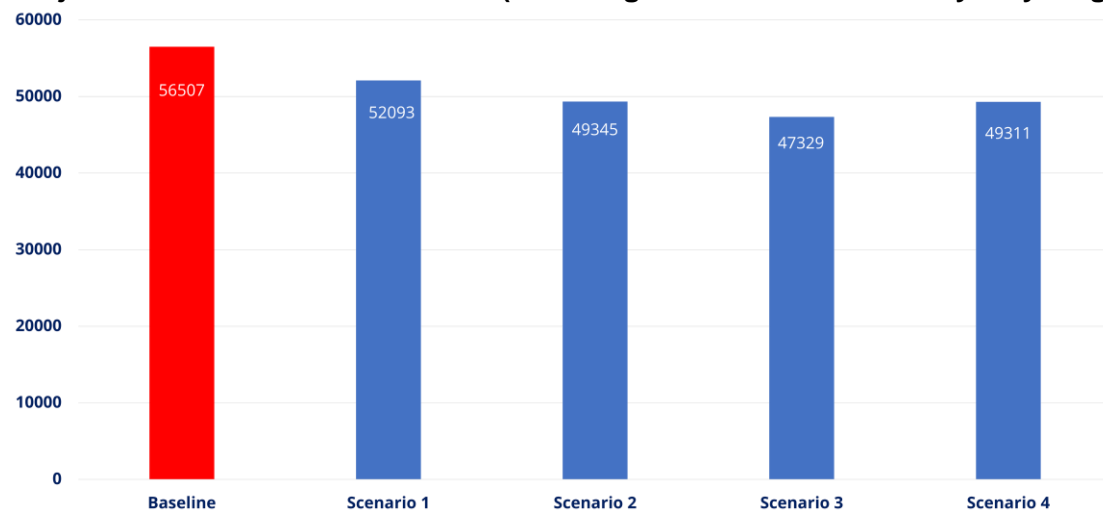
WRAP's Findings from Alternative Waste and Recycling Collection Scenarios Assessment

4.41 WRAP's assessment was conducted using the following criteria:

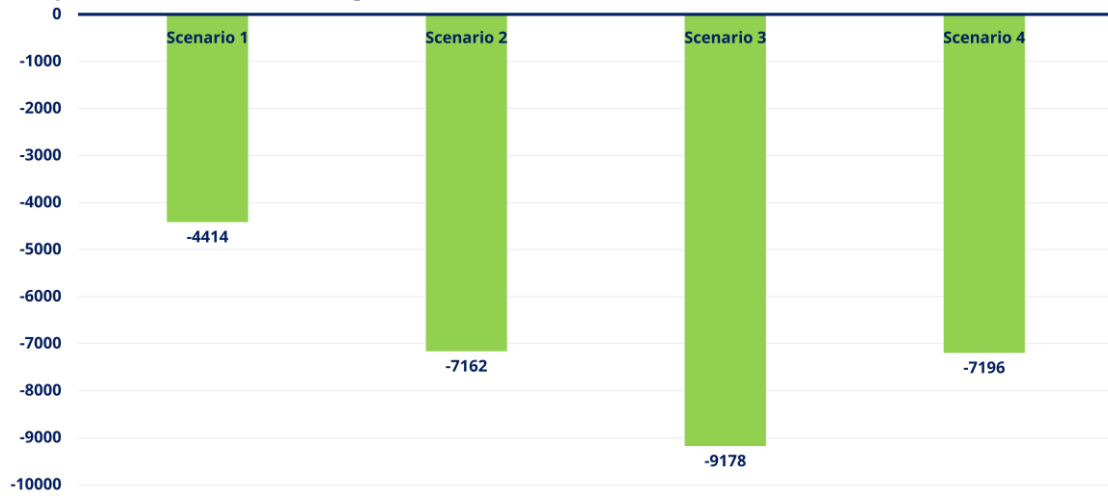
- Performance (% recycled, amount of residual waste)
- Carbon impact
- Cost (Revenue & Capital)
- Impact on the customer
- Employment

4.42 The following graphs provide data on WRAP's assessment on the four alternative scenarios:

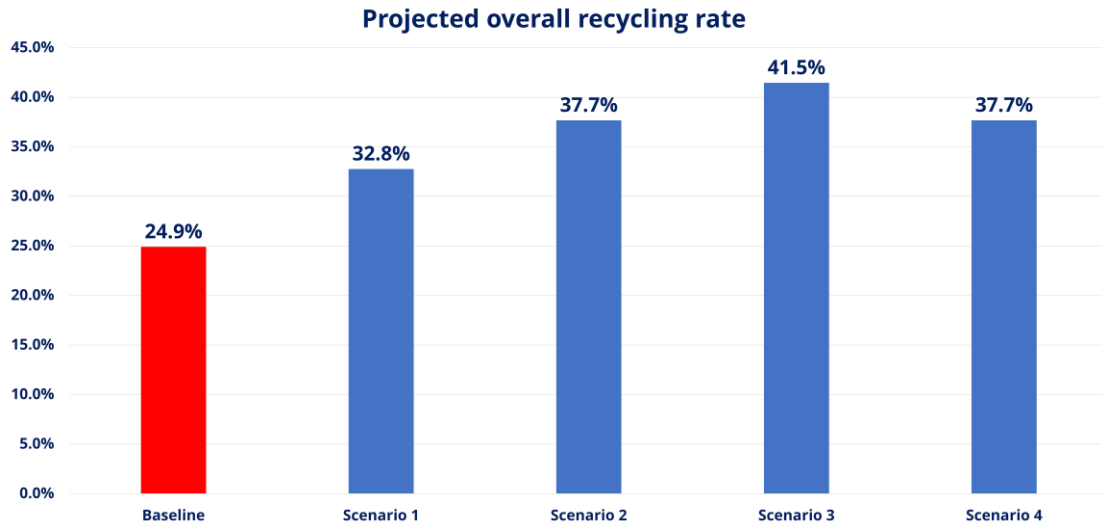
Projected tonnes of residual waste (including contamination from dry recycling)



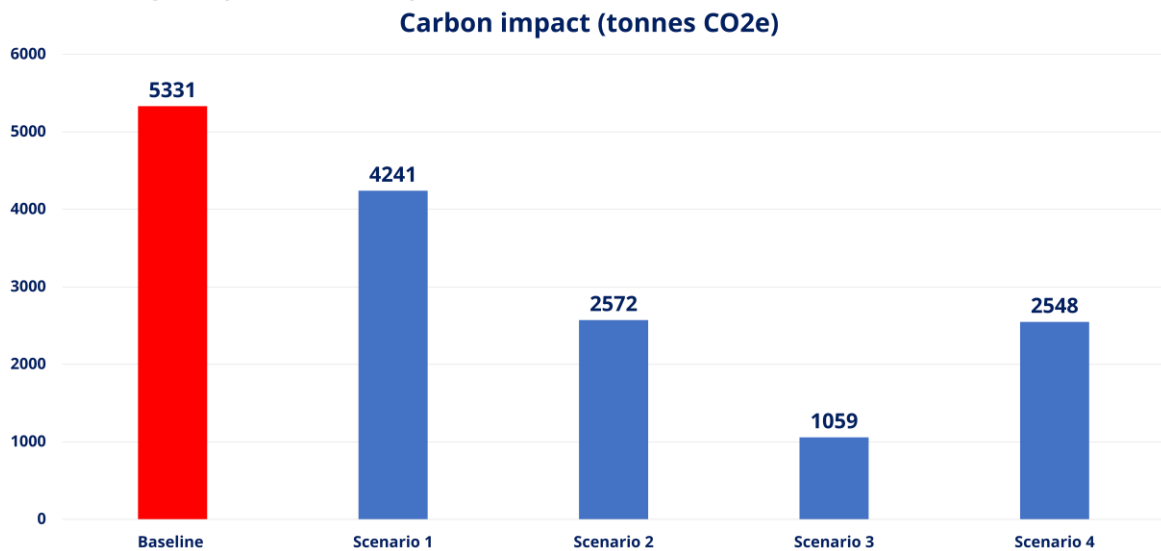
Projected residual tonnage relative to the baseline



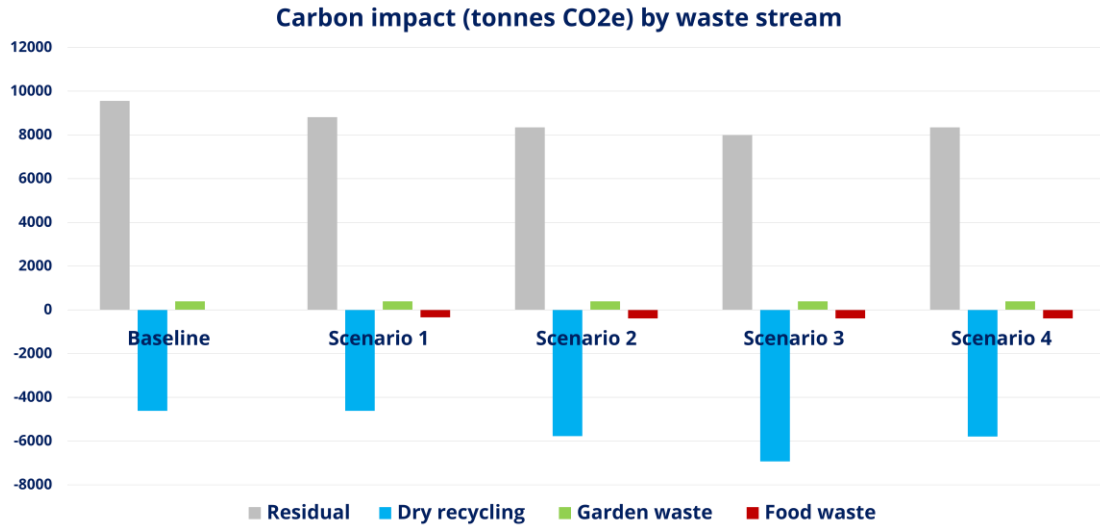
Projected overall recycling rate



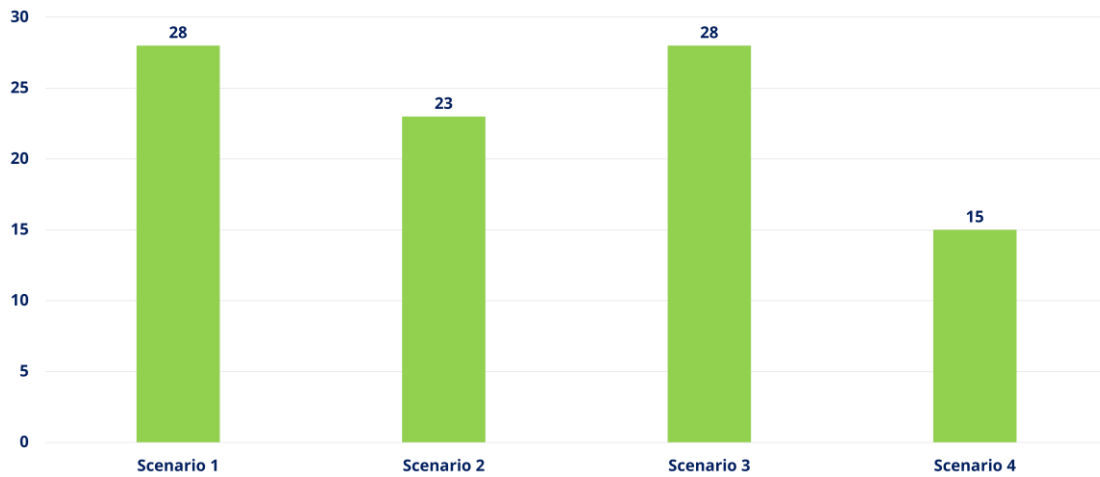
Carbon impact (tonnes CO2e)



Carbon impact (tonnes CO2e) by waste stream



Projected number of staff relative to the baseline



WRAP Closed Session November 2023

4.43 In November 2023, the Committee received evidence in a closed session, as part of WRAP’s assessment, on projected costs in relation to the 4 alternative scenarios outlined above.

4.44 The following provides a summary of this data:

In terms of projected total revenue costs (excluding garden waste), for the current year, 2026 and 2028, scenario 3 resulted in the lowest levels and scenario 1 resulted in the highest levels.

In terms of projected annual ‘whole system’ costs relative to the current baseline costs assuming current EfW (Energy from Waste) gate fee, scenario 3 was the only scenario to result in a saving and scenario 1 resulted in the highest cost.

In terms of projected annual 'whole system' costs relative to the current baseline costs assuming 2026 EfW gate fee, scenario 3 was the only scenario to result in a saving and scenario 1 resulted in the highest cost.

In terms of the projected annual 'whole system' costs relative to the current baseline costs assuming 2028 EfW gate fee, scenario 3 was the only scenario to result in a saving and scenario 1 resulted in the highest cost.

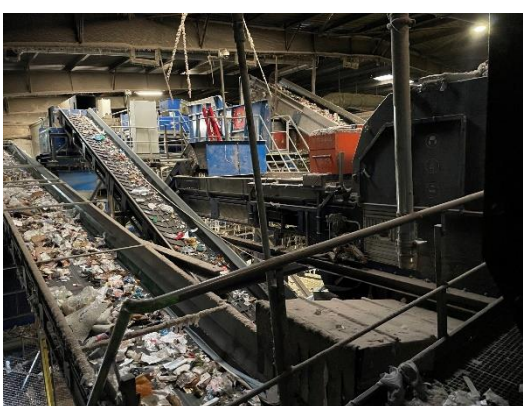
In terms of container capital costs (vehicles included in projected revenue costs), scenarios 1 and 2 resulted in the lowest costs, which only included costs for food waste caddies which are expected to be covered by new burdens funding. Scenario 4 resulted in the highest costs.

In terms of the 'overview of total costs for each scenario for each gate fee', scenario 3 resulted in the lowest costs and the highest overall rate of recycling. Scenario 1 resulted in the highest costs and the lowest overall rate of recycling.

Site Visit November 2023

4.45 As part of this review, a site visit to J&B Recycling, Hartlepool took place on 30 November 2023. This provided the Committee with the opportunity to view and compare the different processing methods for comingled and separated recycled materials (cardboard, paper, plastics, glass).

4.46 Discussions centred on the importance of effective communication with residents to encourage recycling and increase recycling rates, problems associated with the disposal of vapes (including fire hazards, volume of vapes deposited in recycling collections), the fluctuation in market prices for recycled materials.





Waste and Recycling Service Viewpoint and Youth Viewpoint Panel Survey 2023

4.47 As part of this review, an online survey was issued to members of SBC’s Viewpoint Panel and Youth Viewpoint panel in October 2023. The aim of the anonymous survey was to gather panel members’ views on waste and recycling. In total, 94 responses were received.

4.48 The main findings from the survey were:

- 90% of respondents currently recycled.
- ‘Don’t have enough storage space’ was the most popular reason for respondents not recycling (24%).
- According to respondents, the most important reason to recycle was ‘It’s good for the environment’ (83%). This was followed by ‘It saves natural resources’ (54%).
- 90% of respondents put out their recycling on a fortnightly basis.
- In terms of other recycling facilities, 65% of respondents used Charity clothes collections and 50% used the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Haverton Hill.
- When asked to describe how important recycling was to them personally, 73% of respondents opted for ‘very important’ and only 6% opted for ‘not important’.
- On attitudes to recycling, 73% of respondents stated, ‘I recycle even if it requires additional effort’.
- 56% of respondents recycled ‘anything that can be recycled’ whereas only 2% recycled ‘to manage my bin capacity or when my bin is full’.

- 73% of respondents used the Council's kerbside green waste collection service.
- The most popular reason why respondents did not use the green waste collection service was 'I compost my green waste at home' (41%). 19% of respondents selected the option 'I have enough space in my green wheeled bin'.
- 64% of respondents stated that they would not pay a reasonable charge for a green waste collection service if the Council could no longer provide this as a free service.
- Of those who answered yes to paying a charge, 71% stated that 'Up to £20' was a reasonable annual charge for an all year round green waste collection service.
- For the question, 'Some Councils provide an alternative weekly collection service (i.e. getting your bins emptied one week and your recycling collected the next week). Would you see this as being a better or worse service if provided by the Council?', 48% responded 'worse', 17% responded 'better' and 35% responded 'no change at all'.
- 52% of respondents stated that they would use a food waste collection service.
- 50% of respondents stated that they were 'satisfied' with the Council's current waste and recycling collection services, 37% were 'very satisfied' and 7% were 'dissatisfied'.
- Responses were received from residents across the Borough.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

5.1 Through this review, the Committee has evaluated the Council's current waste management strategy. It has been evidenced that the Borough has the highest level of residual waste per household in the country and the lowest recycling rate regionally.

5.2 Owing to several factors, the Council must implement an alternative waste management strategy which is both financially viable and reduces the Council's carbon impact. These include the introduction of national legislation on weekly food waste collections, the unprecedented financial pressures exerted on local authorities and the Council's commitment to carbon reduction to combat climate change.

5.3 Therefore, the Committee has considered four alternative collection scenarios and has concluded that weekly recycling collections and fortnightly residual waste collections is the most appropriate choice. The implementation of a comprehensive communication and community engagement plan to inform residents of these changes has also been recommended. Additionally, it has emerged that the Council's green waste collection service should be reevaluated in light of the Government's 'Simpler Recycling' reforms.

Recommendations

The Committee recommend:

- 1. That the council adopt a fortnightly refuse collection service.**
- 2. That scenario 3 (fortnightly refuse collection with a weekly 'multi-stream collection of dry recycling and food waste) is adopted as the Council's new waste and recycling collection service, when considering timescales around national mandated services and local waste disposal arrangements.**
- 3. To review the green waste collection service in line with updated government guidance.**
- 4. That a comprehensive communications and community engagement plan on proposed changes is implemented to ensure residents are sufficiently informed prior to the enactment of any changes, and to help embed the changes, to the waste and recycling service.**

Glossary of Terms

DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DRS	Deposit Return Scheme
EfW	Energy from Waste
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ETS	Emissions Trading Scheme
JWMS	The Joint Waste Management Strategy
SBC	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
TV OBC	Tees Valley Outline Business Case
WRAP	Waste and Resources Action Programme

Agenda Item 6

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 FEBRUARY 2024

**REPORT OF THE
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
TEAM**

CABINET DECISION ITEM

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

REFERENCE FROM THE COUNCIL, DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

SUMMARY

This report addresses the motion submitted by Councillor Niall Innes at the Council meeting on 22 November 2023, concerning the proposed introduction of a new 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth' role. In line with Council Procedure Rule 3.42, this motion has been automatically referred to the Cabinet for further consideration.

Councillor Innes's motion challenges the introduction of the 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth' position, citing a lack of full Council consultation and questioning the allocation of resources. The motion proposes reallocating the intended salary for this role towards employing civic enforcement officers/street wardens and establishing a 'Community Safety Hub' in Ingleby Barwick.

THE MOTION

The motion submitted to the Council Reads:

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

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

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

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

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

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is required to decide whether to reconsider its original decision regarding this new role and subsequently inform the full Council of this decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet agree to note the motion, consider any related representations, and determine whether there is merit in revisiting their initial decision.

DETAIL

1. The Cabinet has made a decision to provide funding for a new chief officer post, the 'Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth'. This decision is executive in nature and has been made within the Cabinet's remit.
2. The appointment of a chief officer, is a non-executive decision, it falls under the Council's jurisdiction and has been delegated to an appointments panel. The implementation of the Cabinet's funding decision necessitates a non-executive action by the Council.
3. The motion submitted to the Council raises concerns about the new post, urging the Cabinet to reconsider its funding decision. This motion is advisory, the full Council does not have the authority to require the Cabinet to reconsider its decision.
4. The Cabinet maintains the discretion to either note the motion or reconsider or uphold its decision. While the motion from the Council may be considered, it does not compel the Cabinet to alter its decision.
5. The rationale for the original decision to introduce the new role is detailed in the Cabinet report titled "Powering our Future - Senior Management Capacity Review" (CAB/16/23).
6. The arguments for revisiting the decision are set out in the motion.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. The proposal's implications in terms of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, health inequalities, consultation and public engagement, carbon neutrality, and area or ward impact have been considered. No significant issues have been identified. The proposed reallocation of funds from the director role to community safety initiatives could impact community safety and wellbeing, but the benefits outlined in the original report would not be delivered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no new financial implications arising from a reconsideration of the decision. Should Cabinet decide to revoke their original decision then a fresh decision would be required to commit funding allocated to a new proposal.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Most functions, including executive decisions, fall under the Cabinet's responsibility. The Full Council's role is more limited, and it cannot override Cabinet decisions on executive matters. When the Cabinet makes an executive decision within the budget and policy framework, it is exercising its authority as outlined in The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)

(England) Regulations 2000. The Full Council have no power to determine an executive matter. The Motion has gone through the appropriate process and cannot progress further once the Cabinet have considered the issue.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Cabinet Decision and Report, "Powering our Future - Senior Management Capacity Review" (CAB/16/23).

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

February 15th 2024

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Clare Gamble

Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Strategy (ES&CRS) 2022-32 Monitoring Report

SUMMARY

Climate change poses a real threat to society and biodiversity. We are already seeing the increasing impacts of flooding, high winds, heat waves and species collapse. Efforts to limit climate change by reducing carbon emissions need to be widespread, urgent and sustained.

The Councils Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy (ES&CRS), adopted in 2023, sets out the direction we need take and describes the actions that would contribute to the achievement of net zero. This report outlines progress since the adoption of the strategy, including reductions in energy consumption and efforts to support biodiversity.

The Council has made significant progress within the resources available, achieving a steady decline in carbon emissions over a longer period. However, substantial additional investment in the coming years, beyond that which is currently identified, will be required if we are to achieve our stated ambition of being a Net Zero authority by 2032

Continued concentration on measures to improve our energy efficiency and reduce emissions from our assets and fleet, are an urgent priority, alongside counterbalancing natural solutions such as tree planting and solar energy generation.

HM Government has entered binding international arrangements for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and set out comprehensive requirements within the Environment Act. The secondary legislation that would define targets for relevant local and regional agencies, has been delayed in a number of key areas. However, we will need, at some point, to show substantial further progress on CO₂, waste, water and air quality, and biodiversity, beyond that which we is achievable within current budgets.

The Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) Net Zero Strategy incorporates priorities for homes & communities, public organisations, and nature & resources, alongside decarbonisation of industry and transport. The TV Strategy is designed to complement the strategies of the partner Authorities and our goals are broadly aligned. The TVCA strategy highlights opportunities for economic growth

associated with clean energy and ‘green’ technologies, however it also acknowledges the importance of maximising the impact of national funding and Government Policies.

Cabinet are asked to consider making representations to the Government for more resources toward the major investment required to deliver our environmental sustainability objectives.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

This report is to update Cabinet upon the actions following the adoption of the Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy 2022-32.

Cabinet is also invited to study the data which indicates the reduction of greenhouse gasses over a sustained period and the highlighted position of carbon emissions for the authority relative to targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet notes the positive progress on our Environmental Sustainability targets, as set out in this report and the appendices.
2. Cabinet seeks to influence Government to provide substantial additional resources to enable further decarbonisation, environmental protection and community resilience.
3. Cabinet supports the identification of additional resources, within future Medium Term Financial Plans, to support the next phase of carbon reduction and environmental sustainability measures.

DETAIL

1. In 2022 the Council implemented the Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy 2022-32. The aim of the strategy is for the Council to become Net Zero by 2032, and Borough wide by 2050.
2. The strategy seeks to make a difference in three ways.
 - a. By focusing on Council operations and infrastructure
 - b. Through the delivery of strategies, policies, and work programmes, and
 - c. By influencing others.
3. The strategy has set four overarching aims for environmental sustainability and carbon reduction.

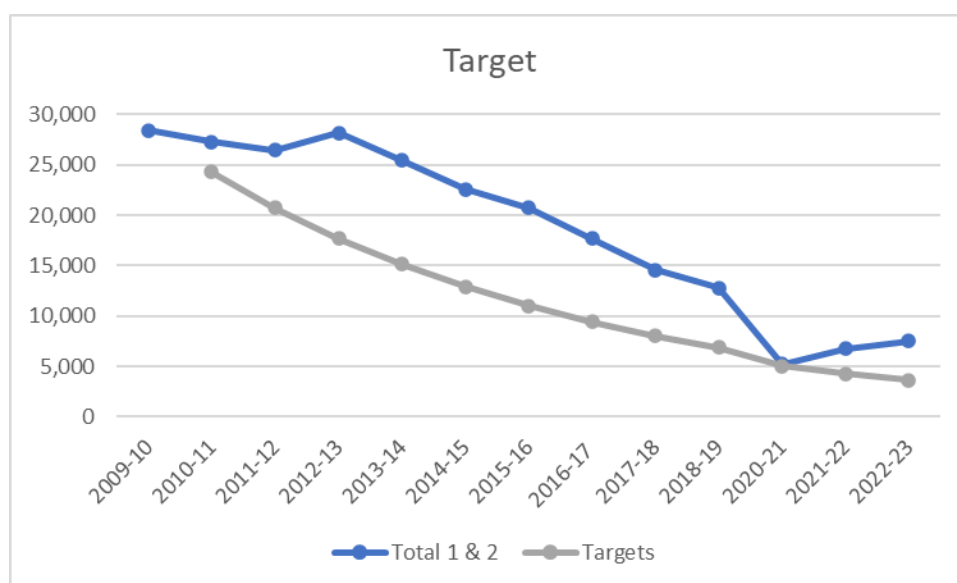
<p>Aim 1: Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Reduce energy demand wherever possible B) Accelerate the shift towards use of sustainable energy C) Take other action to reduce harmful emissions D) Capture and store carbon in woodlands and other natural habitats 	<p>Aim 2: Protect and enhance the natural environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Protect, extend and connect areas of natural habitat and help address the decline in native species. B) Help to improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions. C) Take action to improve water quality and reduce local demand for water
<p>Aim 3: Use all resources efficiently and minimise waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Ensure sustainable purchasing and procurement of goods and services. 	<p>Aim 4: Adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Ensure essential services and operations are resilient to the likely future impacts of climate change.

<p>B) Maximise the use of existing resources, minimise waste and achieve high levels of re-use and recycling.</p> <p>C) Minimise litter and waste crime and encourage responsible disposal of waste.</p>	<p>B) Increase the preparedness and resilience of local communities and businesses.</p> <p>C) Plan and adapt the built and natural environment to withstand the impacts of climate change.</p>
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4. The examples of progress and good practice, highlighted in paragraph 16, are grouped within these aims.
5. To understand the mechanisms required to transition to a sustainable future and provide an early indication of the scale of the challenge we face, we benefited from an assessment by the independent Tyndall Institute.
6. According to the Tyndall Institute, at 2017 CO₂ emission levels, Stockton-on-Tees will exceed the recommended carbon budget available within 6 years from 2020. To stay within the recommended carbon budget Stockton-on-Tees will, from 2020 onwards, need to achieve average mitigation rates of CO₂ from energy of around -14.6% per year.”

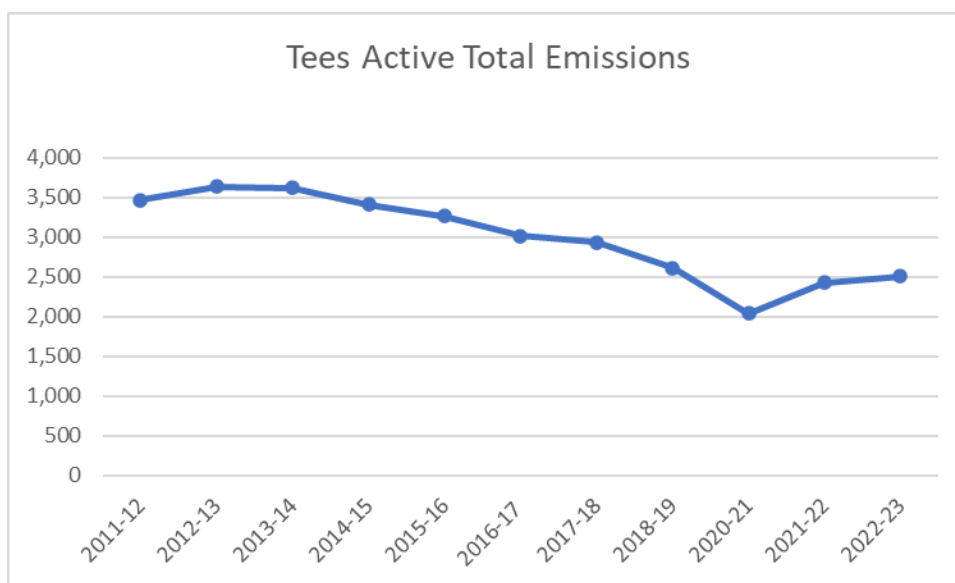
Total emissions and change over time.

7. Since 2010 Stockton Borough Council has made significant efforts to reduce emissions and there has been an overall reduction of 61%.



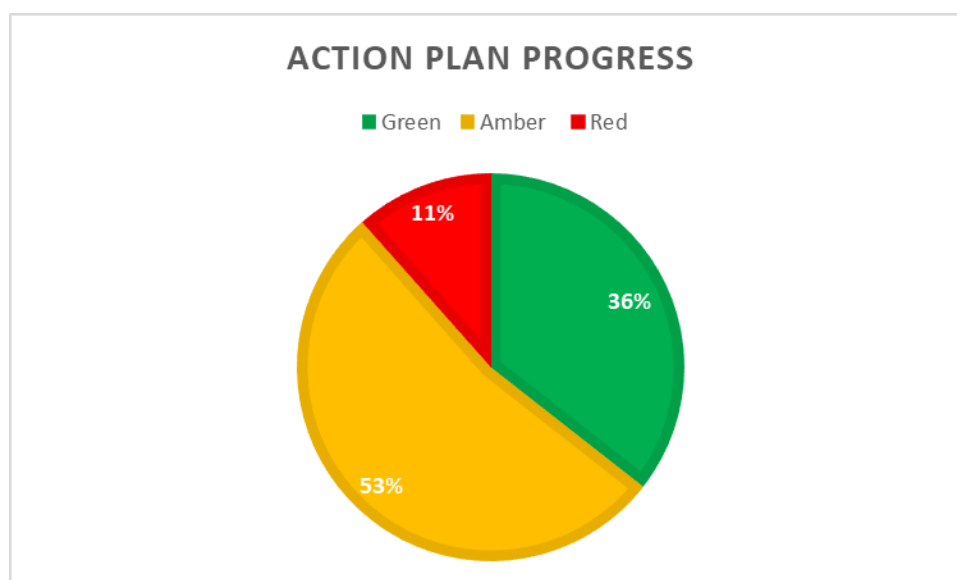
8. The most significant reduction was demonstrated during the period of Covid-19 where cultural working changes were implemented such as working from home during lockdown and a reduction in the energy use of council assets. From 2021-22 there has been an increase in emissions, in part due to a return to pre-covid working conditions and service provision. Calculations are also affected by changes to the energy framework, from which schools were removed in 2019.
9. The table above demonstrates that it was only in 2020/21 that the necessary trend was achieved. However, this was an unprecedented year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
10. There has been a steady increase since 2020/2. The data identifies that in the 2022/23 financial year, Stockton on Tees Council produced 3,837 Tonnes of CO₂e above the target levels.

11. It is projected that current levels of carbon emissions associated with our assets will continue to rise, however the move to Dunedin House and subsequent decommissioning of other buildings becomes will enable a future reduction. There also remains a heavy reliance on fossil fuels within fleet services, partly due to limited charging infrastructure and inadequate financial support for the electrification of fleet vehicles.
12. Our leisure centres have demonstrated a sustained reduction of carbon emissions since 2012, new measures recently installed such as photovoltaic panels on the roof of IB Leisure should show a reduction in year 23/24.



Action plan monitoring

13. The ES&CRS is a Council-wide approach that covers all service areas. The action plan sets out what all service areas are doing to address carbon emissions. There has been genuine effort and real innovation across many services.
14. The actions within the plan are categorised as
 - Red – Not Started
 - Amber – Progressing / Pending
 - Green – Established
15. Some of the actions that are categorised as Red are because of aspirations that will be considered as part of the ongoing work on Powering our Future and related reviews or Member scrutiny. In many cases the carbon reduction will be made possible by a remodelling of the service toward different outcomes. The action plan highlights the need for carbon emissions can be considered as part of any service review.



16. Examples of good practice are demonstrated below:

Aim 1: Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions

- **'Rubber roads'** – A ground-breaking road resurfacing project continues to achieve significant carbon savings. Working alongside our framework providers Tarmac roads are being surfaced with recycled materials which reduces emissions by up to 80%. The contractor is also using a biofuel in their machinery, it is believed that the schemes have the lowest CO₂ emissions for road surfacing in the UK.
- **Solar Panel installation** - During the 2022/23 financial year, SBC has generated 171,379KwH of energy. Solar generation is increasing.
- **EV car lease scheme** – The council have provided a car lease scheme for electric vehicles, the scheme has been very popular, currently 74 cars have been delivered with another 5 on order.
- **Carbon Literacy training** – currently 30 council staff have completed APSE Carbon Literacy. SBC own programme has been developed and has trained 30 Councillors.
- **Climate coalitions** - 2022 saw the creation of four climate coalitions: Youth, Community, Business and Creative. The first year has seen the coalitions become established and over 50 active members who share environmental practices, offer support and advice in their commitment to reducing emissions across the Borough.

Aim 2: Protect and enhance the natural environment.

- **Tree planting** – The authority planted over 20,000 trees in the past two planting seasons increasing canopy cover, improving biodiversity and providing additional attractive amenity space.
- **Management of Greenspaces** - appropriate management can increase biodiversity of greenspaces. Positive pilot scheme of No Mow Summer on sites in Billingham were positively received by residents. Results have been very promising with a richer spread of grasses and wildflowers and encouraging signs that pollinators are returning to utilise the area.
- **Fleet.** Our fleet adds to the significant carbon emissions contributing to 30.5% of the total calculated carbon emissions for the reporting year. Most of our diesel fleet vehicles are now Euro 6 status, which ensures that particulate matter is kept to a minimum and harmful gasses are not released. Electrification is being trialled as well as ongoing investigations of alternative fuel sources.

Aim 3: Use resources efficiently and minimise waste

- **Tees Active** – all sites have achieved Green Mark accreditation, progress in environment and sustainability actions are required to maintain the accreditation on an annual basis. Measures such as the use of overnight pool covers, voltage optimisation and reduced temperature heating systems have all been instigated.
- **SBC** - the authority is committed to reducing our administrative buildings. Buildings in Billingham have now closed and in early Jan 24 we will see a migration to Dunedin House. By reducing our asset base we will significantly reduce our energy consumption and corresponding carbon emissions
- **SIRF** –in 2023 there was a strong commitment to reducing the environmental impact of the festival, this was demonstrated by using biofuel in generators and promotion of sustainable travel options for performers and visitors. Recycling collection was available during the festival with 420kg of recyclable waste collected over the 4-day festival.

Aim 4: Adapts to the impact of climate change

- **Tees Tidelands** - Stockton Borough Council on behalf of the Tees Valley Authorities and the Environment Agency, is working on a project to improve flood resilience and create intertidal habitat, unlocking biodiversity net gain in the Tees Estuary.
- **Billingham Beck** - part of the Environment Agency's wider Tees Tidelands programme which seeks to 'reconnect' the Tees estuary with its upstream river catchments. It also aims to restore water-dependant habitats across the beck's floodplain, within the boundary of Billingham Beck Valley Country Park
- **Emergency planning procedures** – Emergency procedures are formally reviewed on a three-yearly basis, or as incidents, exercises or notified changes demand including Flooding at Lustrum Beck in 2021 and the Tidal Surge at Port Clarence in 2013.
- **Flood risk assessments** – Local standards have been incorporated into SuDs Guidance (Sustainable Drainage Systems) including discharge into existing watercourses and allowances for sea level rises over the lifetime of a development.

Waste and recycling

17. Waste has a significant impact on carbon emissions, with landfill producing 40% of greenhouse gas emissions nationally, this can be reduced by increased recycling and reduction of waste in the first place.

18. Nationally, weekly food waste collections will become mandatory by 2026 due to the Resources & Waste Strategy & Environment Act 2021 and as part of the Government's 'Simpler Recycling' reforms, the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) are expected to be introduced by October 2025.

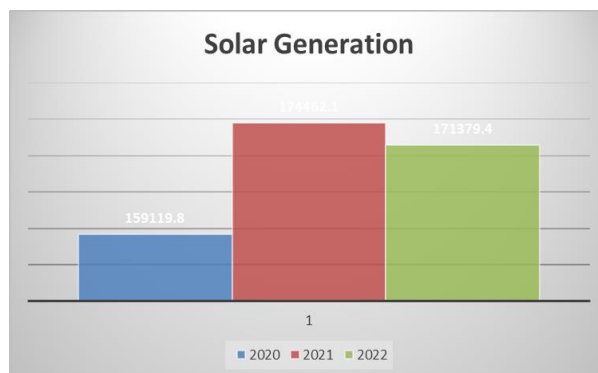
19. The Council's Place Select Committee is currently reviewing waste and recycling. As part of that review the national Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) specialists have provided data on performance compared to similar local authorities.

20. The Place Select Committee's report will include options that would enable a significant carbon reduction on our overall waste a recycling approach. However, investment is likely to be required in vehicles and infrastructure to achieve the carbon saving.

Solar generation

21. Renewable energy is currently the cheapest form of energy generation and payback rates of new installations are decreasing rapidly.

22. Recent large-scale installations include Cowpen Depot and IB Leisure, whilst the council has partnered with an award-winning social impact business to offer many of our maintained and academy schools access to reduced price solar energy.



- Solar generation is increasing; however, the 2022 figures are slightly lower due to faults being recorded on the meters in some months during the reporting year.
- Solar panels at Cowpen Depot have saved 22,017kg of Carbon emissions, the equivalent of planting 1,332 mature trees.
- Solar panels installed at Ingleby Barwick Leisure has saved 1,734kg of Co2 since their installation in September of 2023, the equivalent of planting 105 mature trees.

23. There is potential for further solar regeneration as a cost effective means of reducing our carbon emissions, however capital investment would be required to achieve this carbon saving.

Grants and national resources

24. There are an increasing number of time limited Government grant regimes linked to carbon reduction and climate change. In particular, there are numerous schemes to support tree planting. However, for the major changes such as fleet decarbonisation, improvements to building efficiency, climate change adaptation and modal shifts in transport, the resources are limited to pilot projects and modest one-off grants with short lead-in times.

25. In 2023 Stockton Council responded to the national **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**. We applied for funding to develop decarbonisation plans for a number of our school, leisure and corporate building assets. We submitted an application within 15 minutes of the portal opening. The application value was £510,000. We were not successful and the only feedback we received was that the fund was oversubscribed.

26. The planned and sustained transformation that is now urgent, needs substantial new and multi-year funding. Without that the Council is unlikely to be able to achieve its Net Zero ambitions.

Data collection

27. Services currently report verbally on ES&CRS outputs, with that information being manually entered into monitoring reports. Improvement in data collection is required to ensure consistency in data, to enable better analysis, comparison with other Authorities, and to identify the areas where further work is required.

28. We expect that Environment Act legislation will require Local Authorities to deliver and evidence progress against a number of targets. Although these targets and duties have not yet been set, we should plan for the formalisation and integration of AS&CRS monitoring into wider Council performance monitoring and data analysis processes.

Engagement and partnerships - Climate Coalitions

29. As part of the Council's efforts to influence residents in reducing their carbon emissions and raising awareness of their environmental impact, four Climate Coalitions have been

established across different sectors of the Borough.

- The Business Climate Coalition currently has members from 36 businesses that are based in or have operations in Stockton-on-Tees, from a variety of industries, from sole traders to multinational companies.
- The Creative Coalition for Climate Change is managed by the ARC and brings together almost 30 of those working in the creative sector to improve communication around climate change, offer sustainable productions and inspire creation of new work.
- The Youth Climate Coalition has 12 member schools, is managed by BMBF and recently held a Youth COP28 event at the ARC, which was attended by over 60 students and featured hands-on workshops and talks on a range of environmental issues.
- The Community Coalition is managed by Catalyst, and brings together VCSE's, community groups and charities working on projects related to climate action, with over 60 organisations signed up.

30. There are currently over 50 active members across all coalitions, with many more signed up and working in the background, and the meetings provide a productive space for networking, knowledge sharing and collaborative action.

The Coalition Chairs are currently finalising a cross-coalition Action Plan for the Borough to support the ESCR Strategy and work closely with the Environment team to achieve this.

31. **Festival of Thrift** - In 2023 the Council hosted the first of a three-year agreement at John Whitehead Park, Billingham. The festival is a celebration of sustainable living and attracts around 50,000 visitors to the region. The festival is a nationally recognised event championing sustainable living.

32. The festival has a very clear vision to create positive, sustainable change in people and places and the programme aims to do just that by celebrating ways to live more sustainably and look after the planet we call home. Thrift works to develop new relationships with local communities, businesses and partners, whilst delivering a high-quality festival which inspires, brings joy and helps us to imagine a better future together.

33. Thrift works hard to not only measure their carbon emissions but shares tools with suppliers, crew, audience and artists enabling others to gain an understanding of their own impact. All of this work is communicated to our residents and communities in order to influence individual actions.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

34. Climate change affects everyone, but there is a growing body of evidence that the poorest in society will experience the worst impacts. The Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Strategy aims to address the threats to all the communities of Stockton on Tees through actions that target their circumstances. The ES&CRS follows the principles of the Council's Equality Strategy and will seek to reduce the inequality faced by disadvantaged communities where those inequalities are likely to be widened by climate change.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

35. None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

36. Saving energy can have a positive impact upon reducing emissions and finances, using less will cost less! By improving energy efficiency, the same tasks can be accomplished with less input, resulting in lower emissions and lower energy bills.

37. Whilst it is anticipated that there will be future investment required to deliver the long-term commitment to achieve net zero, no additional financial commitments beyond the approved MTFP are required at this stage to support the strategy and specific points outlined in this report.

38. Officers, continue to seek out external funding opportunities that could be applied for to support the decarbonisation agenda. A recent example of this being a bid, (outcome currently pending), to Sport England to support Swimming Pools with a focus on improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon. Such opportunities will continue to be explored moving forward to maximise external funding.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

39. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

40. There are several risks relating to the content of this report. The Council has established the ES&CRS to improve the local environment and to achieve net zero by 2032. Although this report demonstrates progress is being made, there are risks that carbon reduction is becoming significantly harder without financial investment and net zero may not be achieved. This could lead to reputational risk to the Council, potential legal risks and more significantly, the environmental and economic risks associated with the impacts of a warming climate on the borough.

41. The risks are currently managed through the implementation of a detailed action plan, an ES&CRS Steering Group to oversee implementation, careful monitoring of carbon emissions and regular reports to Cabinet.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

42. As the strategy is a wide-ranging document all wards will be affected.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

43. Appendix A- List of actions with traffic lights

44. Appendix B- Description of scope 1, 2 and 3.

Name of Contact Officer: Neil Mitchell

Post Title: Head of Environment, Leisure, and Green Infrastructure

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Appendix A

Action Plan.

Action	Status
Objective 1.1 Improve Air Quality	
Clean Air Day	established
Educational project on fuel burning and smoke free zones	progressing
Educational project to reduce 'idling' at taxi ranks and schools	progressing
DEFRA taxi clean air zone	established
Implementation of Air Quality Strategy	progressing
Monitoring of Air Quality across the Borough.	established
Air quality educational project with secondary schools.	progressing
Objective 1.2 Reduce energy demand where possible.	
Solar for schools	progressing
E-bike scheme for employees / enforcement	established
Warm Homes Healthy People	established
Solar panels on Cowpen Depot	established
Training on maintenance and installation of energy efficiency project with SBC staff	progressing
Objective 1.3 Take action to reduce harmful emissions	
Installation of EV charging points - Phase 1	established
Identification of EV Charging points sites - Phase 2	progressing
cycling and walking infrastructure	progressing
Tees Valley Capability Fund	progressing
Bus Corridor improvements	progressing
Electric fleet vehicles.	progressing
Reduce fleet numbers	progressing
Fleet replacement vehicles to latest Euro Emission standard if EV is not an option.	progressing
Alternative fuel vehicles (HVO)	progressing
Asphalt IQ Carbon Monitoring Trial phase 1.	progressing
Asphalt IQ Carbon Monitoring Trial phase 2	not started
Asphalt IQ Carbon Monitoring Trial Phase 3	not started
Objective 1.4 Capture and Store Carbon in woodlands and other natural habitats.	
Action	Status
Objective 2.1 Ensure sustainable purchasing and procurement of goods and services	
Implement Social Value Policy	established
Environmental priorities incorporated in contract tenders	established
Support to tenders to increase their environmental priorities	progressing

Minimise carbon and environmental footprint of council led events.	progressing
Identify and report on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.	progressing
Identify Scope 3 emissions	Not started
Enforce Single Use Materials Policy across the Borough	progressing

Objective 2.2 Maximise the use of existing resources, minimise waste and achieve high level of re-use and recycling

Improve internal recycling facilities	progressing
Baseline carbon assets	not started
Electricity reduction	progressing
Reduce the carbon footprint through the migration of workloads to the cloud, device refresh and power management configuration	established
Highway lighting	progressing
Solar panels and battery storage on council assets	progressing
Voltage Optimizers within Tees Active	established
Combined Heat and Power Units	established
Pool pump inverters	established
PIR Lighting	established
Energy from NEPO	established
Electricity generating Archimedes screws	established
Reduce water consumption	progressing

Objective 2.3 Minimise litter and waste crime and encourage responsible disposal of waste

Weekly food waste collections.	Pending
Increase levels of household recycling	Pending
Reduce household waste collection to fortnightly.	Pending
Deliver initiatives through education and engagement to minimise consumption	progressing
Implement measures to reduce fly-tipping and waste crime	progressing
E waste	progressing

Action	Status
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Objective 3.1 Protect, extend and connect areas of natural habitat and help address the decline in native species

Biodiversity net gain	established
Ecology resources available to planning team.	not started
Research on urban planting	progressing
SBC tree and plant nursery	Pending
Trees for Tees	established
Tree Planting	established
Forestry / Woodland mapping	progressing
Forestry / Woodland management	progressing
Increase awareness and understanding of the natural environment and encourage community participation.	progressing
Reduce risk of pollution	established
Bee blocks incorporated into new buildings	not started
Bird nesting boxes incorporated into new buildings	not started
Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Pending
Biodiversity credits / Carbon Credits and Nutrient Neutrality	not started

Biodiversity assessments	progressing
Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund	established
Thematic plans for development and management key habitats within identified open spaces	progressing
Lustrum Beck Urban River Restoration Project	progressing
Increase opportunities for public participation in the development and management of parks and greenspace	progressing
Norton 'Pocket of Nature Partnership'	progressing
Environmental Education	established
local wildlife sites	established
Research on carbon sequestration through natural habitats	not started
Environmental / Conservation Work Team	established
No Mow Summer	
Tees Tidelands	
Billingham Beck Habitat restoration project	progressing
Objective 3.2 Help to improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions	
Review planning applications, including demolition and construction	established
Objective 3.3 Take action to improve water quality and reduce local demand for water	
Reduce water consumption	progressing
Rainwater harvesting	progressing
Rainwater harvesting	not started
Rainwater harvesting	progressing
Film on winter garden to reduce evaporation	not started
Targeted watering in the garden	progressing
Actions	Status
Objective 4.1 Ensure essential service and operations are resilient to the likely future impacts of climate change	
Single Depot for Community Services	Pending
Emergency planning procedures	established
regular monitoring and evaluation of action plan.	not started
Care sector and public health	not started
Tree management	progressing
Flood risk assessment	established
Objective 4.2 Increase the preparedness and resilience of local communities and businesses	
Ensure residents and businesses are flood prepared.	established
Climate coalition - business	established
Climate coalition -communities	established
Climate coalition - youth	established
Climate coalition - creative	established
Public awareness campaigns	progressing
Healthy Streets	progressing
Retrofit	progressing
Objective 4.3 Plan and adapt the built and natural environment to withstand the impacts of climate change	

SUDs
BREEM standards adopted as building standards.
Floodwater storage
Building Design

established
Pending
progressing
not started

Appendix B

Operational Scopes

We have collected and measured all scope 1 & 2 emissions. Scope 1 covers emissions from sources that the council controls directly. Scope 2 emissions cover the indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity.

At present we are unable to accurately calculate scope 3 emissions. Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by the council itself but by those that the council interacts with up and down the value chain, for instance when we buy, use, and dispose of products from suppliers.

For the purposes of the current reporting year the following activities have been included:

Scope 1

Gas consumption

Owned fleet transport

Scope 2

Purchased electricity.

Scope 1 emissions

These are “direct” emissions – those that a company causes by operating the things that it owns or controls. These can be a result of running machinery to make products, driving vehicles, or just heating buildings and powering computers.

Scope 2 emissions

These are “indirect” emissions created by the production of the energy that an organization buys. Installing solar panels or sourcing renewable energy rather than using electricity generated using fossil fuels would cut a company’s Scope 2 emissions.

Scope 3 emissions

These are also indirect emissions – meaning those not produced by the company itself – but they differ from Scope 2 as they cover those produced by customers using the company’s products or those produced by suppliers making products that the company uses.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15th February 2024

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture – Cllr Nelson

Annual report of the Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG)

SUMMARY

The Independent Safety Advisory Group (ISAG) brings together a range of professionals to scrutinise and advise upon event safety processes and systems for outdoor events. The ISAG looks at plans for a wide range of events and festivals in Stockton on Tees, focusing on events of a significant scale or complexity. All events of scale on Stockton Council land are subject to review by the ISAG, and where requested ISAG will review event safety plans which are hosted on private land.

The ISAG does not take decisions on whether or not an event should go ahead but provides specialist advice and recommendations to landowners, including the Council to enable them to make informed decisions to allow an event or require changes to an event plan. The ISAG provides practical advice and guidance to event organisers and aims to drive up the quality of event plans/safety planning.

The ISAG's independent Chair produces an annual report for information, to highlight significant findings and make recommendations for areas of further work.

REASONS FOR PRODUCING THIS REPORT

The ISAG Chair's report is presented to Cabinet to allow them to see the level and type of scrutiny and challenge being brought to bear in relation to events to ensure the public are properly protected. Cabinet are also able to see and comment upon the areas of further work recommended by the ISAG Chair.

DETAIL

1. The ISAG was convened ten times during 2023 and reviewed 29 event safety plans which is a 32% (14 no.) reduction against the same period in 2022. This reduction is due to several largescale Council-run events being paused due to redevelopment of Stockton riverside and a number of external events organisers, including community-led events, not delivering their events this year.
2. The ISAG reviewed three new events, including Ingleby Barwick Fun Run, Siren Fest and Festival of Thrift and provided support and oversight for the King's Coronation street parties and community led events.

3. The ratio of the event safety plans submitted to ISAG remains consistent, with the majority of plans coming from external and community event organisers, who want to host events on Council land. ISAG has also reviewed three events which were delivered on private land, these include Ingleby Barwick Family Fun Day, Siren Fest and Festival of Thrift.
4. Meetings continued to be delivered online via Microsoft Teams and this has had a positive impact on the meetings being quorate. Input from a range of agencies, including Council Service teams, illustrates the commitment to ensuring public safety at outdoor events in face of complex and dynamic threats.
5. There has been a 23% improvement in the number of event plans which have been submitted on time, with 69% of plans submitted within the required deadlines, compared to 46% in 2022, 59% in 2019 and 75% in 2018. Whilst this is positive, there remains some challenges with a small percentage of event organisers who provide plans and information outside of deadlines, putting pressure on the group to respond effectively.
6. Late plans have meant that that in some instances ISAG's final assurance has not been confirmed until the actual week of an event. This is not sustainable in terms of capacity of Group members, and it also increases the risk that safety issues are missed. The 2023/24 ISAG reports and Improvement Action Plan, makes further recommendations to the Council regarding submission dates and ongoing support to these event organisers.
7. The ISAG have reported, a positive position regarding the quality of event plans with many event planners demonstrating an improvement and refinement of their event safety plans and systems of working. This is encouraging as it drives up quality and safe standards of working across key safety areas. As reported in point 6, the ISAG have identified a small number of event planners who do not seem to be making improvements in their event planning and further training and guidance is required. The ISAG have highlighted this as a priority for the Council in 2024.
8. As mentioned in earlier in this report, the ISAG focuses on events of a significant scale or complexity. As such, the group has continued its extensive support to SIRF, Yarm Fair and Remembrance Sunday events which have their own safety challenges and attract large audiences. These events of scale continue to be a priority for the ISAG.
9. The ISAG has also worked closely with and supported the Festival of Thrift (FOT) event which has relocated to John Whitehead Park and Billingham Town Centre in 2023. Significant preliminary work was undertaken with the FOT team to ensure a smooth transition to the Borough. Whilst safety arrangements were ultimately assured by the Group, there were specific challenges working with the sub-contracted technical team. The ISAG has provided feedback to the technical debrief team and asked for early meetings for the 2024 festival.
10. The ISAG have reported good progress against the Improvement Action plan by the Council and the attached reports details additional improvements for the 2024/25 event season. There are a few actions which have been rolled over from 2023 to 2024, including event workshops for community event organisers to develop their event safety planning skills. This is a key priority for 2024 and links to comments made in points 4,5 and 6.
11. In addition to the above, the ISAG Chair's report highlights a focus on weather management and incident management plans this year. A significant number of events have been impacted by severe weather, including heavy and sustained rainfall and high winds and this is becoming more frequent with outdoor events. These conditions are resulting in weather management and incident management plans being activated more often and whilst these plans were tested and appeared robust in 2023, ISAG will be giving this area of event management particular attention in the coming event season.
12. The full ISAG Annual Report, including an improvement plan and dates for the anticipated ISAG meetings in 2024, is attached as Appendix 1.

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**STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
INDEPENDENT SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP**

DE-BRIEF REPORT 2023/24

OVERVIEW 2023/24

The 2023/24 event seasons has been busy for Stockton's Independent Safety Advisory Group, who have reviewed a full programme of event safety plans, the majority being delivered on Council land and a small number on privately owned land and on the river Tees.

There have been three new events submitted to the group this year including Ingleby Barwick Fun Run (Ingleby Barwick), Siren Fest (Ingleby Barwick) and Festival of Thrift, (Billingham) which is a largescale and nationally renowned event, attracting high visitor numbers. ISAG have held early conversations with event organiser to help them understand expected safety standards/documentation and to highlight the role of support of the group. This is a model of working that ISAG have found to be effective.

Whilst there has been a drop in the overall number of plans submitted to the group, ISAG note there remains a wide range of event safety plans for review, ranging from annual community led events and celebrations, to more complex large-scale events and festivals. The standard and quality of events safety plans varies considerably, and this can be problematic for ISAG when maintaining consistency of safety standards. This report recommends that the Council continues to support less experienced community event planners, and consideration should be given to event training/workshops and some form of accreditation scheme may be beneficial.

There has been a focus on weather management and incident management planning this year. This is due to extreme rain and windy weather conditions which has affected and interrupted event delivery. Incident Management Plans have been tested, as event organisers have needed to make difficult decision in relation to delays, part and full cancellation of their events. This will continue to be a focus for ISAG when reviewing future event safety plans.

ISAG note that there has been steady progress made against the Improvement Action Plan, including revised timescales for event organisers to submit their event safety plans. Whilst these changes to deadlines have worked well for experienced planners, ISAG note that some less experienced event organisers have struggled and have found it difficult to revise safety plans and documentation in a timely manner. Further information is contained within this report.

Membership for the group has been good this year, and although there has been some movement of individual reps, all key organisations have been represented and group attendance has met requirements.

ISAG - FOCUSED WORK 2023/24

Further to the above and highlighted below are some specific areas of work and support that ISAG have delivered in 2023/24

King's Coronation:

ISAG acknowledges the Council's Street Party application and delivery process as a model of good practice. Whilst formal event safety plans are not submitted for street parties, a report was presented to the group in April 2023, detailing 75 street party across the Borough in residential areas. The report also detailed hot spot areas and traffic management arrangements, including road closures. ISAG representative were able to comment from their own specialised areas of work.

In addition, ISAG reviewed two community led Coronation events and the Council's largescale Big Lunch event in Stockton Town Centre, which attracted over 5,000 visitors.

Festival of Thrift (FOT):

Festival of Thrift is a new largescale festival in Stockton's 2023/24 events programme with high visitor numbers, including new visitors to the area. ISAG acknowledges the Council's approach in setting up a technical support group, to assist with the migration of the festival to John Whitehead Park, Billingham. Several ISAG members were part of this group and provided practical support and advice, from their individual specialist areas including expected safe standard of operation. A preliminary ISAG meeting was held with FOT event production team prior to event safety plans being submitted. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss some of the key safety challenges associated with the event including traffic management, car parking and crowd movement.

Unfortunately, despite this forward planning approach, initial safety plans were not detailed enough and ISAG highlighted several of areas where safety processes needed to be improved. This included inspection and food hygiene processes/documentation, use and management of temporary demountable structures and incident management processes. The latter of these safety arrangements were in fact tested, as forecasted high winds meant that weather and incident management plans were activated, resulting in the second day of the event being cancelled.

It is important to highlight that the working relationships between ISAG and the Festival's sub-contracted event production team was challenging. The event production team felt the scrutiny of the group was excessive and they demonstrated a reluctance to engage with the ISAG process, including providing additional information requests. Although changes were made to event safety plans which enabled ISAG to provide a level of assurance, updates and information were still being provided 3 days before the event. ISAG have highlighted this as high risk and asked for early meeting in 2024 with the team.

Yarm Fair:

ISAG continues to prioritise Yarm Fair as a key piece of work due the significant challenges in terms of space, infrastructure, crowds, traffic management as well as the impact on residents and businesses.

ISAG acknowledge the efforts and improvements made by the Showman's Guild particularly regarding traffic management and site location and management. Improvement have also been made with Incident Management Plans, which were tested this year as the event organisers cancelled their second day of trading due to heavy rain and high river levels. This was managed effectively and in full consultation with the Borough Council.

ISAG note that ongoing work is required to event safety plans and documentation and the group remains committed to work with the event organiser and the Council in this regard.

Remembrance Events:

ISAG continues to support ‘Remembrance Day’ events across the Borough and note the joined-up approach by the Police and Council teams, including Events, Enforcement and Highways. These events are very well attended, with audience numbers growing each year. ISAG noted and highlighted the continued financial support and resources provided by the Council to help run these events at a local and Borough level.

Environmental Health:

ISAG acknowledges and thanks the Council’s Environmental Health Service for its continued support over the past 3 year in relation to inspections for hot food traders. There has been good progress made in food hygiene inspection rates and, in most cases, traders are now within acceptable inspection timelines and are compliant.

This report highlights a few exceptions to this including SIRF artists and crew catering, which dropped below the acceptable food hygiene standard; and Festival of Thrift and Yarm Fair, where some traders had not received an inspection within the last 3 years. The Council’s Environmental Health Service has provided expert advice and support in these circumstances, enabling traders to make critical amendments to their food safety management systems which in turn has enabled reinspection’s by their home authority to be undertaken.

ISAG acknowledge that Stockton Borough Council continues to run a series of Food Safety training courses which are accessible for community event organisers and traders and ISAG will continue to highlight this training at scheduled review meetings. ISAG has recommend that the Council’s website and event information contains clear information in relation to inspection dates and minimum Food Hygiene Rating Scores.

EVENTS REVIEWED BY ISAG 2023/24

The number of event safety plans reviewed in 2023/24 was 29 and the table below shows the ratio between Council run and other event organisers.

There has been a 32% reduction (14 number) in the overall number of event management plans submitted this year and ISAG have noted the following movement: the Council’s Cycling Festival, Fireworks and Supercar Saturday events are temporarily paused due to the redevelopment of Stockton riverside and its Specialist Market programme came to an end in 2022 and has subsequently been removed from the ISAG meeting schedule. In addition, 6 community led events in Norton were scheduled in 2023/24, however events plans were not submitted, and these events did not happen. The Big Paddle Water Festival which operated in 2022 was also not repeated in 2023. There has also been a reduction in the number of community events celebrating the King’s Coronation, compared to numbers in the previous year, celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee.

Event	Ratio of Event Safety Plans for Review													
	2016	%	2017	%	2018	%	2019	%	*2020	*2021	2022	%	2023	%
SBC	22	44	26	48	27	48	19	37	n/a	10	18	42	8	28
Other	28	56	28	51	29	51	32	63	n/a	16	25	58	21	72
Total	50		54		56		51		n/a	26	43		29	

*2020 and 2021 – event programme was impacted by Covid

Of the 29 event safety plans ISAG assured in 2023, the Council's Carers event was cancelled due to capacity issues and its Halloween Spooky walk was cancelled due to heavy rainfall and high river levels. The unpredictable and severe weather conditions was a constant theme across the year, and ISAG have noted that event organisers for SIRF, Festival of Thrift, Yarm Fair, BIFF and Eid had to activate their weather and incident management plans. Many of these events were re-programmed, delayed and cancelled.

The frequency and impact of severe weather conditions is a consideration for ISAG and as such weather and incident management plans will be a focussed area of work in 2024/25.

MEETINGS

ISAG met on 10 separate occasions during 2023/24, between April and November. These meetings were all held on Microsoft Teams and ran to time. Event organisers are given the opportunity to attend meetings and present their plans and 26 events organisers attended and discussed their plans.

Preliminary meetings were held with 3 event organisers who deliver largescale events, these included SIRF, Festival of Thrift and Yarm Fair. These early meetings allow early discussions about proposed event content and intended safe systems of working, ahead of event management plans being submitted for formal review. In addition, ISAG continue to have a dedicated ISAG meeting for Yarm Fair, which remains challenging in terms of its location and safety planning, particularly regarding traffic management plans.

MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE & TRAINING

ISAG's operating model consists of an Independent Chairman and Vice Chairman, and this has worked well in 2023/24. All scheduled meetings have been delivered and lead by the named Chair/Vice Chair, and meetings have been well attended by core and non-core members of the group. ISAG have not progressed with the recruitment of a water safety expert/representative, which remains a priority for the group. This action will be rolled over to 2024.

There have been changes to ISAG membership this year, including new representatives from Cleveland Fire and Rescue.

Core Members

Carl Marshall	– Independent, Chairman
Russell Smith	- Independent, Chairman (Vice)
Tara Connor/James Burrell	– SBC, Secretariat
Kayleigh Dawson	- SBC, Administration
Simon Milner	– SBC, Highways & Network Safety Representative
Dawn McQuillan	– SBC, Building Representative
Stephen Donaghy	– SBC, Environmental Health
Polly Edwards	– SBC, Licensing
Insp Jon Willoughby/Matt Reeves	– Cleveland Police
Richard Brown	– Cleveland Fire Brigade
Tracy Scott	– NEAS

Non-Core Members

Tim Shurmer	– Emergency Planning Unit
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ISAG attendance has been satisfactory in 2023/24 and the group has managed to be quorate at each meeting. ISAG acknowledges the workload pressures of individual members who deliver their ISAG role on top of their own jobs.

EVENT APPLICATIONS, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Deadlines:

Of the 29 event safety plans that were submitted for review, 20 plans were received within agreed timescales, which is 69%. This is a 23% improvement from 2022/23.

ISAG note that the new extended deadlines for event safety plans appears to have worked well for experienced planners, who are able to respond very quickly to ISAG comments and requests for further information. This was not the case however for some less experienced event organisers, who have found it difficult to revise safety plans and documentation in a timely manner. This year there were 9 (31%) event safety plans that were still being reviewed/updated within 5 days of the event date and final assurance was not confirmed until the week of an event. This is high risk and puts pressure on ISAG to reassess information within very short timescales. Where late changes cannot be assessed in time, the Council would need to make the decision whether they allow an event to take place without the cover of the ISAG.

ISAG recognises it is difficult to balance to schedule enough time for plans to be developed enough to be assessed, against allowing enough time for changes to be made and reassessed for ISAG review. The group has recommended that the Council does further work in this regard and revisit submission dates.

Quality of Event Safety Plans

As mentioned earlier in this report, there remains a disparity in the quality of event safety plans submitted for review and this has been an ongoing issue for several years.

ISAG note that where some event planners are improving and refining their safety plans and systems of working, others are not. This was specifically highlighted in ISAGs 2022/23 report,

'there are some event organisers who are not referring to previous comments and advice in relation to their event safety planning. This is problematic as ISAG are highlighting and repeating the same issues each year. This may suggest that event organisers are not understanding the importance of safety issues raised and are simply adjusting their plans.'

This is a key area of work highlighted by ISAG, and the group recommends that the Council considers a more robust approach to working with these event organisers, providing clear parameters of safety requirements to access to Council land for event delivery. ISAG Chair is willing to support this process and provide time to work with these planners.

Knowledge Hub:

The Knowledge Hub online resource is used to share information between members and continues to work well. It is particularly useful for large scale events which have high volumes of documentation. Membership to the group is by invite only and is restricted to core members and non-core members.

Incident Management and Counter-Terrorism Awareness/Measures

ISAG continues to request evidence of incident planning arrangements, CT awareness training and threat risk assessment processes from event organisers in relation to their event planning/safety systems. Incident planning continues to be challenging for the smaller to mid-size community events organisers and additional support from ISAG is required. As referenced earlier in the report, robust incident management systems are also becoming more important in relation to climate conditions and the impact and management of decision-making in this regard.

ISAG notes that the threat level during 2023/24 remained constant at 'substantial'. Counter Terrorism/Risk continues to be a standard agenda item for ISAG.

Support to External Event Organisers

ISAG notes the continued practical and financial support given to external event organisers from the Council's Events, Enforcement, Highways, Building Control, Environment, Media and Comms Teams. In addition, support and guidance from external agencies, including the Police, Cleveland Fire Services, NEAS and the Emergency Planning Unit is acknowledged and vital in terms of effective planning and safe delivery of outdoor events.

Organisations supported include:

- Billingham Carnival Committee and BTC
- Billingham International Folklore Festival
- Billingham Town Council
- CPAD IB Fund
- Festival of Thrift
- Friends of Ropner Park
- Ingleby Barwick Community Partnership
- Showmen's Guild
- Tees Rowing Club
- Thornaby Cricket Club
- Thornaby Town Council
- Yarm District Lions
- Yarm Town Council

COMPLAINTS/COMMENTS

ISAG were made aware of 5 complaints in 2023/24.

1 in relation to the lack of sound on the Coronation broadcast at the Kings Coronation Event, another from a resident who wasn't informed of street party in their street for the Kings Coronation, 1 regarding parking restrictions on Yarm High Street during Yarm Fair and a further two resident complaints about parking restrictions for Halloween Spooky Walk.

IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2022/23 & 2023/24

There has been steady progress against the 2022/23 Improvement Plan, with a few actions due to be completed by the end of this financial year/event season. Outstanding actions highlighted below will be rolled over to 2023/24.

IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS	DATE	COMMENTS
Review dates for event safety plans to be submitted, ensuring enough time for ISAG comments/updates to be completed.	January 23	Completed
Consider introducing a final cut off dates for ISAG assessment.	April 23	Completed
Continue to review Group Membership, including a water safety expert/representative.	April 23	Deferred to 2024
Continue to work with Showmens Guild to improve safety arrangements, including Incident management Processes and safety officer role	Sept 23	Completed
'Prevent' Training – Counter Terrorism Legislation	March 23	Deferred to 2024/25 – see workshop
Work with event organisers to develop event safety plans for Remembrance Sunday Events	Sept 23	completed
Review dates for event safety plans to be submitted, ensuring enough time for ISAG comments/updates to be completed.	January 24	Completed
Research other Safety Advisory Groups, with a view to strengthening working practices and building networks	March 24	Deferred to 2024/25
Develop a series of event workshop sessions for External Event Organisers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Hygiene • Event Management/Safety Plans • Risk • Incident Management • Prevent Training – Counter Terrorism Legislation 	March 24	On-going in to 2024/25
Update Council Website and Event Information for Food Hygiene Inspection/Compliance and minimum Food Hygiene Rating Scores	April 2024	
Explore possible links with Canals and River Trust with regards to any events taking place on the River	March 24	On-going
Explore an accreditation process for event safety planning.	March 25	
Work with highlighted Event Organisers, where safety plans are not robust	March 25	

2024/25 ISAG MEETING DATES

Tuesday 26 March

Tuesday 23 April

Tuesday 14 May

Tuesday 11 June

Tuesday 16 July

Tuesday 20 August

Tuesday 10 September

Tuesday 1 October

Tuesday 22 October

Event Organisers will be contacted in February 2024, informing them of their allocated ISAG date and deadlines for submitting event applications. Organisers are reminded of the purpose/role of ISAG and given further information about the type of information that the group expect to receive.

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CABINET REPORT

Children & Young People
Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Lisa Evans

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2022 – 2023 FOR VULNERABLE PUPILS



AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO CABINET
15 FEBRUARY 2024
REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

Children & Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Lisa Evans

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2022 – 2023 FOR VULNERABLE PUPILS

REASONS FOR PRODUCING THIS REPORT

The annual report on standards for vulnerable groups across the borough enables Cabinet to monitor standards and achievement and to evaluate the impact of local authority monitoring, challenge, intervention, and support.

SUMMARY

This report presents a summary analysis of vulnerable pupil performance in the academic year 2022 – 2023 for all key stages and all providers in the Borough. It is informed by the latest available data, some of which remains unvalidated and compared to national averages where they exist. It includes performance outcomes for:

1. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding;
2. Performance by gender;
3. Black and Minority Ethnic children;
4. Children and Young People in Our Care ;
5. Children with Special Needs;
6. Attendance and exclusion figures for Stockton.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The annual report on standards for vulnerable groups across the borough enables Cabinet to monitor standards and achievement and to evaluate the impact of local authority monitoring, challenge, intervention, and support.

Recommendations

- Cabinet to note and comment as appropriate on standards and achievement across the Borough for vulnerable groups of children.
- Cabinet to note the strong overall performance of Stockton schools at both primary and secondary phases.
- Cabinet to work undertaken to further reduce educational attainment gap.

DETAIL

1. In Stockton in 2023:

- a. 9,196 of Stockton's 29,268 pupils, who are considered for Pupil Premium, are classified as disadvantaged, this is 31.4% of the cohort. **This is 4.7% higher than the national average of 26.7% (Bibliography - 1).**
- b. 26.8% of pupils in primary schools are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). **This is 2.8% higher than the national average of 24% (2).**
- c. 26.5% of pupils in secondary schools are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). **This is 3.8% higher than the national average of 22.7% (2).**
- d. 1.37% pupils are identified as Children in Our Care (CIOC). **This is 0.66% higher than the national average of 0.71%.**
- e. 4,028 of Stockton's 32,300 pupils are classified as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support provision, this is 12.5% of the cohort. **This is 0.5% lower than the national average of 13% (1).**
- f. 1,399 of Stockton's 32,300 pupils are classified as having SEN Education Health and Care Plan provision (EHCP), this is 4.3% of the cohort. **This is 0.1% higher than the national average of 4.2% (1).**
- g. 7.5% of pupils in primary schools have a first language other than English. **This is 14.5% lower than the national average of 22% (1).**
- h. 7.0% of pupils in secondary schools have a first language other than English. **This is 11.1% lower than the national average of 22% (1).**
- i. **12% of pupils in North East are identified as long-term disadvantaged(3).** The highest percentage is in London (15%). Long-term disadvantage varies considerably across the country.
- j. Disadvantaged pupils tend to do worse than their better-off peers.
- k. Those who are disadvantaged for the longest time do worst of all.
- l. 2020/21 data (4) evidences **37.3% of children in Stockton are living in poverty**, compared to 27% in the UK. This is an increase of 11.8% points since 2014/15, compared to a UK decrease of 2% points for the same period.

DISADVANTAGED PUPILS

2. Disadvantaged Pupils in this report are defined as those in receipt of Free School Meals for the last 6 years, subject to Pupil Premium funding.

3. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. 2023 Stockton DS (Glossary Appendix 1) pupil attainment has improved compared to Stockton 2022 in Early Years, KS1 and KS2 Writing
 - b. The attainment of DS pupils in Stockton is higher than the national average for DS pupils in 7 of the 13 benchmarks across primary and secondary phases.
 - c. The Stockton 2023 DS/ National NDS gap is closing most in Early Years, compared to 2022.
 - d. All Stockton 2023 NDS primary attainment outcomes are above national average
 - e. Secondary KS4 DS (4+EM) and DS Early Years Good Level of Development ranked second against North East regional benchmarks.
 - f. Both NDS KS1 Reading and Maths at the Expected level or above ranked first against North East Regional benchmarks.
4. All the following approaches have supported these improvements:
 - a. A relentless focus on closing the educational attainment gap in all our networks including:
 - Headteacher networks
 - English Leader Networks
 - Maths Leader Network
 - Closing the Gap Clusters
 - Equalities Networks
 - Early Years Networks
 - Library Service.
 - Network CPD is fine-tuned to include evidence -based strategies, interventions and resources which impact positively.
 - b. Robust challenge and support to strengthen the impact on pupil outcomes via school adviser Monitoring and Evaluation Reviews and Local Development Partner visits.
 - c. Bespoke design of training programmes to support schools in reducing barriers to achievement, including Improving Educational Outcomes 5-7 programme.
 - d. Comprehensive identification of challenges which impact pupils' educational achievement for all schools across Stockton, then matching training to this need.

5. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

- a. The Stockton 2023 DS/ NDS gap is widening compared to Stockton 2022 DS/NDS gap in most areas across primary and secondary phases.
- b. Only about 4 in 10 DS pupils at the end of KS1 have developed the reading, writing and maths knowledge and skills they need for KS2.
- c. DS KS1 attainment and KS2 progress and attainment in Reading, is a high priority.
- d. These schools largely serve more complex communities with higher percentages of pupils who are disadvantaged, SEN, English as an Additional Language or have public health and/ or social care involvement (Early Help, Child in Need, Child Protection). Many pupils thus have multiple vulnerabilities. Teacher recruitment/ retention and highly mobile pupil populations are also a challenge in these schools.

GENDER

6. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. The attainment of boys in Stockton improved in 2023 compared to 2022, particularly in KS1 reading and KS2 writing.
- b. The attainment of boys in Stockton improved in 8 of the 13 benchmarks across all key phases compared to 2022.
- c. The boy/ girl gap within Stockton is closing compared to Stockton 2022 in almost all KS2 and KS4 measures.
- d. The outcomes of boys in Stockton compares favourably against national measures in Early Years, KS1 and KS2 and KS4 attainment.
- e. The outcomes of girls in Stockton compares favourably against national measures in Early Years, KS1 and KS2 (other than in Reading) at the Expected Level and KS4 attainment.
- f. The Stockton boy/ girl gap is narrower compared to the national boy/ girl gap in KS2 attainment at the Expected level, KS1-2 progress Reading and Maths and both KS4 (4+EM) and KS4 Progress 8 measures.
- g. Boys KS2 Writing at the Expected Level and above ranked first against North East regional benchmarks.
- h. Boys KS4 attainment ranked first against North East regional benchmarks
- i. Girls' attainment in Early Years and KS1 Reading and Maths at the Expected Level and above ranked first against North East regional benchmarks.

7. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT - CHALLENGES

- a. Girls reading is an area of focus in KS2. In 2023, about 1 in 4 girls at the end of KS2 had not developed the reading knowledge and skills they need for the next stage in their education.
- b. Girls KS2 Reading attainment at the Expected Level ranked eleventh against North East regional benchmarks. This is not typical in Stockton.
- c. Stockton girls KS1-2 progress is lower than national in Reading, Writing and Maths.

BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC CHILDREN (BME)

8. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. Significant improvements for BME pupils in Early Years compared to the previous year; the BME/ WBRI gap is also closing.
- b. Both BME and WBRI groups of pupils made strong improvements in KS1 Reading compared to 2022.
- c. The 2023 BME/ WBRI gap is closing within Stockton compared to Stockton 2022 in Early Years and most KS2 measures.
- d. The Stockton 2023 BME outcomes are higher than 2023 National BME against all the benchmarks identified, other than KS1-2 progress Reading. The most positive comparison is KS4 Grade (4+EM) (+8.2%).
- e. The Stockton 2023 WBRI is higher than 2023 National WBRI against all the benchmarks identified below, other than KS1-2 progress Reading and KS4 P8(-0.11).
- f. Stockton's BME/ WBRI gap is narrower than the BME/ WBRI national gap for 5 of the 13 identified measures.

- g. Stockton BME outcomes rank first of the twelve North East local authorities for KS2 CRWM at the Expected level or above and KS4 Grade (4+EM).
- h. Stockton WBRI outcomes ranked first of the twelve North East local authorities in KS1 Maths at the Expected Level and above.

9. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

BME KS1-2 Reading progress is an area of focus

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR CARE

10. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. Children in Care in Stockton achieving a good level of development (GLD) at the end of reception is above the national figure for Children in Care (CiC) nationally
- b. All outcomes at Key Stage 1 are in line with or above the national figure for CiC nationally
- c. All outcomes at Key Stage 2 are well above the national figure for CiC nationally
- d. At Key Stage 4, the percentage of CIOC achieving Level 5-9 in English and Maths is above the percentage for CiC nationally. The progress 8 measure is the same for Stockton CiC and CiC nationally
- e. The data for CiC achieving Level 4-9 in English and Maths has not yet been published.
- f. At Key stage 4 (Level 5-9 in English and Maths) the gap between CIOC and all pupils nationally is variable due to the changing assessment criteria following the COVID pandemic. However, the gap in 2019 was 36.1%, the gap has narrowed this year to 30.7%.

11. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

- a. Outcomes at GLD. Schools are reluctant to predict that children will achieve GLD at an early stage and are extremely cautious. This makes it difficult to ensure that the appropriate interventions are in place
- b. This year, progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 was slightly below what we would expect however outcomes are excellent
- c. Attendance is still below pre-pandemic levels
- d. We are seeing more children struggling with the demands of school, experiencing social, emotional, and mental health difficulties.
- e. There has been a lack of educational psychologist support and we have struggled to acquire support for supply agencies

Virtual School Extended Duties for Children with a Social Worker (CWSW) Data available for Children in Need (CIN) and children on child protection plans (CP)

12. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. Attainment and progress for CWSWs within the primary phase is typically stronger than for CWSWs nationally.
- b. CP did slightly better than CIN last year by the end of KS2 – is this due to the additional focus given by the CP process? If so, it mirrors the improved performance of CIOC last year (who performed almost as well as Stockton All pupils by the end of KS2) and suggests that an increased oversight pays dividends.

- c. Although not shown by the academic data, it is worth noting that the CWSW cohort is now much more visible due to the Vulnerable Childrens Database (VCD) and the opportunities taken this year to raise their profile. Social Care are showing a growing interest in learning more about education so that they may support CWSW better. Over the last year, we have identified and developed more opportunities for education and social care to work together, e.g., through development of CP and CIN plans.
- d. Recent work with education and social care colleagues shows that there is a clear appetite across both sectors for improving the way they work together.

13. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

- a. CWSW still do significantly worse academically than non-CWSW (and were also significantly behind CIOC by the end of KS2).
- b. Attendance is a big issue (around 6% lower for CIN and CP than the figure for All pupils at primary; around 18% lower for CIN at secondary; around 26% lower for CP at secondary).
- c. Exclusions (both fixed term and permanent) are a big challenge. CWSW make up a disproportionate number of those suspended or permanently excluded.
- d. There appears to be a clear divide between the performance of CWSW in the primary and secondary phases. Identifying the possible reasons behind this would be complex (not least because not all factors will be school-related) but it is a challenge we should be considering.

CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- 14. **Overall:** In Stockton-on-Tees 16.8% of pupils have a statutory plan of SEN (EHC plan) or are receiving SEN support (previously school action and school action plus). This compares to an average of 17.3% across All English authorities. This represents a further increase year on year since 2018/19.
- 15. **EHCPs:** Across All English authorities, the proportion of pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans ranges from 1.8% to 6.6%. Stockton-on-Tees has a value of 4.3%, compared to an average of 4.4% in All English authorities. This represents a further increase year on year since 2018/19.
- 16. **SEN Support:** For SEN support the proportion for All English authorities ranges from 5.3% to 21.8%. Stockton-on-Tees has a value of 12.5%, compared to an average of 13.0% in All English authorities. This represents a further increase year on year since 2018/19.
- 17. **CIOC:** In Stockton-on-Tees, 25.2% of looked after children are on SEN support, compared to 26.3% in All English authorities. 27.0% of looked after children in Stockton-on-Tees have an EHC Plan, compared to 31.5% in All English authorities.
- 18. **CIN:** In All English authorities, 21.1% of Children in Need are on SEN support and 27.3% an EHC plan. In Stockton-on-Tees, 20.5% of children in need are on SEN support and 21.8% of children in need have an EHC plan.

19. **Primary Need:** In Stockton-on-Tees the most frequent primary need in **primary schools** is Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) with 33.6% of SEN pupils having this as their primary need. The second most frequent need in primary schools is Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) with 14.3% of SEN pupils having this recorded as their primary need.
20. This differs in **secondary schools** with 19.6% of SEN Students having Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) as the most frequent primary need, followed closely by SEMH with 18.9% of SEN Students having this as their primary need. In **specialist provisions** in Stockton-on-Tees this differs again with 20% of students there having MLD as their primary need followed by 19.6% with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
21. **Placement:** The majority of children with an EHCP are placed in Specialist provision (32.9%) meaning that this proportion of children will not have access to a full curriculum, therefore nor will they complete assessments in the same way that their contemporaries do. This compares with 21.9% of children with an EHCP who attend a mainstream school.
22. **Statutory Deadlines:** In Stockton-on-Tees, 95.2% were issued within 20 weeks, excluding exceptional cases where LAs are allowed to exceed the 20-week time limit, compared to the All English authorities average of 55.2%. Including exceptions, 77.9% were issued within 20 weeks, compared to the All English authorities average of 52.6%. **This has placed Stockton-on-Tees in the top five councils nationally for meeting its statutory deadlines.**
23. **EHCPs - WHAT HAS WORKED WELL**
 - a. KS1 maths has increased and is now in line with national figures
 - b. KS2 Reading has increased and in line with national figures
 - c. KS2 maths has again increased and is above national figures
 - d. KS2 CRWM has increased and is in line with national figures
 - e. KS1-2 Progress in Reading has increased and is in line with national figures
 - f. KS1-2 Progress in Writing has remained the same but also remains above national figures
 - g. KS1-2 Progress in Maths has increased slightly but has remained above national figures
 - h. KS4 Grade 4+ (E+M) has increased and is above national figures
 - i. KS4 Progress 8 has increased and is now only slightly below national figures
24. All the following approaches have supported these improvements:
 - a. Caseworkers are allocated specific schools now, which means that they know their caseloads better than ever before and thus can provide greater support and challenge. Schools have been very appreciative of this change, and we will continue to build on this success. The additional gain here is that we are becoming aware sooner of children who are bubbling up the system and can put support in place faster. We have worked on developing caseworker 'ownership' of their own caseload over the year, which also links in with the new Local Area SEND Ofsted Framework, where they will meet with inspectors to discuss individual cases and face questions back from them. This work is ongoing.
 - b. This last year we have had a concerted effort to turn around Reviews in a much timelier fashion (praised by DfE who said they did not know of another LA in such a favourable position).
 - c. Greater focus on outcomes within EHCPs at each Review.

- d. We now track outcomes from EHCPs, and this informs subsequent input and involvement around reviews.

25. EHCPs - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

- a. GLD remains consistent but below national levels
- b. KS1 Reading has fallen in line with national figures
- c. KS1 Writing remains in line with national figures
- d. KS 2 Writing remains static and slightly below national figures

26. SEN Support – WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. KS1 Reading has increased and now matches national figures
- b. KS1 Writing remains same and is in line with national figures
- c. KS1 maths has increased but is still behind national figures
- d. KS2 Reading, Writing and maths have all increased and are all above national figures
- e. KS2 CRWM is significantly above national figures
- f. KS1-2 Progress in Reading, Writing and maths have improved slightly and are in line with national figures
- g. KS4 Grade 4+ (E&M) has increased year on year and is above national figures

27. SEN Support - AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

GLD has fallen slightly and the gap with national figures has increased also.

CHILDREN FROM SERVICE FAMILIES

- 28. From the DfE's Pupil Premium data based on spring 2023 schools census the total number of children from service families in Stockton was 396 pupils; 200 were registered in primary schools, 188 in secondary schools and 8 in a special school.
- 29. The number of children from service families in each primary school, including special schools, eligible for this Pupil Premium funding ranged from 0 to 17 pupils and 0 to 29 pupils for secondary schools.
- 30. According to the 2023 spring census there are 46 primary schools, 13 secondary schools and 4 special schools which have children from service families on their roll.
- 31. As cohorts in each school are very small, analysis of academic achievement and pupil need is carried out on a school-by-school basis.

32. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. We have regularly attended the Ministry of Education Local Authority Partnership (MODLAP) which includes senior leadership membership from local authorities across the United Kingdom.
- b. Through this partnership a wide range of effective practice and useful resources have been signposted, then shared via our networks with school leaders and governors including:
 - o Armed Forces Covenant Duty Toolkit
 - o Thriving Lives Toolkit
 - o Family Federations links for the Army, Navy, and RAF

- CPD offers
 - Children of Service Personnel information and guidance from Oxford Local Authority
- c. In addition, we have supported MODLAP in capturing Service Children voice via promotion of the national Voice of Schools Survey across the borough.
- d. Where appropriate, school advisers challenge and support schools' leaders on the targeted support and intervention of this cohort.

33. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

34. As Children of Service Personnel cohorts are so small, securing statistically viable data is a challenge.
35. Although Closing the Gap Clusters and, when appropriate, Personal Development Networks share a variety of toolkits, resources, information and guidance, these events are not necessarily attended by the schools with higher cohorts of Children of Service Personnel on their roll.

PERMANENT EXCLUSIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

36. Context

37. The top three reasons for permanent exclusion during the academic year 2022/23 was persistent disruptive behaviour or physical abuse against adults or peers. Persistent disruptive behaviour was the biggest reason for permanent exclusion in secondary aged pupils. Physical assaults against adults was the most common reason for permanent exclusion in primary aged pupils.
38. We have continued to see permanent exclusions for a 'one off incident' where a child has breached a school's behaviour policy. Any such instances are always looked at carefully by the Local Authority and we continue to work with schools to consider alternative methods to permanent exclusion.

39. WHAT HAS WORKED WELL

- a. We have continued to have no permanent exclusions from our special schools this year.
- b. Several permanent exclusions were avoided through the vulnerable learners and placement & governance teams collaborating with schools to support, or by offering rigorous challenge at pupil disciplinary meetings for permanent exclusions.

40. AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT – CHALLENGES

41. Exclusions

- a. During the academic year 2022/23, Stockton received 126 permanent exclusions. 15 of these were for primary aged pupils and 111 were for secondary aged pupils.
- b. Unfortunately, this year, we have continued to see permanent exclusions of primary aged children. We continue to use our Pathway Development Centre (PDC) Model to support children in KS1 & KS2 who have been permanently excluded or who are at risk of permanent exclusion and require a short-term placement within PDCs.
- c. In Stockton boys were more likely to be excluded than girls. However, we have seen a rise in the number of girls permanently excluded and at the end of the year the number of girls who were permanently excluded had risen by 50%.

- d. Stockton 2023 permanent exclusions during the academic year 2022-2023 are greater than Stockton permanent exclusions recorded during the academic year 2021-2022*.
- e. There has been an increase in exclusions both regionally and nationally, particularly in Key Stage 3. In Stockton last academic year pupils in year seven and pupils in year ten had the highest number of permanent exclusions.

42. **Suspensions**

- a. We have continued to see an increase in the use of suspensions within the borough since we had a full return to school at the beginning of the Autumn 2021 term.
- b. Stockton suspensions during the academic year 2022-2023 are greater than Stockton suspensions recorded during the academic year 2021-2022*.
- c. The number of days lost to learning is high and can equate to weeks, months and academic years of education lost when looking at the total.
- d. By the end of the summer term 2023 the days lost to learning in our secondary schools equate to over fifty-four academic years of learning.
- e. By the end of summer term 2023 the days lost to learning in our primary schools equate to over one and a half years of academic years of learning.

ATTENDANCE

- 43. The latest DfE published data is for autumn term 2022 and spring term 2023 combined. The information details the data for overall absence, persistent absence (more than 10% absence) and the newest category of absence known as severe absence. Severe absence is pupils who have 50% absence or more.

44. **WHAT HAS WORKED WELL**

45. Primary School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. Overall absence in primary schools is 5.6% and is 0.4% better than the national average of 6% absence. In comparison to local statistical data Stockton is performing better than both the regional average of 5.8% and national 6%.
- b. Persistent absence is 16% and is better than the national average of 17.3% and the regional average of 17.1%. Stockton has the lowest rate of persistent absence in the Tees Valley.
- c. Severe absence is 0.7% and is the same as the national average.

46. Secondary School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. Overall absence in Stockton secondary schools is 9.7% ; this is better than the Tees Valley average of 10.2%
- b. Persistent absence in Stockton is 28.8%; this is better than the Tees Valley average of 29.3%.
- c. Severe absence in Stockton (3.8%) which is lower than the Tees Valley combined with 4.65% of pupils who are severe absentees.

47. Special School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. Stockton special schools' overall absence is 13.1% and is marginally better than the national average of 13.2%,

- b. Persistent absence in Stockton special schools is 33.8% and is better than the national average of 39.1%. Stockton special schools perform more favourably than the regional and Tees Valley averages of 35.8% and 34.3% respectively.

48. Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

Stockton has one PRU, overall absence is 40.7% which is the same as the national average 40.7% and better than the regional average of 42.9%.

49. **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT - CHALLENGES**

50. Primary School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. Severe absence is 0.7%, which is higher than the regional and Tees Valley rate of 0.5%.
- b. Stockton has higher levels of severe absentees than local authorities locally and regionally combined. One hundred and twelve primary school age pupils in Stockton are severely absent having more than 50% of absence from school.

51. Secondary School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. Overall absence in Stockton secondary schools is 9.7% and is lower than the national average of 8.7% and the regional average of 9.4%.
- b. Stockton Persistent absence of 28.8% is less favourable than both the national average of 25.2% and the regional average of 27.5%.
- c. Severe absence is 3.8% and is worse than both the national and regional levels of 3.1% and 3.6% respectively.
- d. The actual number of pupils in Stockton who fall into the severe absence category is four hundred and seventy-three secondary age pupils who have high levels of absence and missed more than half of their schooling.

52. Special School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. Stockton special schools' overall absence is less favourable than the regional average of 12.8% and the Tees Valley average of 12.2%.
- b. Severe absence is 7.6% and is worse than the national, regional and Tees Valley rates of 6.1%, 6.3% and 5.9% respectively. The number of pupils in Stockton who have missed more than half of their schooling is forty-seven.

53. Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) School Attendance: autumn and spring terms 2022-23

- a. The Tees Valley combined PRU attendance average is 37.1%.
- b. Persistent absence is 96.5% and is significantly worse than the national, regional and Tees Valley averages of 81.2%, 84.4% and 84.4% respectively.
- c. Severe absence is 47.1% and is worse than the regional and Tees Valley averages of 40%, and 35.7% respectively. The number of pupils who missed more than half of their schooling in Stockton was forty-one. National data was not available.

54. WHAT WE ARE DOING TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES

55. Universal

- a. More granular school level analysis of data indicates that schools serving a higher proportion of disadvantaged pupils have tended to secure lower overall outcomes.
- b. The current Children's Services Transformation has strong potential to strengthen the targeted multi-agency support, particularly between Education, Social Care and SEN so services are more coherent and effective.
- c. A scrutiny with a focus of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment has been scoped; the scrutiny involves a robust Appreciative Inquiry. The overall aim of the project is to work collaboratively with schools and partners to explore what good practice already exists and what could still be done to support of families, establish innovative ways of working and make better use of resources through a renewed approach.
- d. There are several schools serving a higher proportion of disadvantaged pupils where outcomes have been more successful; these schools have been engaged to share their effective practice.
- e. Continue to identify and make visible vulnerable group cohorts.
- f. Continue to promote the need to plan strategically to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.
- g. Effective practice from a range of services is shared more widely via Networks and Briefings including:
 - o Headteacher networks
 - o English Leader Networks
 - o Maths Leader Network
 - o Closing the Gap Clusters
 - o EAL and Equalities Networks
 - o Early Years Networks
 - o Personal Development Networks
 - o SENCO leadership briefings
 - o Governor Briefings
 - o Designated Teacher Termly Network Meetings
 - o Trauma Informed Practice in Stockton (TIPS) Network Meetings
- h. Networks and CPD is fine-tuned to include evidence -based strategies and interventions which impact positively on identified priorities including our Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed offer, Virtual Reality Headset training and Virtual School CPD Offer to schools, foster carers and social workers
- i. Corporate Social Responsibility Networks have been engaged aiming to recruit reading mentors from local businesses for targeted schools.
- j. The full range of challenges for our disadvantaged pupils identified by schools across the borough has been collated, analysed and shared across services.
- k. Stockton's Healthy Schools Programme multi-agency offer and accreditation is offered universally and targeted to those schools experiencing the most challenges.
- l. A comprehensive Attendance Strategy has been co-designed in collaboration with our key partners which aims to address the significant challenges we have regarding attendance. This includes promotion of more effective attendance procedures which address the barriers to attendance (rather than simply stepping through the procedures towards legal action).
- m. A strengthened, better targeted marketing and communication strategy for our training and support has been designed to share opportunities more widely across services and our schools.

56. Targeted Support and Intervention

A summary of the range of support and intervention to address these challenges is below.

a. Bespoke targeted programmes aligned to need

- Improving Educational Outcomes 5-7 with a focus on reading progress and attainment
- Leading Reading (new for 2023-24)
- 'Boost Reading' Intervention to all our CIOC in years 1 and 2 using the school led tutoring grant to fund a teacher to deliver this intervention
- Letterbox programme

b. Targeted support, monitoring and intervention

- Targeted promotion of networks, CPD and support to identified schools.
- Drop-in support for parent/ carers to ensure needs are being met early on before crisis
- Recovery premium is given directly to schools, who are using this funding to deliver individually targeted and group interventions that are monitored through the personal education plan (PEP)
- Attendance data is collected weekly and reviewed by the Virtual School fortnightly to support and challenge where necessary. There is a robust attendance procedure (detailed in the Virtual School Head Teachers Report 2022-23) that is followed and monitored.
- Weekly SENCo drop ins with key members of staff
- Virtual School monitoring cycle to identify CIOC in need of support through the Virtual School Data Dashboard and regular Virtual School meetings
- Thrive assessments
- Sensory Profiling
- GCSE English Tuition

c. Partnerships with/ between schools

- Challenge and support from our Enhanced Mainstream Supports (EMS) to other schools and settings

d. Ongoing bespoke support

- Identified via School Strategy Meetings. For example via school advisers and specialist teachers

57. COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information only; its contents cover the vulnerable group outcomes at the end of each key stage for Stockton's pupils.

58. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the report.

59. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications to the report.

60. RISK ASSESSMENT

Educational attainment is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

61. COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

This report responds to the Policy Principles in the Council Plan:

1. Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention
2. Developing strong and healthy communities
3. Creating economic prosperity.

62. CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

The details of the performance of Looked After Children will be reported to Cabinet in December when the detailed data is available.

63. CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

There has been no consultation as this report is for information only.

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Education related: YES

Background Papers: NO

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: ALL

Property: NONE

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY

AATI:	Attachment Aware and Trauma Informed
BME:	Black and Minority Ethnic pupils
CIN:	Children in Need
CIC:	Children in Care generally
CIOC:	Children in Our Care i.e. specifically Stockton Children in Care
CPD:	Curriculum Professional Development (staff training)
CWSW:	Children With a Social Worker
DCO:	Designated Clinical Officer
DSCO:	Designated Social Care Officer
DS:	Disadvantaged pupils
DS/ NDS gap:	The difference in outcomes between disadvantaged pupils and those who are non-disadvantaged.
EAL:	English as an Additional Language
EHCP:	Education Health and Care Plan
FSM:	Free School Meals
FTE:	Fixed Term Exclusions/ Suspensions
GLD:	Good Level of Development
HMI:	Her Majesty's Inspector for Ofsted
KS:	Key Stage
	1. KS 1 and 2 – primary phase
	2. KS 3, 4 and 5 – secondary phase
NDS:	Non-disadvantaged pupils
PDC:	Pathway Development Centre
PEX:	Permanent Exclusion
SEN:	Special Educational Needs
VCD:	Vulnerable Children's Database
WBRI:	White British pupils
4+ EM:	GSCE English and Maths at Grade 4 or above

APPENDIX 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(1) NCER 2023

(2) Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) 2023

www.gov.uk/publications

(3) ***The long-term consequences of long-term disadvantage:***

Report to the Northern Powerhouse Partnership

Katie Beynon

Dave Thomson

October 2022

(4) ***New End Child Poverty Coalition Briefing: North East Child Poverty Commission***
July 2022

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 February 2024

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Children and Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Lisa Evans

PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION OF PUPILS TO PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2025

SUMMARY

This report outlines the admission arrangements the Local Authority (LA) is proposing, for entry into both primary (Reception) and secondary (Year 7) schools in September 2025. To comply with legislation for admission in September 2025, the report includes the co-ordinated timetable, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for all Primary and Secondary Schools for that year and the LA's proposed Admission Policy (Oversubscription Policy) for Community maintained and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for entry in September 2025.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

The main legislation (Chapter 1 of Part 3 of SSFA 1998) requires the LA to publish information annually and to be available for parents when they apply for a place at primary and secondary schools. The information must comply with the new School Admissions Code 2021. The LA **must**, as the admission authority determine, i.e., formally agree its admission arrangements, even if it hasn't changed from the previous year and a consultation has not been required. These arrangements therefore must be determined by **28 February 2024** for admission to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to agree:

1. The proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary, Secondary, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, Academies and Free School (points 5-6 and Appendix 1).
2. The proposed PANs for Primary and Secondary schools for September 2025 (points 7-10 and Appendix 2).
3. The proposed Admission Policy for September 2025 (point 11-14 and Appendix 3).

DETAIL

1. The School Admissions Code (The Code) updated 1st Sept 2021 outlines the overall principles behind setting admission arrangements. It states that:

*'In drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities **must** ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear, and objective. Parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated.'* (The Code, page 7 paragraph 14)

2. When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities **must** consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities **must** consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.' (The Code, page 18 paragraph 1.45)

3. In summary:

- We will be rolling forward the current 2024/2025 timetable and dates for the 2025/26 admissions rounds.
- We will be providing an update on the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) of all Stockton schools.
- We are not proposing any amendments to the School Admissions Policy for the 2025/26 main round for admission across Stockton-on-Tees maintained community and voluntary controlled schools. It will therefore continue to read as per the current 2024/25 School Admissions Policy.

4. The LA consulted with a range of key partners and stakeholders including Schools, Governing Bodies, neighbouring authorities, Diocesan representatives, parents/carers, and the public.

CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMETABLE - 2025/26

5. The LA is responsible for administering a co-ordinated scheme for the area in relation to all maintained community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided schools and Academies including Free Schools. The purpose of the co-ordinated admission scheme is to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent of a child living in the LA area who has applied for a school place in the normal admission round receives an offer of one school place on the same day.
6. The LA plans to roll forward the current co-ordinated scheme in operation for 2024/25 admissions round apart from minor date changes. The LA act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the Common Application Forms. The LA will only decide with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the Common Application Form where:
 - it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority; or
 - an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
 - an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

Appendix 1 attached provides further detail of the proposed Co-ordinated Admission arrangements timetable – 2025/26.

PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS (PAN)

7. The current number of Secondary school places available in the borough is **2,586**.
8. The current number of Primary school places in the borough is **2,645**. However due to the continued low birth rate across the borough, we have seen a steady fall in pupils requiring a reception school place. In response, a few schools have already successfully reduced their reception intake numbers in recent years, for entry in September 2025, the LA are not proposing any further PAN reductions from its remaining Community schools.
9. However, the following Trusts and Voluntary Aided bodies are proposing to reduce PANs of the following schools:
 - a. The 1590 Trust propose to reduce the PAN of two of its academies, namely Bewley Primary (in Billingham) from 60 to 45 and Bader Primary (in Thornaby) also from 60 to 45.
 - b. The One Excellence Trust propose to reduce the PAN of one of its academies, namely Pentland Primary (in Billingham) from 45 to 30.
10. In addition, Delta Academies Trust propose to increase the number of places available at Ingleby Manor Free School from 120 to 150.

Appendix 2 provides the proposed PANs for September 2025 in Community, VA, Academies and Free Schools and highlights those schools to be considered for expansion and remodelling.

ADMISSION POLICY FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) Schools in Stockton-On-Tees.

11. We are not proposing any amendments to the current version of the Admissions Policy being applied to 2024/25 admissions for Stockton-on-Tees maintained community and voluntary controlled schools (that applies if the schools are oversubscribed).
12. For information, a few Academy Trusts (Admission Authority) are proposing a range of amendments to their respective admission arrangements. Most are consulting as per the Code requirement to consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years.
13. These proposed amendments will help clarify and clear up some criteria held within their respective admission arrangements. These proposals are available on each Trust's / school's website.

Appendix 3 provides further detail on the proposed LA's Admission Policy for September 2025 for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools only, that will give priority to applications for admission to a school if that school is oversubscribed.

14. The attached documents once agreed (determined) will be available on the Councils website at the following link [Admissions arrangements - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#).

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

15. None.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

16. This report does not contain corporate parenting implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The Council as Local Education Authority has a duty under The Education Act 1944 to ensure a sufficient supply of school places to meet the needs of the children and young people resident in the borough.

RISK ASSESSMENT

19. Determining the LA's School Admissions arrangements for 2025/26 is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

20. Not ward specific. This report does not require any consultation.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

21. None.

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THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED, VOLUNTARY AIDED, ACADEMY & FREE PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

The purpose of this document is to provide information for Elected Members, Governing Bodies, and other Local Authorities, the Diocese, Parish Councils, and parents on the admission arrangements for community / voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, academy and free schools both primary / secondary sectors in Stockton-on-Tees for the school year 2025/26.

The updated School Admissions Code (the Code) was updated in September 2021 and applies to admissions to all maintained schools and Academies. The Code is made under section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ('SSFA 1998'). The Code has been made following consultation under Section 85 (2) of the SSFA 1998 and after being laid before Parliament for forty days. Admission authorities must ensure that their determined admission arrangements for 2025 comply with the mandatory provision of the Code. The admission arrangements for Stockton on Tees, laid out in this report for 2025/26, are compliant.

CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
(Community, Voluntary Aided, Academies and Free
Schools)

Includes:

Applications for Primary Schools
Applications for Secondary Schools
In year transfer requests

2025/26

Introduction

1. The 1998 Act, as amended by the Education Act 2002, has introduced new statutory requirements for every Local Authority (LA) to draw up a scheme covering every maintained school in its area. Stockton-On-Tees LA has drawn up a full co-ordinated admissions scheme for the main rounds for Primary and Secondary applications and 'in year' transfer requests for the academic year 2025/26.

Interpretation

2. In this scheme:

"the LA" means Stockton on Tees Borough Council acting in their capacity as local education authority.

"the LA area" means the area in respect of which the LA is the local education authority.

"the CAF" means Common Application Form.

"primary education" has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Education Act 1996.

"secondary education" has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Education Act 1996.

"primary school" has the same meaning as in section 5(1) of the Education Act 1996.

"secondary school" has the same meaning as in section 5(2) of the Education Act 1996.

"school" means a community, foundation, or voluntary school (but not a special school) which is maintained by the LA.

"VA schools" means those schools which are voluntary-aided church schools.

"Academy" means a publicly funded state school.

"Free School" means a publicly funded state school.

"admission authority" in relation to a community and voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to a VA schools and Academies, means the governing body of that school.

"determination year" means the academic year (i.e., the period from 1 August to the following 31 July) immediately preceding the offer year. This is the academic year in which admission authorities determine their admission arrangements.

"admission arrangements" means the overall procedure, practices, criteria, and supplementary information to be used in deciding on the allocation of school places and refers to any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered.

"in-year admission" means any application for a place in a school in any year of education that is received after 1 September 2023 except in the case of admission into Reception and Y7 in which case these will be treated as the 'normal' round of admissions up to the end of the Autumn term 2023.

"nearest appropriate school" is defined as the school closest to the home address with places, unless your child is a baptised Catholic then a place would be offered at the nearest Roman Catholic School with places.

Compliance with the Code

3. It is the responsibility of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with this Code. Where a school is their own admission authority, this responsibility falls to the governing body or Academy Trust.
4. Section 88P of the SSFA 1998 requires local authorities to make reports to the Schools Adjudicator about such matters connected with relevant school admissions as required by the Code.

5. Objections to the admission arrangements of both maintained schools and Academies can be made to the Schools Adjudicator whose decisions are binding and enforceable.
6. The Secretary of State may refer the admission arrangements of any school to the Schools Adjudicator at any time if the Secretary of State considers that they do not or may not comply with the mandatory requirements of this Code or the law.
7. The Schools Adjudicator may investigate the admission arrangements of any school that the Adjudicator considers do not or may not comply with the mandatory requirements of this Code or the law.
8. Any decision of the Schools Adjudicator will be binding on the admission authority. The admission authority **must**, where necessary, revise their admission arrangements to give effect to the Schools Adjudicator’s decision within two months of the decision (or by **28 February** following the decision, whichever is sooner), unless an alternative timescale is specified by the Adjudicator. An Adjudicator’s determination is binding and enforceable. Where admission authorities fail to implement decisions of the Adjudicator the Secretary of State may direct the admission authority (either the governing body, the local authority, or Academy Trust) to do so under Section 496 or 497 of the Education Act 1996 or the Funding Agreement.
9. The table below sets out the admission authority for each type of school in England.

Type of School	Who is the admission authority?	Who deals with complaints about arrangements?	Who is responsible for arranging / providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at a school?
Academies	Academy Trust	Schools Adjudicator	Academy Trust
Foundation Schools	Governing Body	Schools Adjudicator	Governing Body
Voluntary aided Schools	Governing Body	Schools Adjudicator	Governing Body
Community Schools	Local Authority	Schools Adjudicator	Local Authority
Voluntary Controlled Schools	Local Authority	Schools Adjudicator	Local Authority

Applying for a school place

10. There will be a standard form known as the Common Application Form (CAF) which will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the reception class for primary school and the first year of secondary education in the determination year. In the main rounds for applications for primary and secondary places, an on-line facility will be set up to enable parents to apply for places online. A separate form known as the ‘In-Year Application for a school place or a change of school place’ will be available for any applications made for an “in year transfer” into any year group. There is no on-line facility yet although a form can be requested by contacting the School Admissions team via email school.admissions@stockton.gov.uk or by phoning 01642 526605.
11. The on-line application / CAF and ‘In-Year Application for a school place or a change of school place’ form must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents permanently resident in the LA area who wish to express a preference for their child:
 - (a) To be admitted to a school within the LA area (including VA schools, Academies and Free School).
 - (b) To be admitted to a school located in another LA’s area (including VA schools and Academies).
12. The on-line application / CAF and ‘In-Year Application for a school place or a change of school place’ form will:

- (a) Invite parents to express up to three preferences with Secondary only providing the option to apply for four preferences by completing the form including, where relevant, any schools outside the LA's area, in rank order of preference.
- (b) Invite parents to give their reasons for each preference.

13. The CAF will:

- (a) Specify a closing date (for the determination year) and where it must be returned.

14. The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure:

- (a) That the on-line application / CAF is available on request from the LA and the 'In-Year Application for a school place or a change of school place' form will be available from the LA; and
- (b) That a written explanation of the scheme is available from the LA and on their website.

15. All preferences expressed on the on-line application / CAF are valid applications. The governing body of a VA school / Academy can require parents who wish to nominate, or who have nominated their school on the CAF, to provide additional information on a supplementary form only where the additional information is required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application. Where a supplementary form is required, this will be requested after the VA schools / academies have received information from the LA about who has applied for their schools. Information requested on the supplementary form should be returned by the parent to the individual school by the due date specified by the school.

16. Where a school receives a supplementary form, it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed either the Stockton on Tees on-line application / CAF or, if resident in another area which has a CAF, their home area's common application form, and the school is nominated on it. Where supplementary forms are received directly by VA schools / Academy, the school must inform the LA immediately so it can verify whether a CAF or neighbouring area's CAF has been received from the parent and, if not, contact the parent and ask them to complete one. In these circumstances, the school should also send the LA a copy of the supplementary form if so requested. Under the requirements of the scheme, parents will not be under any obligation to complete an individual school's supplementary form where this is not strictly required for the governing body to apply their oversubscription criteria.

17. Very few Voluntary Aided schools / Academies governing bodies have opted out of the co-ordinated admissions scheme for in year transfers, a list of these schools will be made available for parents by September 2024 on the Stockton website. Parents are still required to complete an application form from the LA and schools need to inform the parents and the LA of the outcome of the request.

Processing of CAFs

18. Completed CAFs (online or paper) should be returned to the LA:

- (a) For secondary schools by the **31 October 2024***. The LA will enter information for all the schools within the Borough onto their system and forward information for applications to Academy Trust / VA schools and other LAs during the week commencing the **11 November 2024**.
- (b) Primary schools by the **15 January 2025***. The LA will enter information for all the schools within the Borough onto their system and forward information for applications to Academy Trust / VA schools and other LAs during the week commencing **20 January 2025**.
- (c) Online applications – the facility to apply for a school place on-line will be open during the time for application – **9 September 2024** to midnight on the **31 October 2024** for secondary and for primary **11 November 2024** to midnight on the **15 January 2025**.

**If the closing date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, any applications received through the post, which includes the post box in the Municipal Buildings, on the Monday morning after that date, will be classed as on time. Any others received after this will be classed as late.*

Allocation of places

19. Places will be allocated using the Equal Ranking Scheme* for Primary and Secondary by all admission authorities within Stockton on Tees.

**Equal Ranking means that all the preferences written on the CAF or on-line form will be considered as a separate application for each school.*

SECONDARY ADMISSIONS - Determining offers in response to the CAF

20. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAFs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where:

- (a) It is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or.
- (b) An applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or.
- (c) An applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parent has nominated.

21. The LAs system for online applications will become 'live' from the **9 September 2024** to midnight on the **31 October 2024** with the closing date for return of CAFs also the **31 October 2024**.

22. **During the week commencing 11 November 2024** the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every application that has been made for that school. Where parents have requested a place at a school outside of the LA area, the information will be forwarded to the relevant admission authority/authorities. All VA schools and Academies should plan to gather information required from parents and set up admission committees for allocation of places.

23. During the first two weeks of **January 2025** - VA schools, other LAs and Academies, should aim to inform LA of the allocation of places for all applications received in the priority order of their admission policy. Any applications which are refused also need to be listed in order of priority.

24. The LA compares lists and considers all preferences from the parent and if first preference is refused then will look to see where 2nd, 3rd or 4th preferences can be accommodated. The lists will be sent back to the VA schools and Academies for their approval before finalising allocations. Liaison will take place with VAs, other LAs and Academies until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required.

25. **By the 31 January 2025** - the LA will match ranked lists for all schools and:

- (a) Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school will be allocated to the child.
- (b) Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.
- (c) Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy or asked to contact School Admissions for an alternative school.

26. **On 1 March 2025 (or the next working day)** the LA will post letters (2nd class post) to parents to let them know which school has been allocated to their child. If they have applied on-line, they will receive an email on the 1 March or the next working day. The letter will also tell them of their statutory right to appeal if they have been refused a place at their preferred school.

Parents will need to request an appeal form and return to Appeals Administrator, Corporate Administration Service, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, PO Box 11, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD within **20 school days upon** receipt of the form.

PRIMARY ADMISSIONS - Determining offers in response to the CAF

27. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAFs. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF where:

- (a) It is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or.

- (b) An applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or.
- (c) An applicant is not eligible for a place at any school that the parents have nominated.

28. The LAs system for online applications will become 'live' from the **11 November 2024** to midnight on the **15 January 2025 with the closing date for return of CAFs also the 15 January 2025**. Packs for admission to Primary School will be distributed to all parents. Applications are to be made on common application form and all applications returned to LA.

29. **During the week commencing the 27 January 2025** – the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every application that has been made for that school. Where parents have requested a place at a school outside of the LA area, the information will be forwarded to the relevant Local Authority. After this date all VA schools and Academies plan to gather information required from parents and set up admission committees for allocation of places.

30. **During the week ending the 3 March 2025** VA schools, Academies and other LAs inform the home LA of allocation of places for all applications received in the priority order of their admission policy. Any applications which are refused also need to be listed in order of priority.

The LA compares lists and considers all preferences from the parent and if first preference is refused, look to see where 2nd or 3rd preferences can be accommodated. The lists will be sent back to the VA schools and Academies for their approval before finalising allocations.

Liaison will take place with VA, Academies and other LAs schools until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required.

31. **By week commencing the 17 March 2025** - the LA will match ranked lists for all schools and:

- (a) Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school will be allocated to the child.
- (b) Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.
- (c) Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy or asked to contact School Admissions for an alternative school.

32. **On the 16 April 2025 (or the next working day)** the LA will post (2nd class) out a letter to parents informing them of their child's allocated school. If they have applied on-line, they will receive an email on the 16 April or next working day. The letter will tell them which school has been allocated and their statutory right to appeal if they have been refused a place at their preferred school.

Parents will need to request an appeal form and return to Appeals Administrator, Corporate Administration Service, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, PO Box 11, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD **within 20 school days upon receipt of the form.**

Secondary & Primary Co-ordinated Admissions timetable 2025/26

SECONDARY	
w/c 9 September 2024	Online applications become live and CAFs and other information to parents.
31 October 2024	Closing date for online applications and for return of CAFs.
w/c 11 November 2024	Lists of applications sent to VA schools, Academies & Free School(s) and other LAs.
w/e 11 January 2025	VA schools, Academies & Free School(s) return full list of applications ranked according to their oversubscription criteria. Other LAs inform LA of preferences they can allocate. Liaison between admission authorities to resolve offers.
31 January 2025	Finalise allocations and further liaison as necessary.
1 March 2025	Or next working day - allocation letters sent out from LA to all parents via 2 nd class post offering places and giving reasons for refusals and right of appeal. Email sent to parents who applied on-line.
May/June 2025	Appeal hearings held.

PRIMARY	
w/c 11 November 2024	Online applications become live and CAFs and other information to parents.
15 January 2025	Closing date for online applications and for return of CAFs.
w/c 20 January 2025	Lists of applications sent to VA schools, Academies & Free School(s) and other LAs.
w/e 3 March 2025	VA schools, Academies & Free School(s) return full list of applications ranked according to their oversubscription criteria. Other LAs inform LA of preferences they can allocate. Liaison between admission authorities to resolve offers.
w/c 17 March 2025	Finalise allocations and further liaison as necessary.
16 April 2025	Or next working day - allocation letters sent out from LA to all parents via 2 nd class post offering places and giving reasons for refusals and right of appeal. Email sent to parents who applied on-line.
June/July 2025	Appeal hearings held

No CAF received by the LA

33. Where no CAF is submitted for primary or secondary school, the child will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy or will receive a letter from the LA requesting that they make contact to discuss further.

Late applications

34. CAFs received after the closing date will be dealt with after all the other applications have been looked at unless there is a good reason, e.g., if a family moves into the area. If that is the case, the application can be considered along with all of those that came in on time if the allocations have not been started.

The LA will continue to co-ordinate applications for admission in September 2025 for any late applications for primary or secondary, received e.g., after the closing date and post offer date up until the start of that school year.

Waiting lists

35. The LA will maintain a waiting list for all oversubscribed maintained Stockton on Tees Schools. The waiting list will be open for all Primary and Secondary schools for the duration of the next academic term (1st September 2025 to 31st December 2025). Places will be allocated, if they become available, in accordance with the LAs published oversubscription criteria.

VA schools, Academies and Free Schools are required to keep a waiting list for at least the Autumn Term of 2025, if places become available at their school, the governing body will allocate places from their own oversubscription criteria and inform the LA. The LA will write to parents informing them of the decision.

36. Where the LA can offer a place to a non-Stockton-on-Tees child from the Waiting List, we will liaise with the home LA, who will write to the parent to confirm the place.

In Year admission to primary & secondary schools

37. Applications for either a primary or a secondary school place outside the normal admissions round are treated as 'in-year' admissions.

38. Requests are regularly received from parents to transfer their child to an alternative school, and it can be for a variety of reasons. In certain cases, it does not always benefit the child or the school and so the Local Authority has laid out procedures which are followed upon receipt of such a request.

39. If you pay your Council Tax to Stockton Borough Council and you want to change your child's school you will need to complete an 'In-Year Application for a school place or a change of school place' form for each child who you want to transfer.

(a) If you are moving away from Stockton to another Local Authority you still need to complete a Stockton transfer form and we will liaise with the other authority. Once they have considered your application, we will contact you with the decision.

(b) If you are moving into the Stockton area you will need to contact your Local Authority for their application form unless you are moving from abroad where, if you contact School Admissions on 01642 526605 or email school.admissions@stockton.gov.uk then a form can be posted or emailed to you.

40. School transfers can take between 10 and 15 school days to complete (were possible) but if there are any issues with the request this can make the process longer.

(a) We will send your transfer form and any other information that you send us to both your current school and your preferred school.

(b) If we receive more than one application on the same day for the same school (that is still maintained by the LA) and year group, we will apply our own over-subscription criteria.

(c) It may be if you have not discussed any concerns with your current school that the Head Teacher requests you attend a meeting before we can process your application any further, as it

is not always in your child's best interest to change schools. It is your responsibility to ensure that your child attends their current school until a new school place has been agreed.

41. If you are applying for a Voluntary Aided school or an Academy then their Governing Body or Academy Admissions panel will consider your application and let us know the decision. They may apply their own Admissions Policy to any applications that they have received. We will contact you on their behalf.
42. The School Admissions Code (1 September 2021) added that all 'admission authorities must inform the LA whether they intend to be part of the LA in-year co-ordination scheme. Almost all schools in Stockton have chosen to this.
43. The LA will, on request provide information to prospective parents about the places still available in all schools within the borough.
44. The Code also states that, apart from designated grammar schools, all maintained schools, and academies, including schools designated with a religious character, that have places available **must** offer a place to every child who has applied for one, without condition or the use of any oversubscription criteria, unless admitting the child would prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources. For example, admission authorities **must not** refuse to admit a child solely because:
 - (a) they have applied later than other applicants.
 - (b) they are not of the faith of the school in the case of a school designated with a religious character.
 - (c) they have followed a different curriculum at their previous school; or
 - (d) information has not been received from their previous school.
45. Where an applicant is offered a school place following an in-year application, and the offer is accepted, arrangements should be made for the child to start school as soon as possible, particularly where the child is out of school.

ADMISSION NUMBERS

Admissions for September 2025

Primary Schools

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Billingham & Wolviston				
	Bewley	Academy	60	*45
	Billingham South	Community	60	60
	High Clarence	Academy	15	15
	Oakdene	Community	45	45
	Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary RC	Academy	30	30
	Pentland	Academy	45	**30
	Prior's Mill CE	Academy	60	60
	Roseberry	Community	60	60
	St John the Evangelist RC	Academy	30	30
	St Joseph's RC	Academy	30	30
	St Paul's RC	Academy	30	30
	Wolviston	Academy	15	15
	Wynyard CE	Free School	60	60

*please note the 1590 Trust propose to reduce the PAN of this school from 60 to 45 for entry in September 2025. However, any potential reduction, if agreed, would be undertaken on the basis that the school would agree to increase numbers if / when extra capacity was needed. This would be in anticipation that additional places will still be required in this planning area in the future.

** please note the ONE Excellence rust propose to reduce the PAN of this school from 45 to 30 for entry in September 2025. However, any potential reduction, if agreed, would be undertaken on the basis that the school would agree to increase numbers if / when extra capacity was needed. This would be in anticipation that additional places will still be required in this planning area in the future.

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
North Stockton				
	Crooksbarne	Academy	45	45
	Frederick Nattrass Primary Academy	Academy	30	30
	Hardwick Green Primary Academy	Academy	30	30
	Harrow Gate Primary Academy	Academy	60	60
	Norton Primary Academy	Academy	60	60
	Rosebrook	Academy	60	60
	St Gregory's Catholic Academy	Academy	30	30
	St John the Baptist CE	Voluntary-Controlled	30	30
	St Joseph's RC	Academy	40	40
	St Mark's Elm Tree CE	Academy	60	60
	The Glebe	Community	55	55
	Tilery	Community	45	45
	Whitehouse	Community	55	55
	William Cassidi CE	Voluntary-Aided	29	29

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Central Stockton	Bowesfield	Community	60	60
	Fairfield	Community	60	60
	Hartburn	Academy	75	75
	Holy Trinity Rosehill CE	Voluntary-Aided	60	60
	Mill Lane	Community	30	30
	Oxbridge Lane	Community	30	30
	St Bede's Catholic Academy	Academy	30	30
	St Cuthbert's RC	Voluntary-Aided	30	30
	St Patrick's RC	Voluntary-Aided	30	30
	The Oak Tree Primary Academy	Academy	30	30

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Thornaby	Bader	Academy	60	*45
	Christ the King RC	Academy	60	60
	Harewood	Community	60	60
	Mandale Mill	Community	60	60
	St Patrick's RC	Academy	50	50
	Thornaby CE	Academy	60	60
	Village	Academy	30	30

*please note the 1590 Trust propose to reduce the PAN of this school from 60 to 45 for entry in September 2025. However, any potential reduction, if agreed, would be undertaken on the basis that the school would agree to increase numbers if / when extra capacity was needed. This would be in anticipation that additional places will still be required in this planning area in the future.

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Ingleby Barwick	Barley Fields	Academy	90	90
	Ingleby Mill	Community	60	60
	Myton Park	Community	30	30
	St Francis of Assisi CE	Academy	60	60
	St Therese of Lisieux RC	Academy	30	30
	Whinstone	Academy	60	60

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Eaglescliffe & Yarm	Durham Lane	Community	30	30
	Egglecliffe	Academy	30	30
	Junction Farm	Academy	60	60
	Kirklevington	Academy	20	20
	Layfield	Academy	27	27
	Levendale	Academy	30	30
	Preston	Academy	29	29
	St Mary's CE	Academy	15	15
	The Links	Academy	30	30
	Yarm	Academy	60	60

Secondary Schools

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Billingham & Wolviston	Northfield	Community	330	330
	St Michael's Catholic Academy	Academy	210	210

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Stockton North & Central	Ian Ramsey CE Academy	Academy	237	237
	North Shore Academy	Academy	180	180
	Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy	Academy	210	210
	Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth	Academy	180	180
	The Grangefield Academy	Academy	210	210

Planning area	Name of school	Type of school	2024	2025
Stockton South	All Saints CE Academy	Academy	180	180
	Conyers Academy	Academy	224	224
	Egglescliffe School	Academy	235	235
	Ingleby Manor Free School & Sixth Form	Academy / Free School	120	*150
	St Patrick's Catholic Academy	Academy	120	120
	Thornaby Academy	Academy	150	150

*please note the Trust propose to increase the PAN of this school from 120 to 150 for entry in September 2025.

If demand dictates it after all Admission arrangements have been determined, certain schools may choose to admit above their Admission Number to meet any 'bulge year' – this does not constitute an increase in its agreed Admission Number thereafter.

Please be aware that other primary and secondary schools across the Borough may convert to Academy status during this application round.

Appendix 3

Admission Policy for September 2025 for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) School in Stockton-on –Tees

All governing bodies are required by Section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to admit to the school a child with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan that names the school.

This is not an oversubscription criterion. This relates only to children who have undergone statutory assessment and for whom a final EHC Plan has been issued.

Where there are more applications for a school than there are places available, places will be allocated in order using the oversubscription criteria below:

CRITERIA (In priority order)	EXPLANATORY NOTES
<p>1. Looked after children¹ and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted². Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted³ (or became subject to a child arrangements order⁴ or special guardianship order⁵).</p>	<p>¹ A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.</p> <p>²A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.</p> <p>³This includes children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).</p> <p>⁴Child arrangements orders are defined in Section 8 of the Children Act 1989, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order.</p> <p>⁵See Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).</p>
<p>2. Pupils with a Special Education Need who are going through a statutory assessment and who have been identified as needing a 'named' mainstream school.</p>	<p>This applies to those children who have a Special Education Need, who are going through a statutory assessment and have been identified as in need of a 'named' mainstream school that can offer the enhanced support and resources they require to meet their specific SEN.</p>
<p>3. Pupils who have a brother or sister permanently living at the same address, who are still at the school when the pupil begins. Please note – this only applies to siblings who are of</p>	<p><u>We define brother or sister as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, adopted brother or sister, or children of partners who are permanently living at the same address as a family unit. In all cases, the parent who receives the Child Benefit for those children must permanently live at that address with the children.

<p>compulsory school age, not younger siblings who attend a nursery setting attached to a school (Primary applications only)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will consider brothers or sisters who live in separate households because the parents are separated and have shared responsibility for the children under conditions covering exceptional social or medical reasons. This does not include separate families living together in the same property. • If there are other family situations where there are different carers, e.g., aunts, uncles or grandparents, each case will be considered individually.
<p>4. Pupils permanently resident i.e., the address at which the child is registered for child benefit, who expresses a preference for that school (proof of address may be required) within the admission zone who have returned a Common Application Form by the closing date (31st October for Secondary applications and 15th January for Primary applications).</p>	<p>When a school is oversubscribed with in-zone applications i.e., there are more applications from children living in the admission zone of the school than there are places available, we will allocate places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to children permanently living in the admission zone (Criterion 4) according to their distance from the school measured in a straight line “as the crow flies” (Criterion 5).
<p>5. Pupils who live closest to a particular school measured in a straight line “as the crow flies”.</p>	<p>The LA uses a Geographic Information System, known as GIS, to identify and measure the distance from the central point of the home to the central point of the school. The distance is measured electronically from the central point of the school taken from the council maintained Local Land and Property Gazetteer, LLPG, (the same point for all applications) to the central point of the home (including flats) also taken from the LLPG. The GIS undertakes all measures in the same way for every applicant, to ensure consistency and fairness.</p>

The oversubscription criteria will be available on our website in September for parents for admission in September 2025.

N.B. please note for primary schools, attendance at a school nursery does not guarantee a place in the reception class of that school.

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 FEBRUARY 2024

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Children & Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Lisa Evans

STOCKTON-ON-TEES SACRE CONSTITUTION

SUMMARY

Changes to the constitution of the Stockton-on-Tees SACRE.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

The current SACRE constitution is not fit for purpose and does not reflect the local community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To change the constitution as below.

1. To introduce the category of 'Other World Views' under Group A (2 positions).
2. To remove 'Society of Friends' and Islamic Society' from Group A.

DETAIL

1. The current constitution does not reflect the local community and the proposed removals have historically remained vacant. The introduction of 'Other World Views' allows for all religions (other than those named within Group A) and for the ever-changing local landscape.
2. SACRE approved the proposed changes at their meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2023.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. The CIA process has not been undertaken as the proposed changes positively impacts the community and allows for no discrimination, whereas the current constitution does not.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no corporate parenting implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Following a recent High Court judgement where Mr Justice Constable concluded that it was 'unlawful' for Kent County Council to refuse a Humanist membership of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), and said it is:

'clearly discriminatory to exclude someone from SACRE Group A solely by reference to the fact that their belief, whilst appropriate to be included within the agreed syllabus for religious education, is a non-religious, rather than a religious, belief.'

7. The changes to the constitution would allow for Humanists to become Members, alongside other religious and non-religious denominations, thus all-encompassing and inclusive.

RISK ASSESSMENT

N/A

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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