

**Date:** Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 3.00 pm

**Venue:** Meeting Room 1, Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library,  
Church Road, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1TU

**Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair)**  
**Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice-Chair)**

Cllr Marc Besford  
Cllr Richard Eglington  
Cllr Shakeel Hussain  
Cllr Sufi Mubeen  
Cllr Paul Rowling  
Cllr Laura Tunney

Cllr Carol Clark  
Cllr Lynn Hall  
Cllr Niall Innes  
Cllr Tony Riordan  
Cllr Marilyn Surtees

## **AGENDA**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure**
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**  
  
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 March 2024. (Pages 7 - 12)
- 5 Final Report of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision (Executive Summary for Information)** (Pages 13 - 18)
- 6 Forward Plan** (Pages 19 - 20)
- 7 Chair's Updates** (Pages 21 - 32)
- 8 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25** (Pages 33 - 34)

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

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

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

Contact: Democratic Services Manager, Judy Trainer on email [Judy.Trainer@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Judy.Trainer@stockton.gov.uk)

**KEY - Declarable interests are:-**

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

**Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance**



**Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<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

This page is intentionally left blank

## Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 5 March 2024.

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

**Officers:** Garry Cummings (FD&R); Geraldine Brown (CS); Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Michelle Gunn, Rachel Harrison (CS)

**Also in attendance:** None

**Apologies:** None

### 1 **Evacuation Procedure**

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

### 2 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 **Minutes**

Following requests for information at the last meeting, responses had been circulated to Members. Further updates were also provided as follows:

- Golden Eagle, Thornaby - Negotiations with the leaseholder had been positive and were progressing well. The intention was to bring a report to Cabinet in Quarter Two 2024/25 with further detail on any decision that was required for progressing redevelopment
- Number of admissions onto virtual frailty wards - the reason for the increased demand was related to winter pressures. More people came into the hospital and therefore more people go on to the virtual ward. In addition, they were quite new in the Borough and would be building capacity over time. NHS colleagues indicated that it was working well

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 4 **Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25 – Selection of In Depth Topic Reviews**

The Select Committee received a report presenting proposals for the scrutiny work programme for 2024/25 for consideration and approval by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

In previous years, it had been the practice for the Chair of Executive Scrutiny Committee to write to all Members in January each year to invite suggestions for in-depth scrutiny review topics. The suggestions received were prioritised by the Scrutiny Team using the PICK scoring system. The topic suggestions were reported to Scrutiny Liaison Forum (comprising Cabinet Members, Select Committee Chairs and CMT). Finally, Executive Scrutiny Committee as the

decision-making body, set the priorities and programme for the year ahead, allocating in-depth reviews to individual Select Committees.

Over the years, efforts were made to ensure that topics selected aligned with the priorities of the Council and this was reflected in the prioritisation of the topics by Members. In 2009, cross-party support had been secured to devoting the entire scrutiny work programme to support a three-year programme of EIT (Efficiency, Improvement & Transformation) reviews. The programme included Member-led scrutiny reviews alongside officer-led work. The programme delivered significant savings and transformation and ensured that all Members were able to input into reviews and influence decision making.

A similar approach was now proposed in relation to the Council’s Powering our Futures Programme (including transformation reviews). The Chair of the Committee had communicated this proposal to all Members and at the same time invited Members to advise of any urgent matter, or any issue already listed on the programme, that they felt should still be reviewed in 2024/25.

Work on the new topics would commence at the conclusion of reviews that were already underway. Other reviews on the current scrutiny work programme would be deferred until the following year and the merits of completing that work revisited at that time.

Members queried how the topics related to the Powering our Futures Programme and were advised that that the topics proposed were discrete elements which would benefit from a deeper dive within the wider areas of work. Engagement with communities would be central to work on each review and linked to the Communities Powering our Futures work.

AGREED That the following areas are approved for review as part of the 2024/25 Scrutiny Work Programme:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Potential In Depth Review Topic</b>
Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee	Transformation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reablement Service</li> </ul>
Children and Young People Select Committee	Transformation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HAF</li> <li>• Corporate Parenting</li> </ul>
Crime and Disorder Select Committee	Regeneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming Town Centres/ Feeling Safe</li> </ul>
People Select Committee	Transformation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Facilities Grants</li> </ul>
Place Select Committee	Regeneration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing</li> </ul>



## **5 Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections (Executive Summary for Information)**

Councillor Richard Eglington presented the Executive Summary of the Place Select Committee's review of Domestic Waste Collections, the recommendations of which had been considered and approved by Cabinet.

The data presented throughout the review had highlighted the urgent need to carefully examine the Council's current waste management system and consider the necessary changes proposed to maintain a financially viable service whilst also recognising environmental factors. The introduction of several pieces of government legislation over the next few years, such as mandatory weekly food waste collections, had assisted the Committee in determining which of the four options presented was the most appropriate for the Borough.

The site visit to J&B Recycling had been valuable for understanding the different recycling processes and the key messages about recycling which should be included in the communications plan following the review. It was apparent throughout that effectively communicating changes to residents as early as possible was vital in improving the Borough's recycling rates.

AGREED That the Executive Summary be noted.

## **6 Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response (Executive Summary for Information)**

Councillor Marilyn Surtees presented the Executive Summary of the People Select Committee's review of the Cost of Living Response which would report to Cabinet in April.

The review had provided a comprehensive overview of the Council's response to the ongoing Cost of Living situation and its effective partnership working. The Committee was reassured that residents and Council employees had been sufficiently supported and the Council's response had gained regional and national recognition.

The review highlighted the continuing issue of expensive school uniform costs, which had been addressed in a previous review by the Children and Young People Select Committee. The Committee agreed that further engagement with schools and governors on this needed to be taken and a separate action plan would be presented to the Committee for approval.

Finally, the site visits to The Bread and Butter Thing Hubs provided Members with an opportunity to view first hand one of the ways that residents were being supported with food provision and the ongoing need for this service.

AGREED That the Executive Summary be noted.

## **7 Forward Plan**

AGREED That the Forward Plan be noted.

## **8 Select Committee Chairs' Updates**

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

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

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

Children and Young People Select Committee

Members commented that parental engagement would be invaluable for the Committee's current review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment and asked which two schools had been identified as the new DfE attendance hubs.

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

Regarding the Select Committee's previous review of Tree Asset Management Members commented it was important to empower communities to be able to take action by removing red tape and that support for the vulnerable should be provided.

Members commented that changing the name of the Select Committee to Community Safety Select Committee would better reflect the remit of the Committee. The Head of Democratic Services advised that this change could be made by the monitoring officer if there was support for the change and undertook to progress this.

People Select Committee

Members noted the update from the People Select Committee.

Place Select Committee

Councillor Richard Eglington advised that the Crustacean Deaths Working Group had agreed to resume evidence gathering for this joint scrutiny following the May elections. In the meantime, a holding statement would be drafted summarising findings and recommendations to date.

AGREED That the Chairs' updates be noted.

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

The Chair asked Members of the Committee if they would consider moving the timing of future Executive Scrutiny Committees to the afternoon in order to facilitate attendance of senior officers when required.

AGREED that the work programme be noted and the timing of Executive Scrutiny Committee Meeting be changed to 3pm.

This page is intentionally left blank

**CRIME AND DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE****SCRUTINY REVIEW OF OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION****1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's scrutiny review of Outdoor Play Provision.
- 1.2 It is widely accepted that play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Play facilities are therefore seen as an essential element to allow people to live healthy lives and help ensure activity is established at an early age, thus reducing long-term health conditions. However, despite these recognised benefits, concerns have been increasing in recent years around the closure of play facilities across the country, as well as other issues such as declining quality, inequality of distribution and accessibility.
- 1.3 From a Stockton-on-Tees perspective, previous analysis has indicated that outdoor play provision is uneven across the Borough, with significant variations in the play value, age and accessibility of equipment and sites. Many older play areas are in decline and, as is being felt by Local Authorities up and down the country, there is insufficient budget to maintain all the current sites. In terms of new sites, the majority of these are established through planning obligations and consequently increase provision in areas where new development is taking place. Conversely, there are limited opportunities to establish or improve play areas in existing residential areas. In either case, it should be noted that all sites are subject to challenge relating to accessibility and play value.
- 1.4 Play areas can be an emotive topic and have elicited a range of comments (both positive and negative) from the public with regards the existing offer. Like so many other Council-related activities, balancing public expectation with the realities of deepening Local Authority funding pressures is becoming an increasing challenge. There is a well-established need to maintain an effective portfolio of high-quality play area assets within the Borough's communities, but this must be sustainable, provide value-for-money, and be accessible to as many people as is feasibly possible.
- 1.5 The main aims of this review comprised three key elements. Firstly, the Committee endeavoured to establish the distribution of the Borough's existing outdoor play offer and identify any areas where provision was lacking. The second strand focused on the key issue of responsibility for individual facilities and associated management / maintenance and sustainability requirements. Finally, accessibility / inclusivity factors in relation to play provision were to be considered so practical and financial implications could be understood and factored into decisions around existing and future plans.
- 1.6 The Committee found that there is no statutory obligation for Local Authorities to provide outdoor play spaces. However, there are legal requirements associated with the inspection and maintenance of such sites – responsibilities SBC is fully aware of. Regarding accessibility / inclusivity considerations, there is a need to be mindful of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which aims to ensure that all

those who are disabled have the same access to public services (and by implication, public parks and playgrounds) as those who are not disabled.

- 1.7 A number of external bodies provide advice and guidance on designing, developing and installing play spaces – these include Play England (national children’s play charity for England), Association of Play Industries (API) (lead trade body in the play sector), and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) (help people recognise and reduce their risk of accidents, at home, on the road, at work and at leisure). The latter is used by SBC to carry out annual inspections of existing play areas and safety surfacing, assessments of life-expectancy of equipment / areas, post-installation inspections of new sites, and ‘play value’ assessments.
- 1.8 As of December 2023, the Borough had 49 publicly accessible play areas and 20 sites with informal sport facilities (some of these were located at the same sites). SBC owned and managed the vast majority of these, and also managed five sites on behalf of Town / Parish Councils (*note: any facilities not freely accessible to the public (e.g. those located within school grounds, sports centres, or locations such as RSPB Salthome) were not within scope of this review*).
- 1.9 The categorisation of play areas is based mainly on the quantity and size of play equipment, but also took into consideration the provision of other facilities and services. ‘Destination’ sites are larger play spaces within parks that serve a wide catchment area and provide good play value for a range of users from toddlers to teenagers. ‘Neighbourhood’ sites are mainly situated within larger green spaces of a community (with a more moderate quantity of equipment), whilst ‘doorstep’ sites are smaller facilities which are located on green space or self-contained zones within housing areas (many of which have been installed by housing developers).
- 1.10 Ongoing inspection and maintenance of the Borough’s outdoor play sites is a significant pressure area for SBC, involving a budget which has not been uplifted since before 2017. Indeed, there was a £60,000 shortfall in the annual budget allocation (£114,000) compared to the amount spent as of 14 September 2023 (£83,000) plus anticipated costs in relation to outstanding work still to complete (£92,000). If there is a desire to maintain the existing level of outdoor play provision across the Borough, a capital injection appeared necessary. Critically, the present budget is earmarked for maintenance only and is not a replacement fund – as such, the Borough has a large amount of valuable play equipment with no plan for the future.
- 1.11 Regarding ‘play value’ (determined by looking at the overall site, ambience, and suitability / value of equipment / features for the age groups for which the site is designed), SBC aims for a minimum rating of ‘good’ at each of its facilities – however, a raft of existing sites fell short of this when last assessed (2018). Recognising that a more up-to-date re-evaluation was required to provide an accurate picture of the current state and value of local facilities, RoSPA was recently commissioned by SBC to conduct an updated play value assessment of the Borough’s existing outdoor play spaces. The results of this showed that, of the 39 play sites assessed:

- Only four scored at least 'good' across all graded categories; nine sites were rated at least 'average' across all graded categories (*note: SBC officers advised that the ratings given are RoSPAs assessments and are not national averages – in practice, a site rated 'average' is probably above the national average*).
  - Dependent upon usage and vandalism, seven had a (worst-case scenario) life expectancy of play equipment of 3-5 years plus; three sites were deemed to have 5-8 years plus.
  - A number of 'neighbourhood' play areas appeared to have surface issues.
- 1.12 The last significant investment in Stockton-on-Tees facilities was back in 2008 (though not all areas benefitted at that time), and since then, many sites had been provided or improved with section 106 contributions (funding from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure) as a result of housing developments. However, this had the potential for a higher density of smaller-space provision, and those areas of the Borough which had not seen new housing had therefore not gained in relation to additional / upgraded play facilities – a growing inequality of provision across the Borough has thus developed. As per the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA), forthcoming changes to planning obligations (the Infrastructure Levy (IL)) are due to be introduced – this would largely replace planning obligation except for 'large and complex sites', with the Council potentially losing its ability to use section 106 funding as it currently did.
- 1.13 In terms of the future creation of new play facilities, SBC planning advice indicated that larger scale developments were likely to justify a need for on-site provision due to the level of population increase across the site (indeed, policy direction indicates a preference for on-site provision). For smaller developments, however, there may be no requirement for open space to be provided, and it may be more appropriate for an off-site contribution (where necessary and justified). Where SBC was to assume responsibility for the maintenance of either on-site or off-site open space, the Council required a commuted revenue lump-sum for the equivalent of 25 years maintenance – however, whilst this covered grounds maintenance, cleansing, and maintenance of the equipment in the play area, it did not tend to cover the future renewal of the play area. Careful consideration is therefore required around whether SBC should be adopting future play sites from developers (particularly in terms of proximity to other existing provision), and the Committee urges a focus on supporting the current portfolio as far as possible before additional spaces are agreed (adding to the long-term financial burden associated with these areas).
- 1.14 The high-profile Stockton waterfront scheme, which includes a new 'destination' play area, is a significant development with regards this scrutiny topic. Whilst assurance was given that longer-term revenue requirements for this substantial addition to SBCs play offer would be picked up and included as part of the future MTFP budget-setting process, the Committee remain concerned that, since SBC was not in a position to maintain what it already had (with Local Authority funding likely to get even tighter), this would further compound financial challenges which may have potential implications for other existing provision across the Borough.

- 1.15 From an accessibility / inclusivity perspective, there is a significant cost attached to certain play equipment which is not necessarily compatible for all those with a similar need (e.g. wheelchair-users). SBC should be commended for its previous engagement with Stockton Parent Carer Forum to better facilitate access for all, and there is a clear need to continue this dialogue as the Council reflects on the findings of this review, and makes future decisions around the types of equipment sourced and, as importantly, the location of this (particularly given the comments received from the Forum's members in relation to the value of the smaller 'doorstep' sites).
- 1.16 Councils are adopting different approaches towards their outdoor play provision, ranging from increasing provision / consultation on proposed investment in facilities to rationalising / removing existing sites. For SBC, whilst there will be an understandable reluctance to compromise much valued resources for children / young people and their families across Stockton-on-Tees, it is clearly not sustainable to keep all existing play sites open, and difficult decisions will need to be made around removing / repurposing some sites. Allied to this, longer-term thinking about the maintenance and replacement requirements of the Borough's existing and planned future offer must ensue to ensure quality, accessible, and geographically balanced provision that lasts.

### **Recommendations**

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) **SBC ensures both revenue and renewal considerations are an intrinsic part of any existing and future outdoor play space proposal within the Borough to maximise the long-term sustainability of such sites.**
- 2) **To encourage a greater sense of community ownership, consideration be given to approaching relevant Town / Parish Councils and the local business community within the vicinity of existing outdoor play spaces to potentially support the development / maintenance of a site.**
- 3) **Regarding future proposals by developers for new outdoor play spaces, SBC does not adopt any site installed by a developer which contravenes the key outcomes from this review.**
- 4) **SBC considers support of existing play areas before any additional outdoor play spaces are agreed / approved.**
- 5) **Regarding inequality of outdoor play provision across the Borough, SBC clarifies where it is deemed there is little / no provision and possible steps to address these inequalities (including, in exceptional cases, the provision of new play spaces).**

*(continued overleaf...)*



**Recommendations (continued)**

The Committee recommend that:

- 6) As part of a required rationalisation process in relation to the existing outdoor play offer:**
  - a) Informed by the recent (March 2024) RoSPA assessments and an analysis of the distribution of existing outdoor play provision, proposals for the removal / repurposing of sites be developed with the aim of reducing pressure on the overall parks budget.**
  - b) Complementing sub-section a), SBC undertakes a piece of work around those sites requiring more urgent attention to ascertain costs of either removing the play area or raising it to an appropriate standard.**
  - c) Further detail be provided around the anticipated longer-term maintenance requirements of the new Stockton waterfront park and the impact that this may have on the available funds for maintaining other existing outdoor play spaces.**
  - d) With due regard to the SBC *Powering Our Future* initiative, appropriate consultation (particularly with Stockton Parent Carer Forum and SBC Ward Councillors) is conducted around any proposed changes to existing outdoor play provision.**
- 7) Reflecting the main outcomes from this review, SBC develops and publishes an outdoor play provision strategy which includes the following elements:**
  - The Council's aims in relation to the provision of outdoor play spaces.**
  - The locations and assessments of existing and outdoor play provision, as well as any planned developments.**
  - The key challenges associated with providing these spaces.**
  - How the Council will seek to address these key challenges (including guiding principles).**
  - Timelines for action and who will be accountable.**
- 8) This final report be shared with the SBC Planning Committee for information only.**

This page is intentionally left blank

**Statutory Forward Plan**

**Key Decisions**

**1 April 2024 - 30 June 2024**

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision? 2020	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p><b>Selective Licensing of Private Rented Housing</b></p> <p>Cabinet are asked to consider the findings of the recent Selective Licensing consultation and make a decision regarding next steps (there are 3 options available: do nothing and not implement a scheme of Selective Licensing, to amend the proposal, or to proceed with the proposed Selective Licensing scheme and move forward with the 3-monht designation period).</p>	Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Cabinet	16 May 2024	Private rented tenants and landlords/man aging agents with properties within the designation area (or in the proximity). Local residents and stakeholders. Local ward councillors	Formal consultation has concluded (run from 6.11.23 to 19.01.24).	carolyn.nice@stockton.gov.uk  n/a as the formal consultation period has now concluded.		Key decision  CIA needed

## Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

Scrutiny Review – Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>The fifth (and final) evidence session for the review took place in March 2024 and considered patient / public views on this scrutiny topic, including feedback from the Committee's survey which had been issued to the Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) within each of the Borough's 21 general practices.</p> <p>Following completion of the evidence-gathering phase, the informal 'summary of evidence' session took place in April 2024 where the Committee reflected on all the information received during this review. Draft recommendations were then formulated.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	The draft final report will be prepared and presented to the Committee for approval at its meeting in May 2024.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	No – as previously noted in March 2024, due to the need for more time to collect / collate the patient / public views element, the Committee's final report will be presented to Cabinet in June 2024 (as opposed to the originally intended May 2024 meeting).

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV):</b> Following consideration of the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) quarterly report (Q3 2023-2024) at its meeting in February 2024, the Committee invited the TEWV Lead Governor to the April 2024 meeting to question what the Governors' view of this latest CQC report on the Trust was and what they were doing to address the concerns outlined by the regulator. Due to Cabinet changes made at the recent Annual Meeting, and following correspondence with senior TEWV officers, it is now anticipated that other relevant TEWV personnel will respond to the Committee at a forthcoming meeting.</p> <p><b>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT):</b> <b>Quality Account 2023-2024:</b> Representatives from NTHFT attended the Committee meeting in March 2024 to outline performance against the Trust's quality priorities for 2023-2024 and inform Members of emerging priorities for the next year. Once the Trust circulates its draft Quality Account document (around late-April / early-May 2024), the Committee's third-party statement will be collated and shared for comment / agreement.</p> <p><b>Care and Health Innovation Zone:</b> The Committee has requested a briefing on this new initiative – it is envisaged that this will likely take place at the meeting in June 2024.</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	<b>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT):</b> <b>Quality Account 2023-2024:</b> Several requests were made for additional information in relation to the presented Quality Account material – this included staff survey results, a breakdown of

## Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

	Friends and Family Test (FFT) feedback per NTHFT department, and developments around physical access to the lung health service (this has subsequently been provided by the Trust and shared with the Committee).
--	---

NHS Updates / Consultations	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>New Health Scrutiny Arrangements:</b> A reminder that new health scrutiny arrangements began on 31 January 2024. The main focus of the changes is the removal of the power of health overview and scrutiny committees (HOSCs) to formally refer matters of concern relating to major service reconfiguration to the Secretary of State. Instead, the Secretary of State may act proactively, further to a request that he or she may receive from anyone – although such action would be subject to consultation with the HOSC, amongst others. Guidance has been produced by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) summarising these changes (see <a href="https://www.cfgs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024-01-09-HEALTH-SCRUTINY-PRIMER.pdf">https://www.cfgs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024-01-09-HEALTH-SCRUTINY-PRIMER.pdf</a>) – this has been circulated to the Committee.</p> <p><b>North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) Restructure:</b> Following a recent organisational restructure, the main local link between the Committee and the NENC ICB has changed. An informal meeting between the Committee Chair and the new ICB Delivery Director for Stockton will be arranged in the near future, and these will continue on a quarterly basis as per previous arrangements.</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

Regional Health Committees	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> As part of the agreed rotational arrangements, the chair and support function for the Committee was undertaken by SBC during 2023-2024 (<i>note: this responsibility will transfer to Hartlepool Borough Council for the 2024-2025 municipal year</i>).</p> <p>Following a Committee request, an informal briefing on Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust's (TEWV) use of physical intervention / restraint (a source of previous Member concern) was arranged and took place on 4 March 2024.</p> <p>The last formal meeting took place on 15 March 2024, with items including both the TEWV and North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) Quality Accounts, and an update on the recent North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) restructure. Regarding the TEWV and NEAS items, third-party statements on behalf of the Committee will be collated and shared for comment / approval once the Trusts circulate their draft Quality Account documents.</p>

## Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

	<p><b>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p><b>North East Regional Health Committee:</b> No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

<b>Monitoring</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><b>Care at Home:</b> The first update on progress of agreed actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Care at Home was considered in March 2024. Key areas highlighted included the continuing promotion of the sector, technology developments to support service delivery, and recent fee uplifts for local providers. A number of actions were deemed 'on-track' as further evidence of implementation as part of the quality assurance process was required before these could be considered complete (it was noted that Care at Home providers were very much on board with these actions, though).</p> <p>Members commended the very comprehensive and well evidenced update, and were particularly pleased by the number of positive developments which had seemingly emerged from the Committee's recommendations and the subsequent associated actions. As several recommendations had actions that were yet to be achieved, a further update would be required later in 2024.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day Opportunities for Adults (May 2024)</li> <li>• Care at Home (TBC)</li> </ul>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	<p><b>Care at Home:</b> The Committee asked how many people were currently doing the referenced Stockton Riverside College Health and Social Care courses, how many had registered on these courses following attendance at an Employment and Training Hub recruitment event, and how many places were available on these courses in total. Officers stated that details could be provided after the meeting.</p>

<b>Next Scrutiny Review</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reablement Service</li> </ul>

## Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)	
Tuesday 21 May 2024	Tuesday 19 November 2024
Tuesday 18 June 2024	Tuesday 17 December 2024
Tuesday 23 July 2024	Tuesday 21 January 2025
Tuesday 17 September 2024	Tuesday 18 February 2025
Tuesday 22 October 2024	Tuesday 18 March 2025



## Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update May 2024

Scrutiny Review – Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	
<p><b>Achieved since last meeting</b></p>	<p>The Select Committee's current review is being carried out utilising an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) model.</p> <p>An AI model is a collaborative process that involves all stakeholders, from top management to frontline employees and, in the case of this review, much stronger involvement with the education sector to create a shared vision and find solutions in a creative and innovative way.</p> <p>As part of the review, two all day stakeholder workshops were held in March around the two areas agreed by the Committee as the focus of its work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 March 2024 – Attendance</li> <li>• 22 March 2024 - Communication (vocabulary, oracy and literacy)</li> </ul> <p>Key stakeholders were invited to attend each workshop, with 50 attending the first session and 47 attending the second session.</p> <p>Pupil and parent/carer voice interviews have also taken place in four primary and four secondary schools.</p> <p>In addition, an online survey has been rolled out across children's services based on the same key questions for the pupil voice interviews. This closed on 19 April.</p> <p>Feedback from the workshops and the online survey will be presented to the May meeting.</p> <p>The May meeting will also include a facilitated session with health colleagues around the Select Committee's key questions for the review.</p> <p>Finally, a meeting has been arranged with the Parent/Carer Forum to understand if there is any further engagement that could take place to feed into the review.</p> <p>Alongside engagement, the Committee have been received presentations and updates to provide background to their review. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December – New Team around the School Partnership Offer</li> <li>• January – Draft Attendance Strategy</li> <li>• February – Early Help Appreciative Inquiry</li> <li>• March – Feedback from Pupil and Parent Carer Voice Interviews; Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups report</li> <li>• April – Attendance by the newly appointed regional DfE Advisor on attendance</li> </ul>

## Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update May 2024

<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	Stakeholder Workshops May Meeting – Report – Outcomes for vulnerable groups.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

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

<b>Monitoring</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or concerns</b>	The Select Committee received progress updates in relation to agreed actions from previously completed reviews of Care Leavers EET and signed off all actions in relation to the review of Child Poverty.  Further progress updates are scheduled as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care Leavers EET – July 2024</li> <li>• Contextual Safeguarding – July 2024</li> </ul>

<b>Next Scrutiny Review</b>
HAF Programme

<b>Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)</b>
15 May 2024

## Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

Scrutiny Review – Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>The informal 'summary of evidence' session took place in March 2024 where the Committee reflected on all the information received during this review – draft recommendations were then formulated. The draft final report was presented to, and subsequently agreed by, the Committee at its meeting in April 2024.</p> <p>The 'executive summary' of the Committee's final report (including its recommendations) is provided for information earlier in the agenda for this Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	The Committee's agreed final report will be presented to Cabinet in May 2024.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

Monitoring	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><b>Tree Asset Management:</b> The first update on progress of agreed actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Tree Asset Management was considered in March 2024. A key element requested by the Committee was a refresh of SBC tree and woodland management policy and procedures, but progress on the development of this had been hampered due to the delay in completing an internal service review – it was hoped that a draft document could be shared with Members in the near future.</p> <p>Progress on an easy-read document regarding Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) (see <a href="#">link</a> for draft) was noted, as was the recruitment of administrative support to the SBC Tree and Woodland Management Service to enhance communications between the team and Ward Councillors / residents regarding tree management enquiries / complaints (it was stated that this was working well and was helping with the response times to emails). However, the overall service continued to be stretched, and a report was due to be submitted to the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) requesting further support.</p> <p>Four recommendations had actions that were yet to be achieved, therefore a future update was requested for the Committee meeting in May 2024.</p>

## Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

	<p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree Asset Management (May 2024)</li> <li>• Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC)</li> </ul>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>Cleveland Fire Brigade:</b> Simon Weastell had recently been appointed as the latest Assistant Chief Fire Officer for Community Protection at Cleveland Fire Brigade. Simon, who had been serving in a temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer role working as the strategic lead for Community Protection, will officially took up his substantive post on 16 April 2024.</p> <p><a href="https://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/2024/04/new-assistant-chief-fire-officer-appointed-at-cleveland-fire-brigade/">https://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/2024/04/new-assistant-chief-fire-officer-appointed-at-cleveland-fire-brigade/</a></p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Next Scrutiny Review

- Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

### Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Thursday 23 May 2024	Thursday 28 November 2024
Thursday 13 June 2024	Thursday 19 December 2024
Thursday 11 July 2024	Thursday 23 January 2025
Thursday 26 September 2024	Thursday 27 February 2025
Thursday 24 October 2024	Thursday 27 March 2025

## People Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

Scrutiny Review – Cost of Living Response	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	The Committee's agreed final report was presented to Cabinet in March 2024.
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	An action plan will be presented to the Committee outline how the recommendations will be implemented in May 2024
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Disabled Facilities Grant	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>A tripartite was held to discuss the draft scope and project plan for the next review, Disabled Facilities Grant.</p> <p>A Disabled Facilities Grant is a means tested grant provided by the Council to make an individual's home suitable to their needs. Demand for DFGs continue to rise at a time when building costs have significantly increased. The result of this is an increasing number of DFG applications costed above the maximum grant threshold (£30k) and a growing waiting list (in terms of numbers of those waiting for a DFG and time taken from the point of application to DFG works commencing). This impacts on the health and wellbeing of individuals and potentially their ability to remain living independently in their home.</p> <p>This review will explore both current and potential alternative options to ensure the service is delivered in an efficient, effective and customer focused way.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	The draft scope and project plan will be discussed at the meeting in May, and members will receive a background presentation on the topic.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

Monitoring	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p>The Committee received the following progress updates regarding previously completed reviews since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><u>Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future</u> Members received the first progress update for the recommendations, including a presentation by the Employment &amp;</p>

## People Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

	<p>Training Hub. All four recommendations were categorised as fully achieved and no further updated was required.</p> <p><u>Disability Inclusive Borough</u> There were two outstanding recommendations, one categorised as fully achieved and one on track</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	No reports received since previous update.
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### Next Scrutiny Review

TBD

### Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)

Monday 13 May 2024  
 Monday 3 June 2024  
 Monday 8 July 2024  
 Monday 2 September 2024  
 Monday 7 October 2024  
 Monday 4 November 2024  
 Monday 2 December 2024  
 Monday 6 January 2025  
 Monday 3 February 2025  
 Monday 3 March 2025

## Place Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

<b>Scrutiny Review – (Unauthorised) Roadside Advertising</b>	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>At the March meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the Planning regulations regarding unauthorised roadside advertising, outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverts excluded from direct control</li> <li>• Adverts with deemed consent</li> <li>• Adverts which required express consent of the Local Authority</li> </ul> <p>The Committee considered the summary of evidence received at the April meeting, which included information from the Officer Traffic Group, Teesside &amp; District Society for the Blind, and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The Committee noted the low numbers reporting issues to the Council and that there were no trends in accidents relating to advertising. They were satisfied that due to the new powers from the ASB &amp; Policing Act to deal with unauthorised roadside advertising and a clearer planning position, mechanisms were in place deal with any issues. The recommendations therefore focus on strengthen both the information on the website and reporting systems.</p> <p>A final tripartite was held following the meeting to discuss the recommendations and the draft final report will be presented to the Committee in May 2024, with a view to present it to Cabinet in June.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned next month</b>	A final report will be drafted for the Committee to discuss and agree at the meeting in May.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes
<b>Monitoring</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><u>Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections</u> An action plan outlining how the recommendations from the review would be implemented was presented to the Committee in April.</p> <p><u>Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space</u> Members received the first progress update for the recommendations in April. Two recommendations were categorised as fully achieved, one was on track and two slipped.</p>

## Place Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2024

	<p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burial Provision (TBC)</li> <li>• Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space (July 2024)</li> <li>• Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (October 2024)</li> </ul>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None
<b>Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	No reports received since previous update.
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None
<b>Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group</b>	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p>The Working Group agreed in February to continue for another 6-month period to allow government agencies further opportunity to engage and in order that peer-review work on relevant reports is completed.</p> <p>On the basis of the information considered so far, the Working Group has recommended to formally request the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to establish a public inquiry into the events.</p>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None
<b>Next Scrutiny Review</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Housing</li> </ul>	
<b>Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings</b> (all 4.00pm unless stated)	
<p>Monday 20 May 2024  Monday 10 June 2024  Monday 15 July 2024  Monday 9 September 2024  Monday 14 October 2024  Monday 11 November 2024  Monday 9 December 2024  Monday 13 January 2025  Monday 10 March 2025</p>	



## Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

In addition to the Standing Items:

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

Date	Item	Attending
May	Final Report of Crime and Disorder Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision (Executive Summary for information)	Gary Woods
July	Final Report of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (Executive Summary for information)	Gary Woods
	Final Report of Place Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Unauthorised Roadside Advertising (Executive Summary for information)	Michelle Gunn
	MTFP Outturn	Garry Cummings/ Clare Harper
	Council Plan Update	Ian Coxon
September	Final Report of Children and Young People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment (Executive Summary for information)	Judy Trainer
	MTFP Quarter 1	Garry Cummings/ Clare Harper
November	Council Plan Update	Ian Coxon
December/ January	MTFP Quarter 2	Garry Cummings/ Clare Harper
March	Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26 – Selection of In-Depth Scrutiny Reviews	Jonathan Nertney
	Final Report of People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facilities Grants (Executive Summary for information)	Michelle Gunn

### Regular Reports

- Council Plan Updates
- Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Updates
- Select Committee Final Reports (Executive Summaries)

This page is intentionally left blank