

**Date:** Thursday 12 September 2024 at 4.30 pm

**Venue:** Conference Room 1, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 6BJ

**Cllr Robert Cook (Leader)**

Cllr Pauline Beall  
Cllr Nigel Cooke  
Cllr Lisa Evans  
Cllr Clare Besford  
Cllr Steve Nelson  
Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE

**AGENDA**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure**
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**  
  
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 July 2024 (Pages 7 - 14)
- 5 Financial Update and Medium Term Financial Plan (2024/25 Quarter 1)** (Pages 15 - 24)
- 6 Minutes of Various Bodies** (Pages 25 - 40)
- 7 Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint Delivery** (Pages 41 - 44)
- 8 Accelerating affordable housing delivery (A quality home for all)** (Pages 45 - 48)
- 9 Enhanced Mainstream Schools Consultation** (Pages 49 - 52)
- 10 Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan** (Pages 53 - 82)
- 11 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel** (Pages 83 - 96)

**Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting**

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

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

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

**KEY - Declarable interests are:-**

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

**Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance**



**Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

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

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

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

## Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

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## CABINET

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

**Present:** Cllr Robert Cook (Leader), Cllr Lisa Evans (Cabinet Member), Cllr Pauline Beall (Cabinet Member), Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member), Cllr Clare Besford (Cabinet Member), Cllr Steve Nelson (Cabinet Member) and Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Cabinet Member).

**Officers:** Mike Greene, Garry Cummings, Reuben Kench, Majella McCarthy, Ged Morton, Ian Coxon, Jane Edmonds, Clare Harper, Eddie Huntington, Chris Renahan, Julie Butcher and Peter Bell.

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Lynn Hall and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

**Apologies:**

### **CAB/25/24 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was published.

### **CAB/26/24 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a Other Registerable Interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint as he was a member of Tees Active Board. Councillor Steve Nelson withdrew from the meeting and left the room during consideration of the item.

### **CAB/27/24 Minutes**

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **CAB/28/24 Medium Term Financial Plan Outturn March 2024**

Consideration was given to a report on the draft financial performance and position as at 31 March 2024.

The overall financial position was similar to the position projected at the end of December 2023, as outlined in the Budget report in February 2024, with a variance of £163,000 from the previously reported position.

Actions taken to manage the overspend of £7m were agreed as part of the budget report, and the position had continued to be carefully monitored.

Members were aware of the financial pressures going forward with the Powering our Futures Programme integral to identifying opportunities for resolving the gap. Further reports would be presented throughout the year providing updates.

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

RESOLVED that the outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2024 and the updated Capital Programme be noted.

#### **CAB/29/24 Xentrall Annual Report 2023-24**

Consideration was given to a report on the progress and performance of Xentrall Shared Services, the Stockton and Darlington partnership and demonstrated how Xentrall had delivered savings whilst continuing to improve performance and deliver strategic projects.

Xentrall Shared Services, the Stockton and Darlington partnership, was established in May 2008 and in its seventeenth year. The Xentrall services were:

- ICT (strategy and operations)
- Transactional HR (payroll, pensions, recruitment, sickness absence)
- Transactional Finance (creditors, debtors, banking, schools finance)
- Design & Print (professional buyer, in-house design and print)

The original business case identified a number of efficiencies and benefits to be delivered resulting in initial savings of £7.4m over the original ten-year period of the partnership. The successful partnership arrangement had delivered all these plus additional efficiencies and benefits and significant additional savings as reported to Members over previous years. At the same time the quality and performance of services had not been compromised but improved, with both customer and staff satisfaction increasing over the life of the partnership.

This was a significant achievement for a public/public partnership and it compared very well to other private sector partnerships many of which had failed over the same period or been brought back in-house and for a variety of reasons. Both Councils had benefited both financially and through a continued programme of service improvements brought throughout the lifetime of the partnership.

#### **CAB/30/24 Central Stockton & North Thornaby Blueprint**

Consideration was given to a report on the Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint.

In July 2023 an update was provided to Cabinet on the Council's ambitious regeneration programme alongside a series of next steps for place-based economic development and growth. The report recognised the importance of ensuring our town centres are prosperous, vibrant places that were fit for future generations as this was key to attracting



investment, creating opportunities, and improving outcomes for communities across Stockton-on-Tees. Alongside this it was noted that the level of ambition shown was attracting significant interest from private developers, who were keen to be involved in the next phases of design and development.

The report provided an update on progress and sought approval for the recently completed 'Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint' which set out the vision and development framework for transformational change over the next 25 years.

The Blueprint was attached to the report and set out an exciting and innovative vision for the future development of Central Stockton and North Thornaby areas.

It outlined plans to ensure transformational change over the next 25 years by creating prosperous, vibrant places fit for future generations by delivering modern, mixed-use neighbourhoods and a stronger town centre helping to make sure it was a safe and welcoming place where people want to work, live and visit.

The ambitious Blueprint had been developed through extensive consultation with residents, businesses, partner organisations and stakeholders, including young people from Stockton Riverside College. It focused on eight key intervention areas in Central Stockton and North Thornaby they were:

- 1) Town Centre (south)
- 2) Town Centre (north)
- 3) Municipal Quarter
- 4) Castlegate Quay
- 5) Prince Regent Quarter
- 6) Waterways
- 7) North Shore
- 8) Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone

The Blueprint built on the ambitious regeneration already under way in Stockton town centre to transform the Castlegate Shopping Centre site into Stockton Waterfront urban park and reconnecting the town centre to the river. As well as seeking Cabinet's approval of the Blueprint, the report asked Cabinet to consider and approve in principle the next steps for four individual projects within the Stockton Central and North Thornaby Blueprint areas.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Blueprint for Stockton and North Thornaby as the strategic framework to guide development and investment decisions specifically in Central Stockton and North Thornaby be approved.
2. The retention of Splash as Stockton's central leisure centre be agreed and agreement be given in principle to invest in extending its operational lifespan. This includes necessary internal refurbishment and

reconfiguration to expand gym provision. A detailed report on the budget allocation be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

3. The work undertaken on Stockton Town Hall be noted and agreement be given in principle to its refurbishment to accommodate a modern registrars service. A detailed report on the budget allocation be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

4. The work undertaken on the Municipal Quarter be noted and approval be given in principle the establishment of a joint venture between TVCA and SBC to invest in the Municipal Quarter. An allocation of up to £450,000 for associated feasibility work be approved. A detailed report on the budget allocation to enable full progression of the proposals be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

5. The work undertaken on options for a Council Chamber and dedicated space for elected members and notes the feedback from the members' advisory panel be noted. Agreement be given to locate the Council Chamber and dedicated space for elected members in Dunedin House. A detailed report on the budget allocation be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.

#### **CAB/31/24 Enhanced Support for Care Experienced Young People**

Consideration was given to a report that recommended measures aimed at enhancing the support provided to care experienced young people within Stockton-on-Tees. The proposals included recognising 'Care Experienced' as a locally protected characteristic, an employability support pledge from the Council, a pilot corporate rent guarantor scheme and the funding of shortfall in private rental tenancies. These measures aimed to improve housing, employability prospects, and overall support for care experienced young people, ensuring their needs were appropriately prioritised in decision-making. The measures would support the Council to fulfil its role as a corporate parent.

Recommend to Council that:-

1. 'Care Experienced' is formally recognised as a locally protected characteristic within the Borough, ensuring that the needs of care experienced young people are prioritised in all Council decision-making processes.

RESOLVED that:-

2. Additional employability support for care experienced young people aged 16-25 be endorsed, including prioritised access to apprenticeship and job vacancies, guaranteed interviews for those meeting essential criteria, and the Council's commitment to the national Care Leaver Covenant.

3. A pilot Corporate Rent Guarantor scheme for our care experienced young people be approved.

4. The pilot will inform a more detailed business case. An evaluation report be presented after the 12-month pilot.

## **CAB/32/24 Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Consideration was given to a report that provided a progress update on both the Anti-Poverty Strategy (and supporting Action Plan) and revised Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA). Both areas of work supported the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees strategic framework and the Powering Our Future programme.

Tackling poverty was key to supporting the Council's commitment to addressing inequality as detailed in both the Council Plan 2023-26 and the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Strategic Framework.

The draft 3-year Strategy and 18 month Action Plan had been developed with those affected by poverty, and in collaboration with wider VCSE partners. Co-production had been informed by a 'bottom up' approach, ensuring that residents with lived experience had been directly involved in formulating this work. This had resulted in the creation of a lived experience group, the 'Positive Living Forum', a name which was chosen by group members.

Strategy development had been supported by a stakeholder group (Anti-Poverty Delivery Group) which met monthly and included representatives from both external partners and internal service teams (CAB, Thrive, Welfare Support, Family Action, Employment & Training Hub, Thirteen, Catalyst, Family Hubs & Public Health). The Anti-Poverty Delivery Group also agreed to gather views from their service users.

In addition, other 'conversations' which had informed this work had included working alongside Thrive (an anti-poverty organisation), focus groups with those with lived experience, feedback from surveys undertaken and feedback from a range of partnerships i.e. Infinity and the network of Community Partnerships.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan included a range of previously agreed and proposed actions to be delivered to support those affected by the current Cost of Living situation. The Action Plan brings together these ongoing activities with new priority actions to ensure synergy and avoid duplication.

The work undertaken by the Council in response to the Cost of Living challenges had been subject to a recent scrutiny review (undertaken by the People Select Committee). Recommendations from this scrutiny review also supported the development of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan.

The action plan would be co-ordinated by the FSOT Team and would be delivered by a range of partners across the Borough, with oversight to be undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Delivery group and Positive Living Forum.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council had a long-standing commitment to promote equality, celebrate diversity and advance inclusion. It was intended that the new EPIA's were introduced to further embed this approach into the Council's decision making and business planning processes.

The major change to previous EPIA was the inclusion of (a) Poverty / (b) Care Experienced and (c) Substance misuse in addition to the wider protected characteristics. This was intended to ensure that the decision-making processes include a 'poverty lens'. For example, the EPIA template would ensure a high-level assessment of poverty impact, and where it was identified that there was a disproportionate impact related to the proposals, a more in-depth analysis and stakeholder engagement can be expected to be undertaken. Progress to date was included within the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The attached Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan and the wide range of planned activity to be undertaken with our local communities, VSCE and broader partners be approved.
2. The current work being undertaken to develop a new Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment approach be noted.

#### **CAB/33/24 Defibrillator Policy**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the need for good access to public access defibrillators in the local population, identified areas of need for further defibrillators and shared a policy which clarified the responsibilities of the Council in relation to the purchase, maintenance and installation of defibrillators.

RESOLVED that the defibrillator policy be approved as set out in this report, for Stockton-on-Tees.

#### **CAB/34/24 School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026**

Consideration was given to a report School Term and Holiday Dates for 2025/2026 Academic Year.

Following consultation, the proposed calendars of school term and holiday dates for 2025/2026 academic year were presented.

School employers were required to set the term dates of their school year. Employers were:

- the Local Authority in maintained, voluntary controlled and maintained special schools.
- the Governing Body in foundation and voluntary aided schools.
- Multi Academy Trusts, academies and free schools.

In line with statutory requirements and the protocol agreed in 2008, consideration had been given to compile a set of term and holiday dates for schools in the Borough.

Officers consulted with colleagues from all neighbouring authorities to endeavour to reach consensus on a proposed model for the academic year.

Attached to the report were the proposed dates for 2025/2026.

As part of the consultation process the document was duly circulated to schools/academies and all other relevant parties, including Diocesan Authorities and Trade Unions/Teaching Associations. There were no comments received.

To date the neighbouring authorities that had published their dates had endorsed the proposed matrix for 2025/2026. This level of agreement between authorities would relieve many of the cross-boundary issues that some families had suffered in the past.

RESOLVED that the school term and holiday dates 2025/2026 shown at Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed.

#### **CAB/35/24 Local Authority Governors on School/Academy Governing Bodies**

In accordance with the procedure for the appointment of school / academy governors, approved as Minute CAB 27/13 of the Cabinet (13 June 2013), Cabinet was invited to consider the nominations to school / academy Governing Bodies listed in the Appendix to the report.

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made to the vacant Governorships in line with agreed procedures subject to a Personal Disclosure and DBS clearance:-

Fairfield Primary School - Lucy Duncan  
Durham Lane Primary School - Maureen Rigg

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## AGENDA ITEM

## REPORT TO CABINET

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

## REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

### CABINET DECISION

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (2024/25 QUARTER 1)**

##### **SUMMARY**

This report summarises the Council's financial performance and position at the end of the first quarter of the 2024/25 financial year. Members will be aware from the budget report in February 2024 that the Council had a budget gap of £1.9m in the current financial year rising to £8.1m in 2026/27, with the transformation programme being key to resolve the financial position.

The Powering our Futures programme and associated transformation reviews are well underway and members will be aware that these reviews were addressing the aforementioned budget gap. The reviews are progressing well and an update will be provided at the October Cabinet meeting.

The financial position for the Council for the first quarter of the financial year (to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024) highlights a projected overspend of £3.9m against the budget, effectively the Council is on target to achieve the transformation savings but further pressures have created a further budget gap. Growing demand for Council services and the increased cost of delivery is putting pressure on several budget headings. Members will recall that an additional £12.5m was added to the budget in February's budget report, and this overspend is over and above that additional investment. Work is underway to look at ways to mitigate this projected overspend and the position will continue to be closely monitored and managed throughout the remainder of the financial year. Members will recall that as part of the budget process, a number of earmarked reserves were paused to allow us to manage future risks and if the pressures materialise as expected, this will need to be met from these reserves.

These challenges are not unique to Stockton and the financial pressures experienced by many councils across the country is well documented. Whilst we are able to re-direct earmarked reserves to resolve immediate pressures this is not sustainable, over the medium term and the position needs to be addressed. Future reports will provide an update to cabinet and work preparing for the 2025/26 budget and MTFP has commenced. Given the overall position, work exploring options for Phase 2 of the transformation programme will be progressed.

The report also presents an update on the Capital Programme.

##### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS**

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

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the update to the Medium Term Financial Plan and the current level of General Fund balances be noted along with the intention to progress further transformation reviews.
2. That the revised Capital Programme at **Appendix A** be noted.

## DETAIL

### FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

#### GENERAL FUND

1. The following table details the projected budget outturn position for each Directorate in 2024/25, based on information to 30th June 2024. The position includes the emerging impact of inflationary pressures and details of the key variances are described in subsequent paragraphs of the report.

Directorate	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Q1 Over/(Under)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	96,036	97,655	1,619
Children's Services	57,081	58,739	1,658
Community Services, Environment & Culture	51,694	53,131	1,437
Finance, Transformation & Performance	14,628	14,755	127
Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	(291)	80	371
Corporate Services	12,132	12,212	80
Corporate Items	12,632	12,032	(600)
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,912</b>	<b>248,604</b>	<b>4,692</b>
Pay Offer		(800)	(800)
<b>Revised Total</b>	<b>243,912</b>	<b>247,804</b>	<b>3,892</b>

2. The projected position indicates a significant financial pressure for the current financial year, largely as a result of higher costs of goods and services due to recent large inflation increases, growth in demand for council services and recruitment and retention issues. All Directorates are considering opportunities to reduce / defer spend to support the position and the position will be kept under close review for the remainder of the year, with actions underway to try to improve the position, however the challenge to do so whilst maintaining current service provision is more and more difficult in the current financial environment.

#### Reasons for Variances over £100,000

##### Adults, Health and Wellbeing

3. The demand for residential placements has increased significantly, with the numbers of clients exceeding the budgeted numbers for both older persons and mental health residential and nursing placements. There is also an increase in the amount of care clients receive, which comes at a greater cost. If numbers remain static this will result in an overspend by the end of the year of £829,000.
4. We are also experiencing similar budget pressures for residents receiving care at home. The numbers of clients as well as the amount of care per client is increasing. The income received



from clients towards the cost of their care is also anticipated to be less, although this is being reviewed. This has a predicted overspend for the year of £665,000.

5. The Council and the Integrated Care Board have a pooled budget; the Better Care Fund, which is aimed at mitigating the demands in both health and social care. Given that elements of the costs are in relation to keeping people at home and avoiding time in hospital, discussions are ongoing with ICB to identify opportunities to use this fund to mitigate the pressures described above and if this is successful it will be incorporated into future reports.
6. Recruitment of specialist posts particularly in relation to deprivation of liberties (DOLS) assessments continues to be a particular challenge. The cost of purchasing this service alongside growing volumes of assessments required is resulting in a projected overspend of £150,000.

## **Children's Services**

7. Children's Services have experienced unprecedented budget pressures in recent years due to huge increases in the cost of residential placements as well as escalating needs, requiring greater levels of care. Members will recall the commentary on the pressures in previous reports and the large increase to the Children's Services budget for another successive year in the February budget report.
8. This includes investment in new interventions to address some of the issues experienced across Children's Services including the creation of an Edge of Care Team as well as the establishment of the Social Work academy to address recruitment and retention issues. These interventions are starting to show progress and this is mitigating some of the issues we have seen in recent years.
9. However despite these successes, external factors continue to drive serious financial challenges across Children's Services budgets. The prices for external residential placements continue to increase with a very dominant external children's home market across the country being a major factor in this. Many other Council's across the country are facing the same challenge.
10. Based on the current children in external residential placements and the current price of their packages, this budget is predicting an overspend of £1m. However members will be familiar with how volatile this area can be, with one child alone costing in excess of £1m, this position has the potential to change.
11. The number of children in foster care placements is lower than anticipated resulting in a projected underspend of (£535,000). Although this is a positive for the financial bottom line, it is unfortunately a saving in the wrong area. It is the Council's strategy to place children in a family setting rather than in residential placements, so growing our foster carer capacity is key to achieving this. This will improve the outcomes for the children and young people as well as supporting the financial position. Increasing our fostering capacity is a key area within the Children's transformation programme.
12. Members will be aware of the continued pressure to recruit social workers and linked to the Colleagues strand of the Powering our Futures Programme of the significant work ongoing to develop the recruitment, including our on academy and overseas social worker. There are however still some vacancies and this means there are still agency costs meaning an overspend of £690,000 due to recruitment and retention issues relating to key posts. Transport costs for home to school and nursery transport is a key pressure with the cost of this service continuing to rise (£160,000 overspend). There is also growth in spend on a number of other services to support children to remain at home (£220,000 overspend).

13. The transformation programme is now underway and there is a key focus on placement sufficiency and how we provide care for our looked after children. The work is wide ranging, linked to the overall Children's Services improvement journey and will focus on outcomes for children as well as cost but at this point in time it is difficult to predict financial savings. There were also assumptions on savings from initiatives incorporated into the budget. These activities are being reviewed and incorporated into the transformation programme, which together with a robust programme management approach should ensure plans are implemented.

### **Community Services, Environment and Culture**

14. The income received from car parking is significantly below the cost of providing and maintaining car parks within town centres. This is resulting in a £400,000 predicted budget pressure this year.
15. Members will be aware of the high inflation increases in recent years, particularly in relation to food costs. This has meant that the cost of providing our catering services has increased significantly. This is particularly true in schools where maintaining high quality and healthy meals to school pupils is a particular challenge. Income for delivering these services has not kept pace with the cost of delivery, creating a budget pressure of £350,000.
16. Similar cost drivers are also creating budget pressures for the ongoing maintenance and management of our vehicle fleet.. In order to maintain the level of service across a number of areas, the cost has increased creating a predicted overspend of £366,000.
17. The Home to School transport service has a predicted overspend of £129,000 due to higher bus and taxi prices as well as greater numbers of children being transported.
18. It is worth noting that all of the above areas are being considered as part of the transformation programme.
19. The grounds maintenance service is also predicting an overspend of £170,000 due to the higher prices for goods and services. Without a fundamental change to the operation of the service, these costs can not be avoided.
20. Members will be aware that in previous years we have earmarked resources to support TAL to manage inflationary pressures in respect of energy costs and £500k is currently included in the plan. In previous update MTFP updates, we have reported that due to the overall financial performance of TAL, this resource has not historically been required. Due to energy prices continuing to fall and usage being carefully managed it is currently anticipated that £300k of this will not be required in 2024-25.
21. Members are aware of the widening gap between the cost to maintain highways infrastructure and the available budgets. Only works in line with our Highway Safety Inspection Policy, to prevent accidents, claims or serious further deterioration of the network, are undertaken. However, as prices for materials and contractors increase this results in an anticipated pressure of £300,000.
22. The cost of operating the museums service continues to increase due to the same price increases as outlined above. Income generated through ticket admissions does not cover the cost of operating the service. Current projections indicate £127,000 overspend but the impact of capital works, including short term closures of some or all of the museum as it is connected to the new building, is likely to reduce income further.

### **Finance, Transformation and Performance**

23. The Council's system for billing and collecting council tax and business rates is due to incur a one-off cost of £250,000 this year due to a renewed licence costs. This is significantly lower than

the first quotation and was reduced following robust negotiation and challenge. There will be an ongoing increase to annual subscription of £75,000 per annum.

24. This is partly offset by employee savings of (£123,000)

### **Regeneration and Inclusive Growth**

25. Planning income can be difficult to predict, with the timing of planning applications often unknown. There is currently a predicted shortfall against the income target of £150,000.

26. Wellington Square is anticipated to have a shortfall on shopping centre income from car parking and vacant units of £221,000. The Council continue to work with prospective tenants on future lettings to mitigate against this.

### **Corporate Services Directorate**

27. There are only minor variances predicted for Corporate Services at quarter 1.

### **Corporate Areas**

28. Members will be aware of the partnership arrangement with Keepmoat Homes to deliver the redevelopment of the former Victoria Estate (The Sycamores). The project is now nearing completion with an estimated profit share to the Council of (£480,000). This is an excellent outcome as the Council in partnership has delivered a total of 143 new homes of which 60 are affordable (42 for rent and 18 for homeownership) and generated a profit. If a traditional approach to disposing of the site had been adopted, a capital receipt would have been unlikely and the Council would have had no influence over the units developed. This aligns with the principles of the Regeneration Powering our Future Mission.

29. The Council has received a one-off payment from TVCA relating to a historic ICT network arrangement of (£120,000).

### **Pay Offer 2024/25**

30. The National Local Government Employers organisation have offered a pay award to local government employees of a flat rate £1,290 per annum. The unions have asked national employers to re-engage in talks about the offer, with some balloting its members on potential industrial action. If this offer were implemented, employee costs would increase by around 3.2% in 2024/25. Members will recall that the Budget for 2024/25 was set including a provision for a pay award of 4%. This would therefore result in an anticipated saving of £800,000. This saving would also carry forward in future years.

### **Powering Our Futures**

31. Members will be aware from the various briefings and reports that the Powering our Futures programme is now progressing at pace and it is planned to address the budget gap at budget time. An update on progress of the programme will be presented to the October Cabinet report.

### **General Fund Balances & Reserves**

32. The Council aims to retain General Fund Balances at a prudent level, currently at £8,000,000. There are no additional balances available to fund the overspend.

33. In addition to the £8m General Fund balances the Council holds a number of earmarked reserves. This is funding earmarked for specific reasons such as insurance fund, fleet renewal fund, Public Health and Adults Integration reserves but could be re-directed to fund core

expenditure. If savings do not materialise to fund the overspend, in order to replenish the general fund reserves, we would need to look at redirecting funds from these reserves.

34. The use of reserves to fund overspends is not sustainable and it is a key area that we must work to avoid as part of the transformation programme.

## CAPITAL

35. As with revenue expenditure and income, the public sector and local authorities are now experiencing significant pressures relating to capital schemes and construction contracts. The position will be closely monitored and any impact on the Capital Programme identified.

36. The Capital Programme is shown at **Appendix A** and summarised in the table below:

<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2027</b>	<b>Current Approved Programme £'000</b>	<b>Programme Revisions £'000</b>	<b>Revised Programme £'000</b>
School Investment Programme & Children's Services	30,873	1,648	32,521
Inclusive Growth	18,304	718	19,022
Regeneration	123,210	10	123,220
Transportation	38,586	4,642	43,228
Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure	18,339	1,269	19,609
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	2,023	1,974	3,997
<b>Total Approved Capital MTFP</b>	<b>231,335</b>	<b>10,261</b>	<b>241,597</b>

### Reasons for movements over £100,000

#### New schemes

##### *Transportation*

37. £4,500,000 grant from TVCA has been added to the programme for A19/A689 Interchange improvements.

38. Road safety works to Hartburn Lane have been included, funded from City Region Sustainable Transport Grant, £665,000.

##### *Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure*

39. £142,553 has been added to the programme for improved play provision at Preston Park and works to Honeypot Wood, funded from developer agreements.

40. A food waste collection capital transition grant totalling £1,433,091 from DEFRA has been received and added in to the programme. This grant is to support the delivery of weekly food waste collections.

##### *Other*

41. The initial costs for Billingham Sports Hub have been added to the programme, £718,369 which are funded from developer agreement money and Football Foundation Grant. The

balance of the scheme will be added to the programme when all funding agreements are signed.

### **Additional funding**

#### ***Schools Investment Programme***

42. Grant funding for Schools Capital Maintenance for 2024/25 has been added to the programme, £1,003,106.

43. £678,000 contribution from St. Michaels School has been included for the all-weather pitch that will be delivered. The total cost is £1,078,000 with £400,000 funded from DfE Grant.

#### ***Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure***

44. Building planned maintenance programme has been revised and £396,953 has been removed from the capital element of the programme and will be reported in revenue element of the works in line with technical accounting requirements.

#### ***Housing***

45. Grant funding for Disabled Facilities for 2024/25 has been included in the programme, £1,968,428.

#### ***Town Centres Investment***

46. The Capital Programme has been revised to reflect the scheme allocations for Thornaby Town Centre June 2024 Cabinet report.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

48. No direct implications.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

49. The report summarises the financial position for 2024/25 based on information for the first quarter of the financial year.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

50. None

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

### **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

52. Not applicable.



## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy – Council 21 February 2024  
Financial Outturn Report – Cabinet 18 July 2024

**Name of Contact Officer:** Garry Cummings

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

**Telephone No.** 01642 527011

**Email Address:** [garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk)

**Capital Programme June 2024 – Appendix A**

<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2027</b>	<b>Current Approved Programme</b>	<b>Programme Revisions</b>	<b>Revised Programme</b>	<b>Expenditure Apr 2018 - June 2024</b>
<b>SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME &amp; CHILDRENS SERVICES</b>				
School Investment Programme	22,774,100	1,681,106	24,455,206	8,374,392
Children Investment	8,098,773	(32,822)	8,065,951	733,406
<b>SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME &amp; CHILDRENS SERVICES</b>	<b>30,872,873</b>	<b>1,648,284</b>	<b>32,521,157</b>	<b>9,107,798</b>
<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH</b>				
Inclusive Growth & Development	8,803,540	718,369	9,521,909	1,484,570
Office Accommodation	9,500,511	0	9,500,511	7,533,445
<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH</b>	<b>18,304,051</b>	<b>718,369</b>	<b>19,022,420</b>	<b>9,018,015</b>
<b>REGENERATION</b>				
Stockton Town Centre Schemes	2,914,451	0	2,914,451	1,179,211
Reshaping Town Centres	28,912,960	9,500	28,922,460	1,613,436
Billingham Town Centre	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	245,956
Thornaby Town Centre	29,837,140	0	29,837,140	3,978,988
Re-Development of Castlegate Site	29,184,381	0	29,184,381	6,089,488
Yarm & Eaglescliffe LUF	22,070,000	0	22,070,000	6,040,262
Infrastructure Enhancements, Regeneration & Property Acquisitions	291,717	0	291,717	0
<b>REGENERATION</b>	<b>123,210,649</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>123,220,149</b>	<b>19,147,341</b>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
City Regional Sustainable Transport	16,092,663	138,985	16,231,648	2,952,820
Other Transport Schemes	20,693,593	4,500,000	25,193,593	16,978,992
Developer Agreements	1,800,101	2,628	1,802,729	1,323,613
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>38,586,357</b>	<b>4,641,613</b>	<b>43,227,970</b>	<b>21,255,425</b>
<b>COMMUNITY &amp; ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE &amp; LEISURE</b>				
Energy Efficiency Schemes	1,244,110	0	1,244,110	1,133,558
Environment and Green Infrastructure	12,474,219	1,575,644	14,049,863	4,122,307
Building Management	3,161,948	(374,024)	2,787,924	1,013,279
Vehicle Replacement	1,458,330	67,390	1,525,720	248,107
<b>COMMUNITY &amp; ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE &amp; LEISURE</b>	<b>18,338,607</b>	<b>1,269,010</b>	<b>19,607,617</b>	<b>6,517,250</b>
<b>ADULTS, HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>				
Adults & Public Health Investment	332,421	0	332,421	161,529
Housing Regeneration	1,459,860	0	1,459,860	0
Private Sector Housing	230,624	1,974,041	2,204,665	397,534
<b>ADULTS, HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>	<b>2,022,905</b>	<b>1,974,041</b>	<b>3,996,946</b>	<b>559,063</b>
<b>Total Approved Capital MTFP</b>	<b>231,335,442</b>	<b>10,260,817</b>	<b>241,596,259</b>	<b>65,604,892</b>



**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**12 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **CABINET DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**

### **MINUTES OF VARIOUS BODIES**

#### **SUMMARY**

The attached minutes are for consideration by Cabinet.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS**

To enable Cabinet to view the minutes of various bodies.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the minutes of the meetings detailed in the appendices be received.

#### **DETAIL**

1. 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 – 19 July 2024  
SSP – 30 May 2024

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

2. This report is not the subject of any Community Impact Implications.

#### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

3. This report is not the subject of any Corporate Parenting Implications.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. Where applicable, as specified in the minutes.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. Where applicable, as specified in the minutes.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

6. This report is categorised as low to medium risk.

## **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

7. Not applicable.

**Name of Contact Officer: Jonathan Nertney**  
**Post Title: Head of Democratic Services**  
**Email Address: [jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk)**



# Minutes

## TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 at 10.00am

Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington

These Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Cabinet meeting and are therefore subject to amendments.

<u>ATTENDEES</u>	
<b>Members</b>	
Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Brenda Harrison	Leader Hartlepool Borough Council
Mayor Chris Cooke	Leader, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Alec Brown	Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Bob Cook	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
<b>Officers</b>	
Julie Gilhespie	Group Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Gary Macdonald	Group Director of Finance and Resources, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Emma Simson	Acting Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Tom Bryant	Director of Infrastructure, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Shona Duncan	Head of Business Solutions
Ian Williams	Chief Executive, Darlington Borough Council
Denise McGuckin	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
Richard Horniman	Director of Regeneration, Middlesbrough Council
John Sampson	Chief Executive, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Garry Cummings	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Sally Henry	Governance Officer, TVCA
<b>Apologies</b>	
Councillor Brenda Harrison	Leader Hartlepool Borough Council
Siobhan McArdle	Chair, Tees Valley Business Board
Mike Greene	Chief Executive, Stockton on Tees Borough Council

	<p><u>CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p>
TVCA 05/24	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received and noted as above.</p>
TVCA 06/24	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Cllr Bob Cook declared an interest in the Stockton Housing Partnership item. All Local Authority Leaders declared an interest in the Adult Skills item.</p>
TVCA 07/24	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record.</p>
TVCA 08/24	<p><b>GOVERNANCE AND APPOINTMENTS</b></p> <p><i>Appendix 1 to this report is not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 1 (information relating to any individual) and 2 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual) of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.</i></p> <p>The Chair advised Cabinet that the appendix to this report is confidential so if the details of it are to be discussed, the members of the press and public would need to be excluded.</p> <p>The Chair introduced a report which detailed a number appointments for agreement and confirmation by the Combined Authority Cabinet.</p> <p>The Acting Group Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer provided Cabinet with an explanation of all the recommendations within the report and members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p>

	<p>No comments were made or questions asked.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>APPROVED</b> the appointment of Councillor Steve Nelson as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Ian Blades as Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee;</li> <li>ii. <b>NOTED</b> and <b>ENDORSED</b> the appointment of the Substitute Member on the Hartlepool Development Corporation Board as Councillor Tom Feeney, Deputy Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council; and</li> <li>iii. <b>APPROVED</b> the appointment of Andrew Cottrell to the Freeport Board and <b>CONFIRMS</b> that the appointment made following verbal notification at its meeting on 27 June 2024, was in error and that the appointment should not stand.</li> </ul>
<p>TVCA 09/24</p>	<p><b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24</b></p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which summarised the work of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee for the period July 2023 to June 2024.</p> <p>The Mayor introduced the report and then the Chair of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Steve Nelson was introduced to Cabinet members. The Mayor congratulated him on his new role as Chair of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and thanked him for playing a key role in achieving some positive outcomes over the previous municipal year.</p> <p>Cllr Nelson then highlighted some key areas of the annual report before thanking his predecessor Cllr Haszeldine, the Governance &amp; Scrutiny officers at TVCA and the Group Legal Manager who have, collectively played a key role in helping make improvements of the scrutiny function.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments were made or questions asked.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet noted the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24.</p>
<p>TVCA 10/24</p>	<p><b>TRANSPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE</b></p> <p>Cabinet received a report from the Director of Infrastructure providing an update on the transport programme approved by Cabinet, to be delivered with the second round City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS2) published indicative allocation of £978m.</p>

	<p>Cabinet were advised that a Transport Programme Update report is presented to Cabinet at every meeting and that this report shows there has been significant progress made across the programme.</p> <p>Tom Bryant advised Cabinet that Department of Transport guidelines are still needed but the work being undertaken puts TVCA in a strong position for when guidelines are received. TVCA continues to work closely with officer teams across all the Local Authorities.</p> <p>The Mayor commented that there is a lack of certainty over the CRSTS allocation as a result in the change in Government but hopes to have that clarified at the Budget.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments were made or questions asked.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet noted the update on the development of the CRSTS2 programme</p>
<p>TVCA 11/24</p>	<p><b>QUARTER 4 BUDGET REPORT AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE</b></p> <p>Cabinet received a report which provided an update on the financial position of the Combined Authority for the period ending 31 March 2024 and presented a revised Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).</p> <p>The Group Director of Finance &amp; Resources provided an overview of the report. He advised Cabinet that some assumptions have been made on borrowing and as a result the team are keeping a close eye on borrowing interest rates. He also advised that a prudent approach is being maintained with regards transport allocations.</p> <p>The report also included a breakdown of each thematic area in terms of key changes and further explanations are included throughout the report.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Ian Williams enquired why there is a significant drop in the Place figure for 2025/26 and 2026/27. He commented that regeneration projects are often long-term projects. He was advised that the main projects within this area were the RGF programmes and Local Authority programmes. It is difficult to forecast that far in advance however TVCA keep a close eye on fiscal events and will be guided and steered by those.</p> <p>Cllr Harker commented that appendix B references reserves and asked whether this is unallocated funds, unearmarked money?</p>

	<p>He was advised that the majority of reserves are earmarked for projects. Often government grant allocations are received in advance or span financial years. There is a very small general reserve fund of approximately £1m which is to cover any risks associated with TVCA's core costs.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Noted the quarter 4 outturn position for 2023/24; and</li> <li>ii. Approved the revised Medium-Term Financial Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>TVCA 11/24</p>	<p><b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2023/24</b></p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which informed them of the 2023/24 performance against the treasury management and prudential indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy, approved by the Authority in March 2023.</p> <p>The Group Director of Finance &amp; Resources provided an overview of the report and invited members to comment or ask questions. No comments were made or questions asked.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet noted the contents of the report.</p>
<p>TVCA 12/24</p>	<p><b>TEES VALLEY INVESTMENT ZONE UPDATE</b></p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which provided an update on progress with the Tees Valley Investment Zone, prior to the announcement of the UK General Election.</p> <p>The Group Chief Executive advised Cabinet members that, following discussions with civil servants, she has been advised to continue with Investment Zones and that government hope to provide sign-off on ours asap. She further advised that it still may be rolled into the Single Pot and if this is the case, it should be viewed positively as it will increase the flexibility on what we can spend it on.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Cllr Cook enquired whether, in paragraph 5 of the report, it was possible to also include the high growth cluster in Stockton's Care, Health &amp; Innovation zone. He was advised that it is important that we get this right at the beginning because if it isn't right at the start of the process, civil servants will not allow it to be changed further down the line. We have a high level of flexibility on what can be spent on business support across the whole Tees Valley and this is a Tees Valley wide Investment Zone. We have worked closely with civil servants to maximise the amount funding that is in the categories that can be spent across the Tees Valley.</p>

	<p>The Chair advised Cllr Cook that his request has been noted and that officers will continue to liaise with civil servants on the subject.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet noted the contents of the report.</p>
<p>TVCA 13/24</p>	<p><b>TEES VALLEY REVIEW UPDATE</b></p> <p>Cabinet were provided an update report on the Independent Review into the Tees Valley Combined Authority's oversight of the South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture (Teesworks Limited). The update also included the process for implementation of the recommendations within that Report.</p> <p>Emma Simson advised Cabinet members that a full report will be presented to the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and then both TVCA and STDC Audit &amp; Governance Committees before being presented to Cabinet in September.</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments were made, or questions asked.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet noted the progress of the work of the Statutory Officers Working Group and the progress towards implementation of the recommendations in the Tees Valley Review.</p>
<p>TVCA 14/24</p>	<p><b>STOCKTON HOUSING PARTNERSHIP</b></p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which provided an overview of the vision for the Stockton Municipal Quarter.</p> <p>The Group Chief Executive JG provided an overview of the report and advised members that TVCA have been working closely with Stockton to redevelop civic centre area of the town centre. There is an issue in providing suitable housing because of viability gaps so Stockton brought a proposal to the Combined Authority. The details of this Joint Venture have not been finalised yet but the proposal is that TVCA will co-invest.</p> <p>Agreement was sought from Cabinet in principle for TVCA and SBC to establish the joint venture vehicle to invest. Cabinet were advised that it is anticipated that the TVCA borrowing facility, available for access by Stockton Borough Council, will be required. Access to this borrowing facility was approved at the TVCA Cabinet meeting in January 2024. Any applications to access this facility will need to follow the processes as set out by TVCA Cabinet.</p>



	<p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p> <p>Councillor Cook commented that the blueprint for Central Stockton and North Thornaby Central will be presented to Stockton’s Cabinet meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 however the decision cannot be implemented until the end of July to allow for any possible Call-In.</p> <p>The Mayor commented that it has been good to work with Cllr Cook and his team at Stockton Borough Council on this project.</p> <p>Cllr Cook advised that there is a video which shows the project and agreed that this would be forwarded on to TVCA to share.</p> <p>Cllr Brown commented that Redcar &amp; Cleveland are currently reworking its Local Plan and would welcome a conversation to see what assistance TVCA could offer. The Mayor agreed that he would be more than happy for that conversation to take place.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED that Cabinet:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Noted the blueprint produced for Central Stockton and North Thornaby.</li> <li>ii. Approved the agreement in principle for TVCA and SBC to establish a joint venture vehicle to invest in the Municipal Quarter.</li> <li>iii. Approved a TVCA allocation of £450,000 to contribute 50% towards specialist independent advisors (to be matched equally by SBC) to inform the detailed plans which will be brought back to Cabinet.</li> </ul>
<p>TVCA 15/24</p>	<p><b>ADULT SKILLS</b></p> <p><i>(Appendix 1 to this report is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 )</i></p> <p>The Chair advised Cabinet that the appendix to this report is confidential so if the details of it are to be discussed, the members of the press and public would need to be excluded.</p> <p>Cabinet were provided a report which recommended, for approval, the allocations to be made to the adult skills providers for the 2024/25 academic year, for the Adult Skills Fund<sup>1</sup> (ASF) (formerly Adult Education Budget (AEB)), and the Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ).</p> <p>Members were given an opportunity to comment or ask questions.</p>

Ian Williams advised that, following previous discussions at Chief Executives meetings, it is felt that they would prefer skills to move into outcome, job-ready based opportunities and asked if this was an approach that had been considered.

Shona Duncan advised that we are considering moving to an outcome based model for delivery for 2025/26 which is when we need to go back out to procurement.

Julie Gilhespie then provided comments that had been submitted by the Business Board.

The Chair of the Business Board was disappointed that nobody was able to attend Cabinet due to prior arrangements and that there was nothing in the Constitution to allow for anyone other than the Chair and nominated substitute to attend. Julie Gilhespie agreed that this could be looked at when the Constitution is next reviewed.

The Business Board also expressed a desire to be more involved in the Adult Skills process going forward, including the procurement process. They were disappointed at not being able to do that this year but that is because we are on a 3 year contract. They would like to see this become more business focussed in the future. If Cabinet approve this paper today, the Business Board will take a key role in making sure that we do take a more business approach to skills.

Cabinet were advised that the Business Board have expressed disappointment that this hasn't been progressed as they would have liked this year. The Chair agreed to share the comments received from the Business Board.

The Mayor commented that he felt everyone would like more involvement and input into the process going forward rather than receiving the recommendation at the end of the process so requested some sessions are arranged for this to happen.

Middlesbrough Mayor Chris Cooke advised Cabinet that a concern that is raised with him on a regular basis is from Middlesbrough Community Learning who deliver a lot of the Adult Skills training for Middlesbrough. The funding allocated is per learner and not for every course. This does not allow for rewarding progression.

The Chair agreed and highlighted that this is another reason why Cabinet members should be more involved in the procurement process for next time.

	<p>Shona Duncan confirmed that this is what is currently under consideration as part of the procurement process and TVCA are working closely with providers.</p> <p>Cllr Cook advised that a member of the Business Board sits on the Education, Employment &amp; Skills group that he Chairs and is therefore in a good position to advise what is it that businesses need.</p> <p>Denise McGuckin commented that the average literacy age in the UK is 11 and in the North East it's a lot lower, between 7 and 9. We are doing our residents a disservice.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Cabinet:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Approves the Adult Skills Fund and Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs funding allocations to the adult skills providers for the 2024/25 academic year as a ring-fenced allocation as set out in appendix 1, as the final year of the current AEB procured framework</li> <li>ii. Agrees that, following the approval of the allocations set out in Appendix 1, the operational management of the Adult Education Budget/Adult Skills Fund and the Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) is handled in line with existing TVCA processes, including in year additional funding awards, reductions and the implementation of the required procurement process which shall be approved by the Group Director for Finance and Resources</li> <li>iii. Notes the national and local skills policy changes for the 2024/25 academic year set out in appendix 2.</li> <li>iv. Notes the approach set out to procure the next round of skills provision in the Tees Valley.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday, 27 September 2024</li> <li>• Friday, 20 December 2024</li> <li>• Friday, 31 January 2025</li> <li>• Friday, 28 March 2025</li> <li>• Friday, 27 June 2025</li> </ul> <p>(All the above meetings to commence at 10.00am)</p>

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## SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Thursday 30 May 2024.

**Present:** Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Cllr Steve Nelson ( ), Cllr Pauline Beall ( ), Majella McCarthy, Dan Heron, Sarah Wilson, Anna Waddington, Sharon Cooney, Miriam Sigsworth, Dawn Tyerman, Marc Stephenson, Mandie Rowlands, Tanja Braun, Richard Brooford, Jon Carling, Lucy Owens.

**Officers:** John Devine.

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** John Wrintmore (Vice Chair), Ann Powell, Victoria Cotter, Leane Maloney-Kelly, Kay Nicolson, Angela Corner, Sarah Bowman-Abouna.

### **SSP/1/24 Evacuation Procedure**

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

### **SSP/2/24 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interests.

### **SSP/3/24 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held 30th May 2024. Agreed that the minutes be approved.

### **SSP/4/24 VCAS Update**

Members of the Partnership heard from representatives of the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), which had been commissioned by the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) Office to support victims of serious crimes other than Domestic Abuse and Serious Sexual Crimes.

The briefing outlined who VCAS defined as a victim, with the example if a person's house is burgled then all those living there are victims. Another example given to members was if a child is the victim of a crime the parents would be impacted.

VCAS explained that they are able to support victims in a variety of ways, such as assisting victims to attend court and supporting them through those process. The Service is not limited by the amount of time that they are able to support victims, with an example of this being given as support for a victim of the Manchester Arena Bombings 2017.

Officers explained to members that they operate through a face-to-face basis usually at the victim's home or a coffee shop, but in lockdown it was found that a simple walk and talk was equally as affective.

How easy it is to refer a potential victim to the service was also discussed, Officers explained that most referrals come through from the Police, but anyone can refer themselves or others to VCAS and Officers would rarely say no.

Following the report Members and Officers discussed the following:

- That there were three full time members of staff who take any calls and triage those victims. With six victims care officers which are based around the local area.
- Officers extended an invite to Members of the partnership to shadow one of the Victim Care Officers.

Members agreed to note the report.

## **SSP/5/24 Serious Violence Duty**

Officers spoke about when the Serious Violence Duty was first introduced a strategic needs assessment was carried out, which identified that it would mostly affect the nighttime economy. An action plan was drawn up with some of the points highlighted below:

- The change in behaviours of those using the night-time economy due to coming of age during or post Covid.
- That Redcar would be the last area run a Street Angel programme, but it was being looked into setting one up.
- Testing of seized drugs and highlighting the content of the drugs to the public to raise awareness.

Members and Officer discussed the following:

In relation to drug use is there any training that could be offered to licensed premises in regard to drug overdoses. The Catalyst representative informed members that they could provide training which can be covered in a ten minute course for those interested.

The organisation of the Street Angels programme was also discussed, some members expressed concern of the possible religious connection to the programme which hindered its development in the past. Officers explained that the programme would be run non-denominationally with all people of all faiths and practices being welcome to volunteer.

Members noted the report.

## **SSP/6/24 Operation Harmony**

Officers attend the national Clear Hold Build conference recently, it was well attended by all Authorities. Officers were reassured in the terms of crime reduction stats with a 30% reduction in the clear hold build areas.

The funding for the operation would be looked at to ensure the longevity and sustainability of the operation. The feedback from the Community engagement felt that without adequate funding the operation will flounder in the months following. Worked had been undertaken to identify other possible funding schemes.

Regular drop-in surgeries were held on Thursdays for the community, with a case of serious bullying being reported at the last session. This encouraged members as it showed the community were using these sessions to report issues.

It was also highlighted that community groups would be receiving seeding funds for their own projects for the area as well.

A report would soon be released following Operation Nightfall and interviews with the community. Positive work had been done with community members, Ward Councillors and Sex Workers to find a solution going forward.

Partners would look at plans to roll out similar operations to operation Harmony in other wards, trying to learn from what has worked best in Ropner and how to use any funding most affectively. But it was cautioned that with the use of preexisting resources and funds it would be unlikely that Officers and Partners would be able to facilitate effective schemes across multiple wards simultaneously.

The move to another ward would have to be motivated by the data of which is in the most need. Officers were hopeful that those groups formed in Ropner could be utilised to set up similar strategies in the next wards in the future.

Members agreed to note the report.

#### **SSP/7/24 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report**

Officers presented the Recorded Crime and Disorder Report with Members, they noted several sections of the report for members. These were as follows:

- A large reduction in the number of reported cases in the theft from person.
- There had been an increase in the number of cases of anti-social behaviour.
- In the report burglary was down in the month-to-month comparison but it was up in the year-to-year comparisons.
- A spike in incidents involving off road bikes had increased, resources had been allocated to tackle the increase.
- Reported shop lifting has decreased by 25%, which Officers explained was due to increased allocation to Town Centres. But noted that the increased allocation could not be maintained forever.

Members AGREED to note the report.

#### **SSP/8/24 Any Other Business**

Officers presented a report on the Serious Youth Violence Project and discussed the following. That a snapshot was taken of children arrested in August 2023, of those children there were some common themes. The children in the snapshot were all Male, with most already being know to Police. They were also often already known to other services such as Childrens Services. Most of the incidents were committed as groups not individuals.

The report had already been presented to the Youth Justice Management Board which had suggested that they take a lead on this issue. They have agreed to set up an outline which was presented to members. Stage one of the project had already

begun, and Officers asked members of the partnership to support the endeavour with a request that any who are able to join the working group being set up.

Members expressed their support for the project and suggested that an update be added as a regular item for the partnership agenda.

Members Agreed to note the report.

**SSP/9/24    Restricted - iQuanta Report**

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP/10/24    Prevent Update**

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the Prevent Counter Terrorism Policing Programme.

Due to the nature of the update and the possible connection to ongoing investigations this item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP/11/24    Serious and Organised Crime Update**

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an update on the Prevent Counter Terrorism Policing Programme.

Due to the nature of the update and the connection to possible ongoing investigations this item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.



**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**DATE 12 September 2024**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **CABINET DECISION**

**Regeneration and Housing - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nigel Cooke**

### **CENTRAL STOCKTON AND NORTH THORNABY BLUEPRINT DELIVERY**

#### **SUMMARY**

In July 2024 the Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint, which sets out a vision and development framework for transformational change of this area over the next 25 years, was approved by Cabinet. This report provides an update on specific projects within the Stockton Central and North Thornaby Blueprint area which were referenced in the July 2024 report and seeks approval of funding to enable delivery and further progression of work as required.

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

The recommendations in this report seek approval for funding allocations and delegations enable progress on the delivery of projects within the Stockton Central and North Thornaby Blueprint area.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet approve the budget allocation as set out in table 1 to support delivery of Town Hall redevelopment, Splash refurbishment, Council Chamber, Stockton Waterfront and Community Diagnostic Centre and further feasibility works linked to the Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint.
2. Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with Director of Finance, Transformation and Performance and Director of Corporate Services to agree all contracts, agreements and any variations between the allocation set out in table 1 in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for or Regeneration and Housing and Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture following further formal engagement with, and procurement of contractors.

#### **DETAIL**

The Stockton Central and North Thornaby Blueprint outlines a vision for transformational change over the next 25 years by creating prosperous, vibrant places fit for future generations by delivering modern, mixed-use neighbourhoods and a stronger town centre helping to make sure it is a safe and welcoming place where people want to work, live and visit.

The report to Cabinet in July 2024, identified a number of interventions that are in development, setting out progress to date and emerging detail on recommended uses and specifications.

### **Splash and Town Hall**

The report to Cabinet in July 2024 detailed progress made on assessing options for both the Town Hall and refurbishment of Splash along with recommendations on the scope and scale of redevelopment and refurbishment works

In line with the budget estimates set out in the report to Cabinet in July 2024, an allocation of £15million is required for fees to develop designs from RIBA stage 2, undertake procurement of construction contractor and ultimately enable and fund delivery of the redevelopment of these two key assets.

### **Municipal Quarter**

Following approval, at Cabinet in July 2024, of funds to progress the next phase of development costs and approach to working in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority, work is underway on assessing appropriate delivery structures and partnerships for the Municipal Quarter with further detail to be reported a future Cabinet meeting.

### **Democratic Space & Council Chamber**

The report to Cabinet in July 2024, that the previous principle to develop a new facility that would include a customer contact centre, library, register office and a flexible space for civic and public facing business meetings had moved on markedly due to alternative proposals for a number of those elements. That report also explained that it had been pertinent to undertake a review of options for the provision of a modern Council Chamber as a new build option for this single element would not be considered economical in the current climate of extremely high construction costs. An options appraisal was undertaken in consultation with Democratic Services to consider options for both a permanent location for the Chamber, and how sites across the borough could support a peripatetic (travelling) chamber. This appraisal concluded that, following the vacation of Job Centre Plus in Dunedin House has meant that a new modern Council Chamber can be established which will sit alongside a series of meeting rooms for elected members and the creation of a neighbourhood office space for Democratic Services including the Electoral teams and their bespoke storage needs. This will ensure that Dunedin House provides an efficient civic function which is close to other Council Services and will provide a dedicated space to support the democratic diary across the calendar year with a dedicated entry point for public access. The options appraisal and preferred option described above were recently presented to Members Advisory Panel (MAP) Group, a representative consultative body. The feedback from that group was extremely useful with the group providing their support for the preferred option. In line with the report to Cabinet in July 2024, an allocation of £750k is considered appropriate to develop designs and fund the delivery of this new area.

### **Stockton Waterfront and Community Diagnostic Centre**

Work is progressing at pace on Stockton Waterfront and the construction of the Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC), with completion of the Diagnostic Centre scheduled for late 2024 and the Waterfront still on track for completion in early 2026.

As part of the original allocation for funding to enable delivery of a new civic facility on the waterfront development site alongside NHS diagnostic facilities, provision was made for the

delivery of public spaces, car parking and access to the planned Council building and NHS facilities. The car parking and access elements of the scheme are still required to enable access and public parking at the CDC as well as to ensure access to the wider development site is put in place to support future development. The funding allocation sought will cover the cost of delivery and associated fees on site design. Upon completion these elements will be Council assets and managed accordingly.

### Further Work

Several other development sites and opportunities were identified within the Blueprint. To progress these sites and gain a greater level of detail and understanding, further work in the form of feasibility, development briefs and detailed design will be required, therefore it is recommended that an allocation of funding to support this additional work is made, with further detail on site specific work to be reported to future Cabinet meetings.

### Funding Allocation

Following previous approvals in July 2023 and July 2024, it is recommended that remaining unallocated funding from previously approved sums is allocated as set out in table 1 below with authority delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with Director of Finance, Transformation and Performance and Director of Corporate Services to agree all contracts, agreements and any variations between the allocation following further formal engagement with and procurement of contractors.

**Table 1- Budget Allocation**

<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Allocation</u></b> <b>£'000</b>
Splash and Town Hall	15,000
Stockton Waterfront and Community Diagnostic Centre	1,750
Dunedin House Democratic Space/Council Chamber	750
Future work	1,05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.55</b>

### COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Throughout the lifetime of the projects the Council will give consideration to the potential impact on any protected characteristics and the needs of diverse groups when designing and delivering services so that people can access fairer opportunities and equal services.

The Council will seek to work with stakeholder groups to ensure that all communications and consultations are targeted at the appropriate groups, including anyone with a protected characteristic, so they are effective and use resources in the best possible way. Where proposals, events or services affect specific individuals or groups, these stakeholders will be kept fully informed and can give their input about issues that affect them.

Community engagement will be tailored to meet the needs and preferences of different groups of people across the Borough and we will also ensure information is accessible for those with additional needs.

Communication plans will be developed for projects being carefully considered to ensure no form of direct or indirect discrimination occurs.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

This report and its recommendations do not have any corporate parenting implications.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The recommendations in this report allocate the balance of the £20m borrowing approved in July 2021 and subsequently retained to support future investment as set out in the report to Cabinet in July 2023. The MTFP report in December 2023 committed £1m, followed by approval of £450,000 in July 2024 to support work in municipal quarter. The £18.55m allocations recommended within this report reflect the balance of the previously approved £20m borrowing.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

As the projects described in this report develop and progress there will be a range of legal issues to consider and address including in relation to property rights and acquisitions, planning, environmental and other impact assessments, the potential for public consultation and engagement to be required and the need to ensure that sound contractual agreements are put in place to protect and secure the Council's interests.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The recommendations made in this report are at this stage are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk. More specific risk assessment will be required as the detail of projects develop and progress

## **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Stockton Town Centre / Mandale and Victoria

The Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint was subject to an extensive engagement and consultation process, including workshops and public consultation which included involvement of ward councillors. Projects will be subject to consultation as appropriate.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Cabinet July 2024 – Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint  
Report to Cabinet July 2023 – Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres – Regeneration Update  
Report to Cabinet July 2022 – Town Centres Update  
Report to Cabinet July 2021 – Stockton Town Centre Waterfront Development Masterplan

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## AGENDA ITEM

## REPORT TO CABINET

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

## REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

### CABINET DECISION

#### Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing – Councillor Nigel Cooke

*Accelerating affordable housing delivery ('A quality home for all')*

#### SUMMARY

Government has recently announced an overhaul of the planning system to “fix the foundations and grow the economy”. As part of this announcement Government stated its ambition to increase the delivery of quality affordable and social housing and to bring forward investment to help deliver “*the biggest increase in affordable house building in a generation*”. The need to build affordable housing is recognised not only as an economic driver but a key enabler for local leaders to manage local pressures including tackling and preventing homelessness.

Like many local authorities we are experiencing increased demand for affordable housing (for sale and rent) and these pressures are being felt by multiply service areas (including homelessness, care leavers and vulnerable adults). Against this backdrop and to ensure we are best placed to meet the Governments housing growth agenda, specifically their commitment to increasing and diversifying housing supply an affordable housing delivery option appraisal has commenced. The option appraisal will explore opportunities for how the Council can increase the delivery of affordable housing, both in terms of numbers and speed of delivery. This report provides an overview of this appraisal.

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

Both the Councils Vision (as detailed in the Council Plan 2023-2026) and the Powering Our Future programme affirm the Councils commitment to driving economic growth to support community prosperity and well-being. The delivery of good quality, affordable housing in well-connected neighbourhoods will be integral to this. Although the Council is a non-stock holding local authority, the option appraisal will ensure we are best placed to respond positively to any additional investment opportunities, support the Government deliver its affordable and social housing commitments and address the boroughs local housing needs (providing ‘*a quality home for all*’).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet are asked to:

1. Note the current pressures faced by the Council in terms of addressing our residents housing needs (as detailed in para 1) and the emerging findings of the current Place Select Committee ‘Affordable Housing Delivery’ scrutiny review (as detailed in para 3).
2. Support the option appraisal which will explore the possibilities available to the Council to accelerate affordable housing delivery in the borough and maximise inward investment to address current and projected housing need.

3. Agree that following the conclusion of recommendation 2, a further report be presented back to Cabinet.

## DETAIL

### Background – current housing demand

1. Affordable Housing as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework and as detailed in the Homes England Fact Sheet: What is affordable housing <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-homes-fact-sheet-9-what-is-affordable-housing/fact-sheet-9-what-is-affordable-housing>, includes **homes for sale and rent and are for people whose needs are not met by the private market**. Affordable homes for rent includes homes let at least 20% below local market rents and those let at a social rent (a rent set through the National Rent Regime in England at around 50% of markets rents). Affordable housing for sale include shared ownership homes, rent to buy dwellings and those delivered through a discount (such as discount for market sale and First Homes). Demand for affordable rented and home-ownership dwellings has risen significantly over recent years and is particularly acute in the rented sector. For example:
  - The number of applications to Tees Valley Homefinder (the boroughs housing register) has increased by 19% from 2022.23 to 2023.24, with a further increase of 20% by the end of Qu. 1 2024.25 (total waiting list of 3103).
  - The number of weekly properties advertised on Tees Valley Homefinder has reduced by 23% during the same period (on average 12 new properties per week were advertised during 2023.24). This can be directly attributed to the reduced turnover of Registered Provider Housing stock.
  - Based on Qu. 1 2024.25 an average of 113 bids are placed on each property advertised.
  - Whilst Registered Providers remain committed to building new homes in the borough (146 were built in 2023.24) the rate of new build is not keeping pace with our growing housing demand.
2. As noted previously the limited availability of affordable properties is having a negative impact on several service areas, impacting our current ability to support homeless individuals/families, support vulnerable adults live independently and secure appropriate accommodation in a timely manner for care leavers. All are placing financial pressures on council services. An assessment of the Councils housing need has evidenced these pressures will continue in both the medium (up to 2027) and long term (up to 2032).

### Ongoing Place Select Committee scrutiny review

3. Against the backdrop of the above, Place Select Committee are currently exploring a number of key lines of enquiry exploring the Councils current approach to the delivery of affordable housing and are receiving evidence from council officers, representatives from Registered Housing Providers, private landlords, private house builders and organisations representing the social housing sector such as the Northern Housing Consortium. It is anticipated that Place committee will finalise its review later in the year and report into Cabinet in January 2025. However early findings have reaffirmed the growing demand for social housing (specifically from those in priority housing need) and whilst Registered Providers remain committed to investing in the borough, they do not have the capacity to build at a rate which will address our current or projected demand.

### The national agenda

4. The Rt. Hon. Angela Rayner MP (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) has recently written to all metro mayors affirming the Governments ambition to build more homes and the role new homes will have in unlocking economic growth. In this correspondence the Deputy PM emphasised the need to diversify housing delivery and reaffirmed a commitment to reverse the decline to affordable and social housing stock. To kick start delivery on a “*scale not seen for a generation*” Government is committed to bring forward details of future investment in social/affordable housing in the next Spending Review.

### Affordable housing delivery option appraisal

5. To ensure that the Council is best placed to proactively respond to any emerging funding opportunities it is prudent to explore potential delivery options. As such the option appraisal will explore a range of models and vehicles such as partnerships and direct delivery. Each option will be assessed against pre-determined criteria which will include for example, the ability to deliver at pace, cost and complexity, risk and the ability to deliver a quality housing product.
6. The option appraisal will also explore how affordable housing delivery (for rent and sale) will align/support the Councils regeneration ambitions in Central Stockton & North Thornaby, Billingham and the Tees Valley Health & Care Innovation Zone as boasting the supply of affordable homes is a core element of developing well-connected neighbourhoods where people want to live.
7. In addition a review of all current council assets (including those that will be freed up from the recent relocation into Dunedin House) is ongoing and will feed into this exercise.
8. The option appraisal will involve preliminary market engagement. Once the appraisal is concluded an outline business case setting out a preferred option(s) and resource implications will be presented back to Cabinet (anticipated November/December 2024). This report will also update Cabinet on the asset review noted above.
9. Members are asked to note that the appraisal will be conducted at pace to ensure we are well placed to respond to future spending announcements and that we can deliver a robust pipeline of properties that are truly affordable, meet the boroughs housing need and support health and independence.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

A Community Impact Assessment has not been completed. The ongoing option appraisal will consider the impact of any future proposals on our local communities (of interest and geographic communities) and will be reported back in the next cabinet report.

### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

As noted within the body of the report a limited affordable housing supply is impacting on several service areas including the Councils ability to support care experienced young people into independent living. One of the key drivers of the appraisal is to explore how the council can accelerate affordable rented housing delivery, and this will include accommodation which specifically the needs of those leaving our care.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no funding implications at this stage. Once the option appraisal is concluded a further report will be presented back to Cabinet, this report will include an outline business case which will detail legal, financial and procurement implications.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

As noted above.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The option appraisal detailed in this report 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**

As noted within the body of this report, Place Select Committee are currently undertaking a scrutiny review of affordable housing delivery.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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**AGENDA ITEM – EMS  
Consultation**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**DATE August 2024**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **CABINET INFORMATION ITEM**

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

**Consultation relating to Enhanced Mainstream Schools**

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to advise cabinet of a consultation that will be launched in September 2024 relating to the proposal to change Enhanced Mainstream Schools in Stockton-on-Tees to Additionally Resourced Provision and SEN Units, increasing the capacity within the Borough for school places for children with SEND and ensuring provision meets the needs of children locally.

**Recommended that the report be noted.**

### **Detail**

1. There is a need to improve outcomes for children with special educational needs across the borough and respond to the increasing demand for specialist support at the earliest opportunity. This fits with the council's vision of providing earlier intervention to reduce demand for expensive placements which are often out of Borough and aligns with the overarching strategy of SEND locally and the priority areas in the Delivering Better Value Action Plan.
2. The proposal to introduce a model of additional resourced provisions and SEND Unit would align with the Department for Education Guidance and allow for clear registration of the provision with benefits to schools and families. It would allow parents to request these schools in line with the duties in the Children and Families Act 2014 and would give parents additional choice of school placements, as opposed to current options of mainstream or special schools.

3. The proposal aims to rationalise existing provision to provide more access to specialist support for children in mainstream schools and will exist alongside the comprehensive CPD package being offered free of charge to all mainstream schools and settings from September 2025 to support upskilling of teaching and support staff. This is possible owing to investment in this area from the grant funding in place from Delivering Better Value.
4. The proposals are also intended to help prevent children from having to seek specialist placements out of the area. Presently, if they do need specialist placements, these are predominately being sought via independent special schools out of the area at high cost to the council owing to a lack of special school places both locally and regionally.
5. The proposal aims to provide support for earlier support and intervention by specialist services; resources such as Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology advice, specialist teaching assistants. The model would ensure each ARP is able to offer advice, support, guidance and challenge to schools.
6. Where children's needs cannot be met in SEND Units and ARPs there would be a need for a place in a special school, the introduction of ARP and SEND units will ensure that we are able to manage the flow of children into specialist provision and that special schools have the right number of places with the children who needs these placements most.
7. Any remodelling of provision would not impact on any child already in a placement. Every child would be able to remain in their present school until the natural end of the key stage. Any new provision and any changes to the designation of a provision, would begin with new children admitted from September 2025. Transitional arrangements would secure a phasing in of this new provision to ensure minimal impact to current children.
8. There is a recognised interdependency with Community Transport Services as a result of the proposals, however, it is anticipated that keeping children locally within their locality wherever possible, will reduce the demand on community transport service and where additional services may be required, this would be supported within the borough.
9. Expenditure associated with the provision of services detailed in this report is met via the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG is currently a ringfenced grant used to fund Schools, High Needs, Early Years Provision and Central School spend.
10. As detailed in the report to Cabinet on the 16th May 2024 the authority is part of the Governments Delivering Better Value Programme (DBV). As part of this programme the Authority produced a DSG Management Plan showing estimated costs across the medium term. Based on the unmitigated figures produced the authority identified an estimated aggregated deficit of £34.8m by the end of 2027/28. The changes proposed within the report form part of the mitigating actions to reduce this deficit.
11. As noted in section 4 the proposal is to help prevent the authority having to place children in high-cost independent specialist placements.
12. As an example, the average cost of an independent specialist placement in 2024/25 is £64,000 per annum. Detailed costings are currently being drawn up based on the type of future SEND provision required such as Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

13. Any transport requirements that arise from changes identified within this and future reports will be incorporated as part of the Community Transport Transformational Review that is currently ongoing.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

14. A thirty-day consultation will launch on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to include parents, schools and key stakeholders.
15. The proposal has been coproduced by a working group with key services within the council and Stockton Parent Carer Forum have been engaged in the proposals.
16. Parents and Carers will have an opportunity to meet with senior members of the SEND Services to discuss the proposal and open day listening events have been arranged during consultation period.

### **Next Steps**

17. Following consultation, a decision will be required by cabinet on the proposed model and the financial implications.

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**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**DATE AUGUST 24**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **COUNCIL/CABINET DECISION**

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

### **STOCKTON-ON-TEES YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

#### **SUMMARY**

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (YJSs). Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnerships responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Youth justice plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities England Regulations 2000).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation for full Council to sign off Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

#### **DETAIL**

1. The Youth Justice Plan reports on our vision, strategy, governance, leadership and partnership arrangements. It reflects and builds upon our strong performance against key national performance measures. It documents key themes around child first principles, workforce development, diversion, exploitation and working with families.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Youth Justice Plan was produced after consultation with partners.
3. The Plan documents seven key strategic objective for the forthcoming year. These are:
  - 1) Help children stay out of the criminal justice system.
  - 2) To reduce reoffending.

- 3) Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement.
- 4) Strengthen our responses to Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.
- 5) To reduce the number of school exclusions.
- 6) To refresh our practice in our work victims and restorative practice.
- 7) To develop a Participation model of practice.

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

4. The primary aim of a youth justice plan is to prevent offending and re-offending by children by working with them, their parents and carers. Youth Justice teams support victims of crime and work to contribute to keeping communities safe.

#### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

5. There are no direct corporate parenting implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

8. The Youth Justice Plan is overseen by the Youth Justice Board and Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Management Board. Strong partnership arrangements are in place to monitor progress against our strategic objectives.

#### **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

9. None.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10. Stockton-On-Tees Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

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# Youth Justice Plan Stockton-on-Tees

2024-2025



# Contents

## Page

3...	Introduction, vision and strategy
4...	Local context
5...	Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements
8...	Update on the previous year
13..	Plans for the forthcoming year
16..	Priorities for the coming year
18..	National priority areas
24..	Appendices and Glossary



## Introduction, Vision, and Strategy



**Welcome to the Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2024-25. This Plan sets out our priorities for the forthcoming year and how we will work with others to realise our vision and deliver services that promote positive child outcomes, reduce crime and make communities safer. This plan has been developed and agreed by the youth justice partnership.**

Youth justice services in Stockton-on-Tees have a proud history of delivering effective, high-quality services to help children stay out of the justice system and reduce reoffending when they do. We are supporting more children and their families when worries first arise.

Proven youth crime and the numbers of children in the justice system in 2023-24, have fallen compared to the previous year - 380 offences by 121 children in 2023-24 compared to 454 by 154 children in 2022-23. This is good news for our children and communities.

Youth justice services in Stockton-on-Tees are rated as “*Outstanding*” by independent inspectors and we remain committed to provide high quality, personalised and responsive services.

Improving our understanding of the lived experience of justice-experienced children and enshrining *Child First* principles in our approaches supports our ambitions in this.

In 2023-24, the Youth Justice Team relocated to sit within a new adolescent service in Children’s Services to refocus efforts to deliver improved services to children at risk of criminal exploitation.

Local analysis tells us that justice-experienced children are amongst the most vulnerable to this form of harm. Our analysis also shows a strong relationship between child exploitation and serious youth violence. These themes will be amongst our priorities for 2024-25.

Our new case management database being introduced will improve our ability to analyse and understand outcomes, children’s needs and the lived experience of justice-experienced children.

I am delighted to be taking the helm of the Management Board at this exciting time in the development of our youth justice services and partnership.

**Majella McCarthy, Chair of Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Management Board & Director of Children’s Services**

## Local Context

Stockton-on-Tees is a diverse area of six towns covering mainly urban areas, with some rural villages. It's population is around 200,000 and growing. 8% of the population are from a Black or other minority ethnic group. The population of 10–17-year-olds is over 43,000.

There are areas of great affluence alongside some of the most deprived in England, with some significant differences within the Borough experienced in life and health outcomes. We know that socio-economic factors profoundly influence the lives and opportunities of children and many of the children who come into the justice system are from our most deprived communities.



### Decreasing:

Falls in the number of children in the justice system and the number of proven crimes in 2023-24, compared to the previous year.

The number of children entering the justice system for the first time



### Increasing:

Complexity of children's needs

The number of children arrested for serious youth violence in 2023-24. Most are at risk of, or are experiencing, child exploitation



### Demographics:

Children in the justice system are predominantly male and White British

A substantial proportion of children in the justice system are also known to local children's services

## Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

### Youth Justice Management Board

The Management Board delivers strategic direction and coordinates the provision of local services. There is a clear focus on holding those functions, and the wider youth justice partnership, to account for performance at both an operational and strategic level.

The membership and terms of reference for the Management Board have recently been reviewed and refreshed to ensure its continued effectiveness and compliance with '*Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership, December 2021*'. The main objectives of the Board are:

1. To ensure the preparation and implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan; to consider and act upon feedback from the Youth Justice Board (YJB).
2. To determine how the Youth Justice Team is to be composed and funded, how it is to operate and what functions it is to carry out.
3. To agree measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan and evaluate service delivery to improve understanding of 'what works' in preventing offending and reoffending, including consideration of thematic inspections.
4. To influence other strategies and programmes from a youth offending perspective.
5. To agree annual funding arrangements and ensure the effective use of resource. To monitor quarterly financial position statements. To seek opportunities to gain additional resources which add value to core funding.
6. To oversee the appointment and designation of the Head of Service.

The Board is chaired by the Director of Children's Services. Board membership is comprised of representatives from the statutory partners: the local authority; police service; probation service and the integrated health board; and from local partners: the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner: the voluntary and community sector: and the courts. The Youth Justice Board is also represented.

The Board meets quarterly. As well as monitoring youth justice outcomes, the Board takes account of emerging trends, policy directives and legislation, research and inspections. Information on compliance with the conditions of Youth Justice Board grant funding, performance reports, quality assurance casework audits and the findings of National Standard audits are presented and discussed by the Board.

More information on the partnership improvements and Board developments in 2024-25 can be found on page 9.

## Location

The Youth Justice Team (YJT) is located in our Adolescent & Exploitation Services in Early Help and Safeguarding within Children's Services.

The new Adolescence & Exploitation Service comprises youth justice, specialist safeguarding child exploitation services including the multi-agency child exploitation hub, and targeted early help to children and their families.

The Youth Justice Head of Service role is delivered by the Service Lead for Adolescent & Exploited services, with line management by the Assistant Director for Early Help and Safeguarding.

## Resources and Value for Money

Resourcing for youth justice services comes from the Youth Justice Board and the local partnership. Youth justice functions are compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and a structure chart is presented on page 25.

100% of the youth justice grant is allocated to staffing costs within the YJT, accounting for just under half of the employee costs for practitioners delivering statutory youth justice work in the courts, community and custody; the supervision and management oversight of case managers and other YJ staff, and admin workers who populate the youth justice case management database and extract performance data. The costs of seconded staff are met by their employing agencies.

The Youth Justice Team has a diverse workforce comprising staff on substantive permanent and temporary contracts and community volunteers. In addition, there are 1 member of the team who is employed by another agency and co-located for part of their working week.

We are committed to delivering services that represent **value for money**. A significant amount of time has been spent on understanding the 'value' of services that are delivered, in terms of cost, outcomes and savings created through prevention and 'invest to save' approaches.

We will be delivering a range of services in partnership with others, to avoid duplication and to draw upon the skills and expertise of partners to maximise use of resources and expertise.



## Partnership Arrangements

Youth justice services in Stockton-on-Tees have developed a range of strategic and operational linkages; outlined below:



The range of partners will be further expanded in the coming year as we consolidate arrangements to realise our new child exploitation offer and reduce serious youth violence.

Most statutory youth justice interventions are delivered 'in house' or in partnership with key stakeholders. Our commissioned arrangement for speech, language and communication services with North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust will continue.

Joint working arrangements with the Office of Police Crime and Commissioner (OPCC) funded Liaison and Diversion Service and Custody Navigators to support children in the police station are continuing; these are significant not only to ensure that children are properly supported but also to ensure a presence during those critical 'reachable moments'.

There is close working between the Youth Justice Team and children's social care for those deemed to be a Child in Need, Child in our Care and Care Leavers. Working protocols are in place. The reduction of criminalisation and offending by children in our care are corporate priorities and is well embedded in local decision making by our partners in Police, Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts.

Multi-agency pathways have been developed to support the 'Prevent' and Modern-Day Slavery duties. The Youth Justice Team is also an integral part of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) when a multi-agency approach is required to protect people from serious harm. Information sharing agreements ensure information is available to support holistic assessments and planning for young people. All information is managed sensitively in accordance with Data Protection principles.

## Update on the previous year

### Help children stay out of the criminal justice system

During 2023/24 we reviewed and refreshed our Out of Court Disposal (OCD) policy and process. We also introduced our 'Child First' bespoke OCD panels where we invite professionals working with the child to contribute to the discussion and decision making.

The OPCC provide funding for Triage disposals and interventions to children. Triage continues to be our most widely used OCD. The introduction of our OCD panels and our consistent use of Triage has contributed to a significant improvement in our FTE's rate. The latest YJB performance rate is 125 and this is better than all other local and national comparisons.

Over the last 12 months we have fully established our Turnaround Programme. Since January 2023 we have worked with 75 children and have provided a range of interventions which have included family work, positive activities, and support with ETE.

### Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement

Our custody rate has remained high over the last 12 months. It is currently at 0.29 which equates to six children currently serving custodial sentences (in custody/community phase). The driver behind these rates has been serious youth violence, child exploitation and the influence of Organised Crime Groups. We have worked hard to keep our custody rates at a minimum and this was recognised during our YJB National Standards validation visit in January 2024. All reports go through our pre-sentence meeting process, and most were given comprehensive community sentences that we proposed to the court. We currently have three children who have been released on licence.

At the point of sentence, we hold bi-monthly resettlement meetings to ensure support is available on release. All are subject to a range of licence conditions which include where appropriate electronic tags with trial monitoring. Our CAMHS, SALT, ETE and support workers have been involved to ensure each child has consistent and individual support throughout the whole sentence.

### To reduce reoffending

We have continued to review and develop our interventions. Cleveland Police have secured funding for seconded officers to have virtual reality headsets to use in direct work with children. We have renewed and refreshed our knife crime programme and have a range of tools to address violent offending. Our interventions are under continuous review. Where appropriate we have made referrals to the Safer Communities Transitions Project for additional support when 17-year-olds make the transition into adulthood.

We have employed a full-time education, training and employment (ETE) worker to ensure children have intensive support to secure and sustain appropriate ETE opportunities and options. Although funding for our trauma informed pathway ended in 2023, we have had positive discussions with Tees Esk Wear Valley NHS trust to resume this resource in 2024.

### **Develop our partnership response to Serious Youth Violence**

We have continued to develop our response to Serious Youth Violence. We have worked closely with Cleveland CURV and have developed a range of initiatives. The main area of development has been the introduction of Custody Navigators scheme at Middlesbrough Custody suite where Children from Stockton-On-Tees are taken when arrested. This has ensured children have support at the earliest opportunity and trained staff can facilitate a 'teachable' moment. Our Turnaround programme has worked with those children who have been arrested for violent offences but who have not been formally charged. Again, this early intervention response will have benefits of steering children away from becoming involved in serious youth violence. We have previously documented our partnership response in developing an Adolescent and Exploitation Service with additional resources and practices in place to tackle child exploitation and serious youth violence.

### **To develop an Immediate Justice model of delivery in partnership with the PCC and other Cleveland YJS**

The OPCC provided funding so we could develop our Immediate Justice project. We have worked closely with the OPCC and our Community Safety team and developed agreed criteria and pathways for referrals. We have established clear metrics to measure success against outputs and provide monthly performance reports to the OPCC. We went live on the 01/09/2023 and have employed 1.5 members of staff on a short-term basis. The rate of referrals has not been at the expected level since the project started (this is consistent with both Hartlepool and South Tees Youth Justice Teams). We have had 22 referrals from our Community Safety team. We are currently working with the OPCC and Community Safety team so we can widen the criteria in relevant cases.

### **Board development**

Plans to outsource the role of Board Chair have changed and the Director of Children's Services will continue this. In line with our commitment to deliver effective and high-quality services, the Board has embarked on its own development programme which is continuing into 2024-25.

Activity includes: the temporary secondment of an experienced youth justice Head of Service to support the Board; refreshed membership and terms of reference; Board development days and thematic workshops; development of a new performance dashboard; and the

development of an annual workplan to ensure that key priorities are regularly discussed and monitored.

Key success factors include: the Board regularly receives regular quantitative and qualitative data to support its governance functions and enables challenge where needed; Board has a strong understanding of the lived experience of children and families and the *Child First* approach to youth justice; and the Board has a strong understanding of the profile and level of need of children and their families, any disparity in groups from the local population and is able to advocate for access to relevant services.

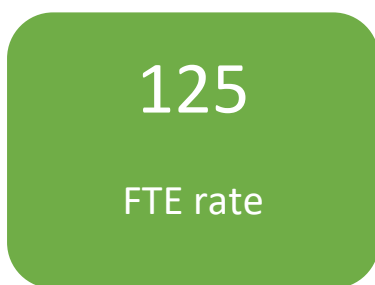
During 2024-25 there will be strategic focus on the themes of **child exploitation** and **serious youth violence**.

### To implement a new Case Management system by March 2024

Considerable work has taken place over the last 12 months with our Systems and Information team. We went through the relevant procurement process and NEC/Pathways were selected as our chosen provider. A project plan documented milestones of data mapping, acceptance, and migration. A training needs analysis was completed, and six members of staff completed the train the trainer course and all staff have received training. We are confident we have built considerable knowledge across the staff team.

We were impressed by the Pathways case management system as it is a modern product with a simple and easy to navigate user interface. It is anticipated we will go live in May / June 2024.

### Performance over the last year.

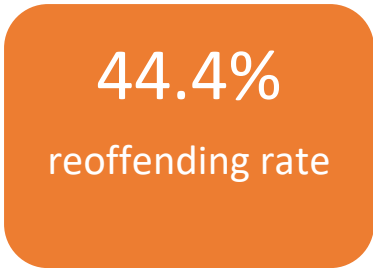


**The rate of First Time Entrants (FTEs) in Stockton has decreased** in the latest published YJB data from 198 in 2022 per 10,000 to 125 in 2023.

This is a significant reduction in our FTE rate. We are considerably lower than all other comparisons including England & Wales, North-East and our YJS family. The actual numbers of children who have become FTE in this reporting period is 26, down from 40 previously

We have been strong advocates of the Child First approach and divert as many children away from the criminal justice system as possible. The OPCC funding has allowed for the widespread use of Triage and Triage 2. With the introduction of our Out-Of-Court Disposal panel it is anticipated this will assist in our continued efforts to keep our FTEs at a low level.



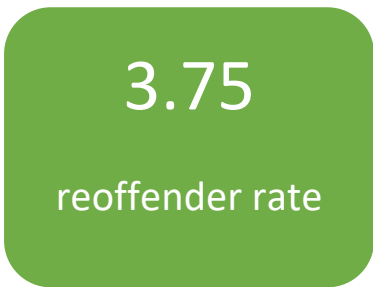


**The latest reoffending rate is 44.4%, which is lower than our PCC area but higher than other comparison groups.**

This is higher than the previous quarter's performance of 36.4% and higher than the previous year of 21.4%.

The current cohort consists of 18 children where eight reoffended

The previous cohort consisted of 17 children but only four reoffended. If you consider our reoffending data average over previous 12 months of 32.3% this is broadly in line with all other comparisons.



**The latest data regarding Reoffences/Reoffender is 3.75.**

This is lower than all other comparisons apart from our PCC area. This is an improvement on the last published data which was 4.75. The current figure is based on eight children committing 30 offences between them.



**Stockton's custody rate is currently above** all national and local comparisons at a rate of 0.29.

The level has remained at 0.29 since the last published data.

The current figure relates to six custodial sentences.

All six custody cases relate to serious violent offending. Stockton-On-Tees have faced challenges in relation to the volume of children charged to Court for serious offences. Most have been given Community sentences and context has been provided in other sections.

## Risks and Issues

Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice partnership continue to function in an ever-evolving landscape with the streamlining of services and pressures on resources. Adolescent and Exploitation Services including youth justice are now co-located which allows for collaborative working, wider discussions, and a multi-skilled workforce to respond to need. Change programmes have inherent risks, and our focus is to continue to embed the recent changes while maintaining an outstanding service.

It is evident we continue to work with a group of children that exhibit higher levels of need and more complex behaviours. The YJB grant allows us to maintain a comprehensive and effective service to the children we work with. We have used the recent increase in grant funding to create an additional youth justice officer role and ETE worker (both initially for 12 months). We need to ensure we have sufficient resources in place to meet demand and expectations. This needs to be kept under constant review. Any reduction in the YJB grant would have serious implications.

The YJT is moving to a new case management system in May 2024, and we hope to minimize any disruption this may cause. The Information and System team have worked closely with our provider NEC to ensure any difficulties are resolved quickly. We also need to start exit planning for both our Turnaround and Immediate Justice Programmes as funding ends March 2025. We need to ensure this causes as little disruption to the children and families we are working with.

The YJT along with many other teams from across Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council will move to a refurbished big open office environment. This will be a different way of working for many staff.

The YJT does not have a centralised place for appointments with children. The team use a variety of venues across the borough including family hubs. We need to identify a space in Stockton town centre where children and families can come for appointments and will accommodate staff and bring together resources to deliver effective services.

## Plans for the forthcoming year

### Child First

The Child Focus<sup>1</sup> approach has 4 tenets, which are summarised as:

#### **As children**

Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.



#### **Building pro-social identity**

Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

#### **Collaborating with children**

Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.

#### **Diverting from stigma**

Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

The Child First approach means that all staff consistently refer to our cohort as children and not young people. The impact of this has been it is more effective when gaining access to appropriate services. We talk to children in a positive way about their strengths and ability for positive change.

We have promoted diversion throughout the team/partners and consequently we have seen a significant reduction in FTE's. We avoid criminalising children unnecessarily. The YJT strives to promote a pro-social identity. We are adopting the new Prevention and Diversion assessment tool at the earliest opportunity as this is more child focused and is cemented on a strengths-based model. We are also in the process of restructuring the format of our Pre-Sentence Reports to be more child friendly/strengths based.

We have continued to build a strong partnership approach to our work so we can continue to develop personalised child focus work. We have speech, language and communication, health and education and training workers in place along with support workers who can work with children to develop inclusion, positive relations, interests, and activities.

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<sup>1</sup> YJB Strategic Plan, 2024-27

We recognise Child First practice is part of an ongoing journey and we have planned to hold a Child First effective practice workshops every six months.

The voice of the child is a key element of the Child First principle. In July 2023 we produced a report for the Management Board which collated 41 responses from Children and parents/carers from our feedback questionnaires. The feedback was extremely positive, and it was apparent children and their parents/carers felt supported by youth justice staff. The children commented on the good work we do on ETE, practical help and intervention work. Many parents remarked the situation was 'better' with our intervention. Although this is constructive feedback, we recognise we need to do more to achieve active participation and collaboration with children.

We are committed to ensuring that young people and their families have a voice; that they have an influence in their individual intervention programmes *and* in broader approaches to service delivery and developments. We aspire to deliver motivational, respectful and strength-based approaches to promote desistance from crime. Participation is one of our strategic objectives for the next year.

### Resources and services

Regular financial reports are presented to the YJ Management Board with recommendations for the board to discuss and agree. The income and projected expenditure represent finance estimates based upon the Youth Justice Team structure, agreed funding and service initiative from a national and local level. As in previous years, staff costs will continue to constitute most of the expenditure. All monies carry forward in reserve are earmarked for planned Youth Justice business, and all future spend of the reserve would be agreed by the board.

There is currently no requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Service to contribute to remand costs, but this may change if the numbers increase.

We use 100% of our grant, partner contributions and available resources to deliver these services and we believe they produce improved benefits and outcomes, and our performance will be improved in 2024–25 by understanding and working with the diverse communities in Stockton. This will be delivered with a joined-up problem-solving approach, focussing on our response and long-term support, using a consistent approach in working with our most vulnerable, complex, and high-risk teenagers and enhancing our offer for First Time Entrants.

The table on page 26 represents the closing financial position for 2023-24. Expenditure was slightly over budget, due to the pay award that was agreed mid-year, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council have covered that. The budget has seen a slight increase in the YJB grant, due to an uplift in 2024.

The Ministry of Justice Turnaround programme financial profile will be presented as a separate report in the 2023-24 financial year. We have continued to receive payment in kind for Police,

Probation and Health workers. The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has committed further funding for our Triage programme.

### **Workforce Development**

We updated our workforce development policy in November 2022 to ensure all YJT employees and seconded workers have sufficient skills to enable them to carry out their job effectively. Staff receive monthly supervision and a yearly appraisal along with completing a range of mandatory training. All YJT in 2023-24 staff have received training on Pathways case management system, Hidden Harm (NPACS) and Prevent. The YJT have a monthly Effective Practice session with all staff. The sessions are designed to develop knowledge and skills. In 2023-24 we have completed work on Child First, the victim's journey, new case guidance and the YJB Diversion and Prevention assessment tool. Our CAMHS worker has also undertaken reflective practice sessions with staff.

The YJT currently have 10 Referral Order panel volunteers. Referral Order panel member meetings take place on a quarterly basis and an element of training is provided during these sessions. Panel members are also offered two 1:1 sessions each year. They also have access to Stockton Borough council training.

In the last year we have had several new members of staff joining the team. All have received our two-week induction programme which includes, meetings, training, and shadowing opportunities. Our training plan for 2024-25 covers such areas as transitions to probation, breach case management, harmful sexual behaviour refresher and custody processes.

### **Evidence-based practice and innovation**

Stockton-on-Tees YJT always seek to improve practice to ensure we achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families. Consequently, we continually work towards improving the services we provide and extend our offer based on best and evidence-based practice. We have built upon good practice over many years and desistance theory is embedded into our way of working. We ensure children have consistency of case managers so we can effectively form relationships with the children and families we work with. Our partnership approach/offer is an example of our current good practice. We have Police, Probation, ETE, SALT and CAMHS workers all in place and we are responsive to children's needs. We have continued to invest in a bike project as children's feedback about their experience there has been consistently positive.

### **Evaluation**

We intend to build on feedback gained from the YJB validation visit which concluded *"Outstanding practice is evidenced. Stockton has a high volume of court work and a very experienced team. Where there are issues with court or with police decisions, additionalities such as a court user group or a SPoC might assist in challenging these"*, February 2024.

## Priorities for the coming year

### 1. Help children stay out of the criminal justice system.

**We will:**

- Introduce YJB Diversion and Prevention Assessment tool for all OOC cases.
- Continue to promote diversion principles at our OOC panels and use of Outcome 22.
- Provide comprehensive interventions for children identified through the Turnaround and Immediate Justice programmes.
- Continue to deliver Triage services in partnership with the Office Police Crime Commissioner.

### 2. To reduce reoffending.

**We will:**

- To consider how we introduce Youth Endowment Fund recommendations of high impact interventions into practice. This to include Social Skills Training and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.
- To be pro-active in making referrals to Safer Communities Transitions Project for 17-year-olds who need additional support.
- To use core grant to make the 12-month ETE worker post permanent as this is having an impact on providing every child with the opportunity to engage in appropriate ETE.
- To provide a comprehensive offer to the youth justice cohort regarding sports and physical activities.

### 3. Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement.

**We will:**

- Continue to hold a pre-sentence meeting in all possible custody cases to ensure comprehensive Community Sentences are recommended to court.
- Propose where appropriate electronic tags with trial monitoring as this will promote confidence to the Court that children can be managed safely in the community.
- All resettlement cases will be discussed at Management Board meetings to ensure any gaps in provision are known and escalated to Board members whose seniority can make key decisions.
- Ensure early planning is in place for those children leaving custody. This will be monitored by monthly resettlement meetings.

#### 4. Strengthen our responses to Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.

**We will:**

- Work closely with our Adolescent Exploitation social work team to develop positive pathways for children to steer them away from Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.
- The YJ Management Board will, at pace, drive and shape a refreshed multiagency approach to serious youth violence
- Work in partnership with CURV
- Focused Deterrence - To help Children understand the consequences of violent crime.
- To identify children at risk of serious youth violence at the earliest opportunity through our work with Custody Navigators, Turnaround Programme, and Immediate Justice and provide them with support.

#### 5. To Reduce the number of school exclusions.

**We will:**

- To monitor school exclusion across the youth justice cohort.
- Utilise ETE clinic and Fair Access Panel to raise concerns around school attendance and exclusions.

#### 6. To refresh our practice in our work victims and restorative practice.

**We will:**

- Increase capacity and resilience for staff to undertake victim and restorative justice work.
- Increase participation of victims at Referral Order panels
- To review all our process and practice in relation to victims and restorative justice.
- Within 6 months adopt YJB advised to model victim services using framework for devised by Gwent & Caerphilly YOS for example, victim safety and contact forms.

#### 7. To develop a Participation model of practice.

**We will:**

- Create a participation working group.
- Liaise with local partners Bright Minds and Cornerhouse Youth Project to model best practice.
- Gather children's lived experience and new ways to gain feedback to help us improve our youth justice services.
- To hold creative workshops with children to find out how best to support them to build positive identities.



## National priority areas

### Children from groups which are over-represented

It is paramount Stockton-On-Tees YJT are aware of issues of disproportionality and take appropriate action. It is recognised that nationally children from some ethnic minority groups are more likely to be criminalized. Over the last 12 months the Management Board have been provided with quarterly reports which document the ethnicity of the youth justice cohort. The report compares information to the latest census data (2021) on Stockton's population and in terms of ethnicity was 92% White, 4.6% Asian, 3.3% Other. We have not found any disproportionality in terms of ethnicity as the cohort has consisted of 93% White. The YJB information on the Stockton cohort for April – June 2023 on racial disparity reports in terms of reoffending the cohort, 94% were white and 6 Asian/Asian British. Again, this is in line our local demographics. Although the numbers are small, we are committed to continued scrutiny and analysis of data.

The Management Board have also monitored children known to wider services. A report was presented to the Management Board in October 2023. This consisted of an in-depth audit which looked at the characteristics of 62 children. This found 35 were open to Children Services and 27 who are not.

### Prevention

Our prevention offer is from the Targeted Youth and Missing from Home (MFH) Team which sits within the Adolescence and Exploitation service. The team are responsible for direct work with children where there are risks or vulnerability around all aspects of exploitation. They also provide a dedicated response to children who go missing from home.

All engagement with the Targeted Youth team is voluntary and they prioritise face to face contact and direct work, taking full opportunity of any reachable moments presented between them and the child. All direct work is aimed to be individual to each child's needs, innovative and using evidence-based practice tools, which underpins our good practice and quality assurance framework.

Targeted Youth aim to reduce the need for statutory involvement by responding to the early indicator of exploitation, to prevent the need for social care action. Both YJT and Targeted Youth Support have close links with SBC Community Safety team who can identify children who are displaying anti-social behaviour in the community. Targeted Youth Support also deliver Appropriate Adult support, intensive support, reparation work, personal development sessions for children open to the YJT.



## Diversion

Stockton-on-Tees YJT is committed to a diversionary approach in our work. We believe we should avoid unnecessary criminalisation of children and deal with them at the lowest possible level. The YJT are keen to ensure where there is a linked offence children receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal youth justice system and associated stigmatisation. Our OOC framework has a range of disposals (Restorative Interventions, Outcome 22, Triage and Triage 2) that avoid children having a criminal record so we can, through assessment and intervention help them form/maintain a pro-social identity. In the last 12 months we have had 103 children subject to one of the above and all children have been provided with an intervention. In the last year only 13 out of 116 OOC disposals received either a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution. We have therefore embedded our diversionary principles into practice. This is evidenced by our significant reduction in FTE's.

## Education

Access to opportunities for ETE for the youth justice cohort is fundamental for their prospects. The YJT continue to hold a bimonthly ETE clinic which is attended by colleagues from Careers Services, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and Education Improvement Teams. The meetings discuss all NEET children on the YJT caseload with a focus on problem solving, sharing information and escalation. It also includes cases of school aged children where they have been concerns regarding attendance. In the last year it became apparent from this meeting that specialist skills and dedicated time is needed to work with the youth justice cohort. Many have low self-esteem, poor educational attainment, attendance and motivation, SALT and SEND needs. Finding the right pathway with the right support is challenging for staff who also have mainstream cases on their caseload. Consequently, the Management Board agreed for the YJT to employ a ETE worker rather than continue with the previous model of workers across the Careers Team being allocated cases. The YJT have had an ETE worker in place since October 2023. Our current post 16 performance is 80%, a significant increase from 38% when the ETE worker started. The data for Statutory School age young people remains at 100%. It is positive to report that the ETE worker is having an impact. Specifically, work with post 16 children to encourage them to consider appropriate training courses e.g., NACRO and Princess Trust has been successful.

## Restorative approaches and victims

The YJT have a youth justice co-ordinator role and this post has responsibility for Restorative Justice and victims. Most victims are contacted and an offer of involvement in a restorative process is initiated. This offer includes direct mediation, ensuring the voice of the victim is heard, direct/indirect reparation and letters of apology/explanation. We have a high satisfaction rate with the victims who have choose to engage in a restorative process. Our Immediate Justice programme has meant we have had more victims to contact over the last year and we have needed to consider how we build capacity for staff to undertake victim and restorative work.

We have also developed a portfolio of reparation projects, for example family hub and allotment projects. HMI Probation new inspection framework starting in 2025 will inspect victim work and will focus on quality of work. The YJB have recently provided good practice guide from the restorative and victim work undertaken by Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service. Given these two developments our 2024-25 Youth Justice Plan will have a strategic objective of reviewing our practice and approach with our restorative justice and victim work.

### **Serious violence and exploitation**

The link between the exploitation of children and serious organised crime gangs and the connections with the supply of drugs and serious violence is well understood in Stockton, as is the intrafamilial harm whereby family members of children are involved in OCG and serious violence. It was evident the Partnership in Stockton needed to develop a coordinated response to criminal exploitation and youth violence. Stockton has responded to this by strengthening its response and building on its MACE with a dedicated service area with the creation of the Adolescent and Exploitation Service in December 2023.

The Exploitation Team sit in the Adolescent Service and is a Social Work Team that has at its core the safeguarding of children who are going missing and/or being exploited or at risk of exploitation. The team will work with cases that are open to Children's Services using a co-working model, so there will be an allocated Social Worker and an Exploitation Team Social Worker allocated to the child.

The service will work with children from the age of 10-18 years of age who are likely to suffer harm from exploitation, although this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Service can work with children for as long as necessary or whilst there is consent, with regular Exploitation Team Around the Child (ETAC) reviews taking place between 4-6 weeks (depending on the risk) to assess the effectiveness of the plan.

We work in close partnership with Police (CET and MFH), Health, Community Safety and CCTV surveillance, Police custody navigator, health navigator from hospitals, YJT, Virtual School and the Missing From Home Team who are part of the Exploitation Service.

In bringing together the knowledge, expertise and resources of all partners, the Team can share information swiftly, create a full picture of risk and need and provide a creative and effective response that is always guided by the particular needs and wishes of the individual child, young person, and their family.

This is under pinned by our Core Principles which are: Youth voice and experience: development and transitions in their lives: Intervene early and help prevent further harm: Intervention: Disruption and Information sharing and data analysis.

The team will work with cases that are open to Children's Services using a co-working model, so there will be an allocated Social Worker and an Exploitation Team Social Worker allocated to the young person.

The MACE arrangements provide assessment and risk management responses to those Persons and Locations where exploitation harm is present for children. Persons and Locations of Concern are managed in partnership through the Community Safety led Joint Action Group and Police led MARSOC management of which YJT are partners. As such, the partnership is collectively responsive to support disruption of the contextual risks for children at risk of exploitation harm. In addition, there is the oversight of NRM submissions through the Tees Strategic Exploitation Group (TSEG), as such YJT work in partnership with MACE to ensure appropriate referrals are made, and information is shared to support identification of children at risk of Modern Slavery and Trafficking.

The YJS partnership facilitates the seamless transfer of information on risk and vulnerabilities across a range of forums which include, the strategic Multi-agency Child Exploitation Meetings (MACE), Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). We continue to work closely with CURV and the funded custody navigators scheme provides a holistic approach in engaging and intervening with children at the earliest opportunity.

### **Detention in police custody**

We have established arrangements in place for children detained in custody. Youth Support provide Appropriate Adults during office hours 9 -5 and the Emergency Duty Team provide an after-hours service. All staff undertaking AA work have been PACE trained. Staff will work with the Police to facilitate that a parent/carer will attend in the first instance. If this is not possible, we will act as AA and ensure the child understands the process and any interview is conducted fairly. Furthermore, we will provide updates to parents/carers and relevant professionals.

Cleveland Youth Justice Services continue to hold a monthly Children in Custody meeting. This is aligned with a business priority for the YJB to ensure custody is used appropriately. The meeting is attended by the Police, emergency duty and custody teams. We focus on all children who were held for more than 12 hours. Stockton on average has 10 – 12 cases each month which meet these criteria. The meeting looks for assurance that these children have support in place. We have found in most cases the reasons why children are held for over 12 hours is because a 'live' investigation is ongoing, or the child is not fit for interview due to intoxication. We have also had an agreement in place with Aycliffe Secure Home where they will provide a PACE bed if one is available. Over the last 12 months we have had several children who was placed in a PACE bed before attending court the following day.

In partnership with CURV, Hartlepool and South Tees YJT we launched a Custody Navigator scheme in April 2023. The scheme has trained staff available six days a week to support children in custody. Good communication channels are in place, so information is shared across partners in a timely fashion, so children's needs are addressed.

## Remands

In the last year we have reviewed our bail and remand policy, and this has formed part of a recent effective practice sessions with staff. The YJT provide a trained and specialist youth justice officer to attend each day, if required. We have an extensive range of bail packages available to the Court including ISS. Good partnership relationships are in place with Police, CPS, defence solicitors, Children Services, and others. We work closely with Children Services, so appropriate support is provided if children have any accommodation issues. Over the past year we have had three children who have been remanded to custody. These were for serious offences which include Section 18 Wounding and Aggravated Burglary. However, within this period the YJT have provided robust bail packages to the Court which included the use of BSS and ISS. We have had eleven children subject to bail packages where either a remand or extensive bail conditions have been actively pursued by the CPS. The YJB National Standards validation visit on the 31/1/2024 felt our work in this area was outstanding.

## Use of custody

In last year's plan we had proposed how to minimise the use of custody in Stockton-on-Tees. We developed clear mechanisms which included, holding a Pre-Sentence meeting in all possible custody cases to ensure comprehensive Community Sentences were recommended to the court. In appropriate cases we have proposed ISS and the use of electronic monitoring. Our custody rate is currently at 0.29 which is higher than all other comparisons. The figure currently relates to six custodial sentences. All the custodial sentences relate to serious violent offences. In three of the cases, we initially proposed the children should receive a Community Sentence, which the Court agreed to. However, one case was subsequently sent to the Court of Appeal, and they revoked the YRO and imposed a DTO. In the other two cases the children breached their YRO's and the Court resentenced them to DTO's. In these cases, YRO plannings and back on track meetings were held. We offered considerable flexibility and worked closely with the children and their families to encourage compliance. Both were subject to electronic monitoring and were unable to manage this requirement of their YRO.

Although the custody rate is of concern, we have also produced many other PSR's where custody was being considered and these children were given community sentences. The feedback from the YJB validation visit said Stockton-On-Tees YJT are 'making every effort to steer children away from custody'.

## Constructive resettlement

Over the last 12-month Stockton-on-Tees YJT have continued to focus our attention on resettlement. We have considered the learning from HMI Probation thematic report into resettlement in 2019 and Case Management Guidance – Custody and Resettlement and YJB – How to Make Resettlement Constructive (Sept 2018). We recognised the importance of appropriate accommodation and ETE on release to build a positive identity for the child. Since our last Youth Justice plan, we have had three children released from custody. All returned home to live with family and the YJT ETE worker has provided specialist support to explore suitable options. Our CAHMS worker has also provided seamless support from liaising with

health professional in the custody to arranging appropriate appointments in the community. We have also ensured we have a range of personal development sessions in place, and this can range from cooking to going to the gym. We have also embedded bimonthly resettlement discussions between the Team Manager and Youth Justice Officers for each resettlement case. The meetings are designed to provide an update on the plan and to overcome any potential barriers to effective resettlement.

### **Standards for children in the justice system**

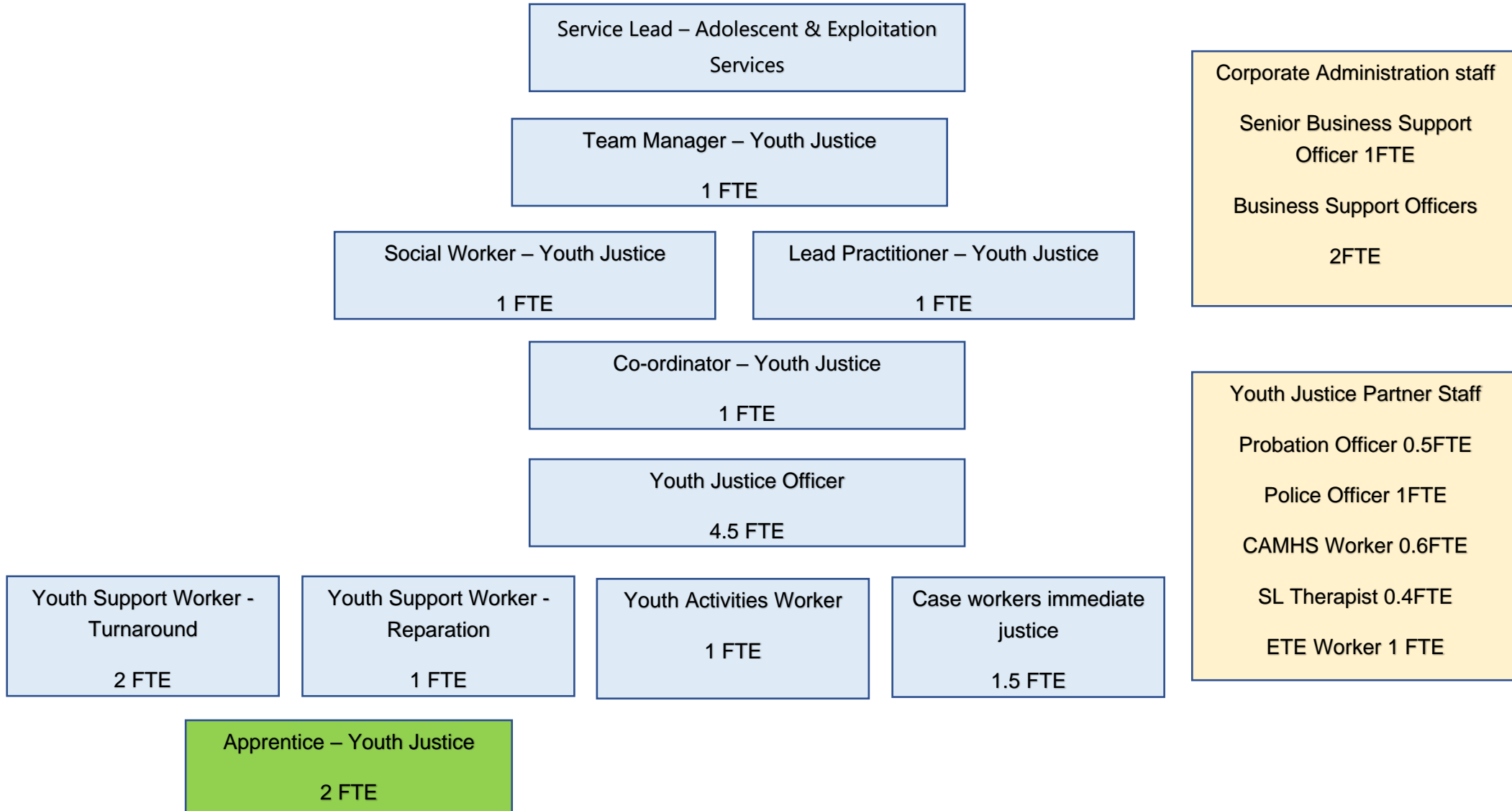
Stockton-on-Tees YJT completed the required National Standards self-assessment on standard two - At Court, last year. We reviewed our Strategy, Reports and Process. We considered a range of documents which included our remand policy and our practice in Court along with auditing 20 cases which were either Pre-Sentence Reports or Referral Orders. The self-assessment determined our Strategy as good and Reports and Process as Outstanding. The YJB selected Stockton-On-Tees YJT for a validation visit on the 31.1.2024. We provided a considerable range of evidence prior to the visit and the YJB reviewed the documentation as well as meeting staff and asking further questions to the management team. The YJB rated our work at Court as Outstanding across Strategy, Reports and Process. They remarked, 'Outstanding practice is evidenced'. The YJB said all possible steps are evidenced to divert children from court. In the last year 16 diversions were made from court. PSRs advocate for individual circumstances & social worker/ responsible person attends at court. Relationship-based practice model is embedded so one person is with the child throughout journey. Clear Child First approach and contact made with child and family pre-court to ease anxieties. Court officers advocate for the child, reminding the court where necessary of EHCP/ SAL issues/ ASD/ LAC, etc. The YJB said in terms of an area of development Stockton need to work with partners to re-establish a court user group.

We have embedded an audit process in the last year. We undertake audits on both OOC, and Statutory work which are aligned with HMI Probation standards and methodology. We have audited 15 cases over a 12-month period along with a further 20 for the National Standards audit. Themes have emerged around reviewing risk of harm and safety and wellbeing ratings and the format of plans for OOC. These issues have been addressed through effective practice meetings.

## Appendix 1A: Staffing Demographics

Youth Justice Team staff demographics		
GENDER	Female	20
	Male	4
	Other	0
ETHNICITY	White	96%
	Asian	04%
	Black	0%
	Mixed	0%
	Other	0%
DISABILITY	YES	0
	NO	24

## Appendix 1B: Youth Justice Team Structure chart



## Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions

Below is a summary of the YJT's financial profile for 2023-24. As in previous years, the majority of expenditure was on staffing costs.

<b>BUDGET 2023/24</b>	<b>budget</b>	<b>outturn 2023/2024</b>	<b>outturn variance</b>
Staff	959,745	975,790	16,045
Premises	42,778	42,778	0
Office Costs	63,221	50,221	-13000
Central recharges	53,000	53,000	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,118,744</b>	<b>1,121,789</b>	<b>3,045</b>
Income	1,118,744	1,121,789	3,045
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## Glossary

AssetPlus	A strengths based structured assessment tool based on research and developed by the Youth Justice Board looking at the child or young person's offence, personal circumstances and factors affecting desistance from crime
Child Exploitation	Safeguarding activity which focuses 'beyond the child's home and families', to target those adults who are exploiting (targeting, tricking and coercing) children for their own purposes and needs.
CURV	Cleveland's Unit for Reduction of Violence
ETAC	Exploitation Team Around the child.
ETE	Education, training and employment; work to improve educational and learning outcomes
FTE	First-time entrants to the criminal justice system
HMIP	HM Inspectorate of Probation
Justice System	Involves any or all of the agencies involved in upholding and implementing the law: police, courts, youth justice, probation and custody providers.
MACE	Multi-Agency Child Exploitation
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
OPCC	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Pathways	The new YOT case management system
Restorative Justice	The use of restorative approaches within a justice context. Brings those harmed by crime (victims) and those responsible for the harm (the offender) into communication, with a view to repairing the harm caused
Safety & Wellbeing	Terminology introduced by the YJB / AssetPlus to describe potential adverse outcomes where concerns exist that the young person's safety and well-being may be compromised through their own behaviour, personal circumstances or because of the acts / omissions of others
Safeguarding	Action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YJT	Youth Justice Team



For more information on this Plan, please contact the Youth Justice Team

[youthjusticeadmin@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:youthjusticeadmin@stockton.gov.uk)

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO CABINET

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

### REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

## CABINET/COUNCIL

Leader – Cllr Bob Cook

### THE COUNCIL'S INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

#### SUMMARY

The report relates to the appointment of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel.

#### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is required by the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) ("the Regulations") to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel so that the Panel can provide recommendations to Council on its Members' Allowances Scheme. An Authority is not able to introduce new or revised allowances schemes, without first having had regard to its Independent Panel's recommendations, in that respect. A Panel should therefore be in place and ready to act, even if an authority proposes not to change its existing allowance scheme.

Cabinet has a role in making recommendations, to Council, about the composition of the Panel and other related matters.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:-

1. The previous members of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, as detailed in paragraph 4, and in **Appendix 1**, be reappointed, with their terms of office expiring on 31 May 2028.
2. The right be reserved to remove any one, or more, of the Panel members at any time, as indicated in paragraph 10.
3. Tony Campbell be appointed as the Chair of the Panel.
4. The Panel's functions, as detailed in the Council's Constitution and **Appendix 2**, be noted
5. The allowances for the Panel's work be as specified at paragraph 11.

## DETAIL

1. There is no specific appointments process prescribed in the Regulations or Guidance, save that the Council should appoint the Panel and consider the issues detailed at paragraphs 8 – 11, below.
2. The Regulations require a Panel of at least three members, however, the Council's Constitution stipulates that its Panel should comprise four members, with a quorum of 3. None of the Panel members must be serving elected Members of the authority in respect of which it makes recommendations, nor a member of a committee or sub-committee of such authority. Panel Members must also not be disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority.
3. Guidance associated with the Regulations requires appointing authorities to be satisfied that proposed Panel members would result in the Panel Membership being sufficiently independent and well qualified to discharge the Panel's functions, and representative of the diversity of communities in the Council's area.

### The previous Panel and appointing a new one

4. The terms of office of Stockton's previous Independent Remuneration Panel expired on 31 May 2024. The Panel comprised the following non-elected members:  
  
Tony Campbell  
Kate Hoskin  
Mark White  
Terry Laing
5. Further details of the above non-elected members are attached at **Appendix 1**
6. It is proposed that the previous members of the Panel, described above and in **Appendix 1** be reappointed.

### The Panel's Functions

7. The functions of the Panel are set out at **Appendix 2**. These are the functions prescribed by regulation and detailed in the Council's Constitution.

### The Chair

8. It is recommended that Council appoints a Chair. Tony Campbell was the Panel's previous Chair and has lots of experience in this role. It is recommended that he is appointed as the Chair of the Remuneration Panel.

### Terms of Office

9. It is recommended that the terms of office of the Panel Members be up to 31 May 2028, unless they are removed, resign or otherwise leave office before then. This will enable preparations for a new Panel to be established (or for the incumbent panel to be re-appointed) during the first year of the new Council, after the 2027 elections.

### **Removal of Panel Members**

10. Council has previously reserved the right to remove any one, or more, of the Panel Members at any time. This power should be retained.

### **Panel Allowances**

11. It is proposed that the payments previously agreed for the Panel Members' work be retained. These were:-

Chair - £350 per day, subject to a maximum for each review of £1,750

Other Panel Members - £75 per day, subject to a maximum of £375 for each review; and

All Panel Members – reasonable travel and subsistence expenses.

### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

12. No assessment is considered necessary. There are no policy, strategy or service changes involved.

### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

13. There are no corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

### **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

14. There will be costs associated with any proposed review by the Panel. Paragraph 11 refers to the likely expenses involved. Panel recommendations may also lead to a change in Members' allowances. The current Allowance Scheme is at **Appendix 3**
15. Establishing a new Panel will satisfy the Council's responsibilities under the Regulations. A review of Members' allowances can only be undertaken by a properly constituted Independent Panel.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

16. The matters referred to in this report are classed as low risk.

### **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

17. Decisions relating to this issue are not ward specific and have no impact on individual wards. No consultation with ward Councillors has taken place.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18. There are no unpublished documents, relied on, to produce this report

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**TONY CAMPBELL**

**PEN PORTRAIT**

Former MANAGING DIRECTOR – CREATIVE GLASS LTD, STOCKTON-ON-TEES. Retired in February 2022.

Founded new design based company in 1992 to operate in a niche market. With no previous experience in glass industry researched and identified a gap, Creative Glass have now filled this gap and gone beyond this to further develop their own markets through innovation and technological advancement, often collaborate and project manage a cluster of specialists to compete for and complete major projects. Very strong brand identity (registered trademark) operates across UK and beyond.

**INVOLVEMENT WITH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Involved with a range of Regeneration, Creative Industries, Art & Culture initiatives & partnerships across the North East for over 20 years.

Board Member – Onsite Building Trust – Charity looking after various community centres around Teesside.2014 – present. (voluntary)

Globe Theatre – Member of the CIC during important period of bringing back to life a historic asset of Stockton on Tees.

COHESION GLASS MAKERS NETWORK – Board Member from 2000 (voluntary) organisation closely tied with the National Glass Centre and University of Sunderland, to develop and support glass as a business activity in the north east.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE involved at various stages as mentor and judging panels (voluntary)

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

1989-1992 NETA GROUP – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Charged with diversification of groups activities, many of which still form the basis of the company which is now part of Stockton Riverside College.

1983-1989 CROSSLEY BUILDERS' MERCHANTS GROUP – Group Business Development Manager. During a very exciting period the group expanded from initial 22 locations to 125. Commenced as General Manager of flagship branch with 120 staff. Following take-over of competitor moved to coordinate integration of new acquisition.

1977-1983 J.T. DOVE BUILDERS' MERCHANTS – Management Trainee.

**ACADEMIC HISTORY**

1986 Post Graduate DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT STUDIES – TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY

1977 B.A. Social Science (ECONOMICS) – SUNDERLAND POLYTECHNIC

1979 INSTITUTE OF BUILDERS' MERCHANTS DIPLOMA – Regional Prize Winner – Herbert Dove Memorial Prize.

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Resident of Stockton since 1977. Actively involved in the economic and cultural development of the area. Have attended almost every SIRF since its inception in 1987. Keen to support democratic processes of the borough.

Interested in art & cultural particularly live music.

## ***Pen Portrait - Kate Hoskin***

### **Summary employment history**

I have had over 20 years of experience working as a Civil Servant for the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs. My jobs there were fairly wide ranging but key posts included Head of HR Strategy and Transformation, Head of Workforce Planning and Recruitment, Head of Employee relations and Diversity, and Project Manager for various transformation projects in relation to government livestock policy.

I left the Civil Service in 2012 to become Ops Manager for XLVets Training Services, a small business jointly owned by 50 independent veterinary practices and delivering specialist training to vets and farmers.

Latterly I have taken some time out to care for elderly parents and to look after our smallholding, so these days I have a more diverse and low key portfolio of work! I have invigilated exams at Thirsk School; I work with a friend in her catering business and do various jobs for older people in and around Thirsk.

### **Voluntary positions held**

- I have been a Trustee for the Thirby Recreational Association at various points over the last 15 years, including being Treasurer and Chair
- I run the Thirsk Community Works Food Bank as a volunteer, supported by the paid staff from the charity. I am responsible for obtaining funding, organising other volunteers, and managing delivery of contracts with funders. I received a Hambleton Heroes Award for my foodbank work during the Covid crisis. The foodbank has also recently been nominated for a Kings Award for Voluntary Service.
- I help Community Works with its recruitment, sitting on panels and advising on their recruitment approach
- I am a very active member of my village community. I ran the kids after school group for a number of years. I am the Parish Clerk and am on the organising committee for social events.
- I recently ran a project to plant trees on our village spaces

In my spare time I sing in a choir, manage our small-holding and enjoy doing lots of outdoor activities.



### Pen Picture

Unfortunately since the last review I lost my Wife, Sue in February 2022.

My son (Andrew) and his partner (Katy) live in Hove, Brighton that gives me the opportunity to visit several times during the year. I am the proud grandfather to Daniel who is approaching his seventh birthday.

The majority of my working life was spent with three companies:

- Five years with Head Wrightson serving as a commercial apprentice and more latterly as a cost accountant.
- Thirty five years with Cummins Engine Company in a number of high profile accounting roles before retiring and taking up a consultancy role.
- Four years with Air Products on a part-time basis before finalising and “closing the books” for the Billingham division.

I am a vastly experienced accountant with extensive business and accounting knowledge. This covers many aspects of highly successful local and multi national business organisations.

A highly motivated, respected manager able to promote team based working in a low cost, high quality changing business environment.

In the latter years headed up a team that implemented and managed a corporate shared service accounting solution for UK and European subsidiaries.

Served Hartburn as a local councillor for nine years, four years as a cabinet member for Finance and Human Resources. I was also a member of the Police Authority and more latterly the Police and Crime panel. Having served on a multitude of committees I am very knowledgeable regarding the activities of an extremely diverse council service within the borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

I am a keen golfer; treasurer for the seniors section at our local golf club and a well-known local sportsman.

Served as a treasurer and management committee member of Stockton Victim Support. Past chair of Stockton Referees Association and Holy Trinity parent teachers association. Served as Treasurer and a management committee member at a local out of school club.

Having lost our Daughter Helen with meningitis, Sue and I were local ambassadors for a meningitis charity. I have continued with this role since losing Sue. The charity was kindly nominated in their mayoral year by Cllr Ken Dixon and Cllr Maurice Perry as one of their sponsored charities.

MARK WHITE CBE DL

PEN PICTURE

Chair, Thornaby Town Deal Board; Chair, Stockton Strategic Education Board; Chair, Association of Colleges Charitable Trust; Governor, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust; Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham; promoted CBE in the King's birthday honours list 2023 for services to further education; appointed OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list 2016 for services to education particularly in Teesside; former Chair, Education Training Collective (comprising colleges in Billingham, Stockton, Thornaby and Redcar): former Head of Vice-Chancellor's Office and Secretary to Board of Governors of Teesside University; former Chair of Association of Colleges (AoC) Sport; former Chair of Bede 6th Form College, Billingham; former member of Court of University of Bradford; former Chair of mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) Friends; former Governor of North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust; Fellow of Royal Society of Arts (FRSA); honorary life member of Teesside University Students' Union (and awarded Extraordinary Contribution to Student Life Award 2016); awarded Tees Valley BME Network Lifetime Achievement Award 2015; awarded Teesside Community Champion 2017.



## APPENDIX 2

### FUNCTIONS – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Independent Remuneration Panel will consider and keep under review certain key aspects of the Members' Allowance Scheme and, as and when appropriate, submit reports (containing recommendations) to the Cabinet and Council, regarding:

the responsibilities or duties in respect of which the following should be available:

- (a) special responsibility allowance;
- (b) travelling and subsistence allowance;
- (c) co-optees' allowance; and

the amount of such allowances and as to the amount of basic allowance;

whether dependants' carers' allowance should be payable to members of the authority, and as to the amount of such an allowance;

whether, in the event that the scheme is amended at any time so as to affect an allowance payable for the year in which the amendment is made, payment of allowances may be backdated in accordance with regulation 10(6); and

whether adjustments to the level of allowance may be determined according to an index and if so which index and how long that index should apply, subject to a maximum of four years, before its application is reviewed.

This Panel will be made up of 4 Independent Members appointed by the Council from time to time.

The quorum for this Panel is 3.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended) ("the Regulations"), the Council's scheme for the payment of allowances, with effect from 1st April, 2019 is as follows: -

### **Basic Allowance**

- 5.1 A basic allowance of £9,300 per annum will be paid to each Member of the Council.
- 5.2 Where the term of office of a Member begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, his entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the basic allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office as member subsists bears to the number of days in that year;

### **Special Responsibility Allowance**

- 5.3 The following Special Responsibility Allowances will be paid to the Members of the Council specified: -

<b><u>Post</u></b>	<b><u>Allowance per annum £</u></b>
Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Finance	25,000
<sup>13</sup> Deputy Leader	13,750
Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety	11,250
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Transport	11,250
Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health	11,250
Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure & Culture	11,250
Cabinet Member for Children & Young People	11,250
Cabinet Member for Environment & Housing	11,250
Chair of Executive Scrutiny Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Executive Scrutiny Committee	3,125
Chair of Adult Services and Health Select Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Adult Services and Health Select Committee	3,125
Chair of Children & Young People Select Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Children & Young People Select Committee	3,125
Chair of Crime and Disorder Select Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Crime and Disorder Select Committee	3,125
Chair of People Select Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of People Select Committee	3,125
Chair of Place Select Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Place Select Committee	3,125
Chair of Audit Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Audit Committee	3,125
Chair of Planning Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Planning Committee	3,125
Chair of Licensing Committee	6,250
Vice-Chair of Licensing Committee	3,125
Largest Minority Group Leader	5,000

- (a) Where a Member does not have throughout the whole of a year any such special responsibilities as entitle him to a Special Responsibility Allowance, his entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the special responsibility allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the

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<sup>13</sup> NB The Deputy Leader will be assigned one of the Cabinet portfolios.

number of days during which he has such special responsibilities bears to the number of days in that year.

- (b) No Member must receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance from the Council, including Mayoral Allowances, and where a Member occupies two or more positions qualifying for such an Allowance, then only the higher or highest Special Responsibility Allowance will be paid.

### Mayoral Allowances

5.4 The following allowances will be payable: -

Mayor	15,625
Deputy Mayor	4,910

### Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowance

5.5 A child care and dependent carers' allowance of up to £8.71 per hour (or, in special cases, such larger sum as shall be certified as necessary and reasonable by the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care) (actual expenditure), with a maximum monthly payment to a claimant of £400, will be payable to any Member of the Council who incurs child care and dependent carers' costs, for the duration of an approved duty, plus reasonable travelling time to and from that duty and carers' reasonable travelling expenses at Members' rates.

5.6 An approved duty will consist of any of the following: -

- a meeting of the Cabinet
- a meeting of the Council
- a meeting of a committee of the Council
- a meeting of some other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or
- a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations.
- a meeting which has **both** been authorised by the Council or a committee of the Council or a joint committee of the Council and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee and to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited
- a meeting of a local authority association of which the Council is a member
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in pursuance of any standing order requiring a Member or Members to be present while tender documents are opened
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996
- any other duty approved by the Council in connection with discharging the duties of the Council or its committees.

### Co-Optees Allowances

5.7 The following allowances will be payable to co-optees (persons who are not Members of the Council but who are members of a Committee of the Council, with or without voting rights) – except for co-optee posts for diocesan and parent governor representatives.

All co-optees	650
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(One payment only per co-optees)

5.8 Where the appointment of a co-optee begins or ends otherwise than at the beginning or end of a year, his entitlement shall be to payment of such part of the co-optees' allowance as bears to the whole the same proportion as the number of days during which his term of office as member subsists bears to the number of days in that year.

### Travel and Subsistence Allowances

#### 5.9 Mileage Allowances

<u>Member's motorcycle</u>	21.45p per mile
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#### Member's Car

Motor car/tricar up to 999cc	46.9p per mile
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Motor car/tricar 1000 cc and above	47.7p per mile
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Bicycle/Cycle	23p per mile
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**In addition, 3p per mile can be claimed for each passenger carried (up to a maximum of 4) to whom a travelling allowance would otherwise be payable.**

#### 5.10 Meal Allowances

(a) Breakfast allowance (provided the journey starts before 7.00 am)	£7.76
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(b) Evening meal allowance (provided the journey ends after 8.30 pm)	£13.25
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#### 5.11 Subsistence Allowance

Overnight or for an annual conference of the Local Government Association (including or not including an annual meeting) or of such other association of bodies as may be approved for the time being for the purpose. This allowance would normally cover the cost of accommodation and all meals within a 24hour period. However, additional reimbursement for meals can be claimed in accordance with the scheme, if these, together with the cost of accommodation exceed £102.84.

£102.84

5.12 Travelling and subsistence allowances may be paid for: -

- a meeting of the Cabinet
- a meeting of the Council
- a meeting of a committee of the Council

- a meeting of some other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations, or
- a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations.
- a meeting which has **both** been authorised by the Council or a committee of the Council or a joint committee of the Council and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee and to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited
- a meeting of a local authority association of which the Council is a member
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in pursuance of any standing order requiring a Member or Members to be present while tender documents are opened
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the Council to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of section 342 of the Education Act 1996
- any other duty approved by the Council in connection with discharging the duties of the Council or its committees.

5.13 Within the context of this section of the Scheme “Member” includes a Co-optee.

#### **General**

5.14 A person may, by notice in writing given to the Proper Officer of the Council, elect to forgo his entitlement or any part of his entitlement to allowances.

5.15 The time limit from the date on which an entitlement to each of the following allowances arises during which a claim for such allowances must be made by the person to whom they are payable is two months: -

- (a) dependants’ carers allowance;
- (b) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
- (c) co-optees’ allowance.

This will not however prevent the Council from making a payment where the allowance is not claimed within the period specified in the scheme should the circumstances justify doing so.

5.16 Where a Member of the Council is also a member of another authority, that Member may not receive allowances from more than one authority in respect of the same duties.

5.17 The Basic, Special Responsibility and Co-optees Allowances will be paid on a monthly basis.

5.18 Where payment of any allowance has already been made in respect of any period during which the Member concerned: -

- (a) ceases to be a Member of the Council; or
- (b) is in any other way not entitled to receive the allowances in respect of that period,

the Council may require that such part of the allowance as relates to any such period be repaid to the Council.

#### **All Previous Members’ Allowances Scheme are revoked.**