

Date: Tuesday 23 July 2024 at 2.00 pm

Venue: 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 | (Pages 7 - 8) |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4 | Minutes | |
| | To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 May 2024. | (Pages 9 - 12) |
| 5 | Medium Term Financial Plan - Outturn March 2024 | (Pages 13 - 22) |
| 6 | Council Plan Update | (Pages 23 - 38) |
| 7 | In Depth Scrutiny Review Topic Suggestion - Muslim and Faith Burial Provision | (Pages 39 - 46) |
| 8 | Final Report of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (Executive Summary for Information) | (Pages 47 - 52) |
| 9 | Final Report of the Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of (Unauthorised) Roadside Advertising (Executive Summary for Information) | (Pages 53 - 54) |

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| 10 | Chairs' Updates | (Pages 55 - 70) |
| 11 | Chair's Update and Executive Committee Work Programme 2024/25 | (Pages 71 - 72) |

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

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Microphones

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

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EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 7 May 2024.

Present: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice-Chair), Cllr Jim Beall (sub for Cllr Richard Eglington), Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Hilary Vickers (sub for Cllr Tony Riordan).

Officers: Judy Trainer, Gary Woods and Michelle Gunn (CS).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Tony Riordan and Cllr Marilyn Surtees.

ESC/1/24 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedures.

ESC/2/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ESC/3/24 Minutes

AGREED That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ESC/4/24 Final Report of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision (Executive Summary for Information)

Councillor Paul Rowling presented the Executive Summary of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's review of Outdoor Play Provision which would report to Cabinet in May 2024.

The 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 considered so practical and financial implications could be understood and factored into decisions around existing and future plans.

The Select Committee found that Councils were adopting different approaches towards their outdoor play provision, ranging from increasing provision / consultation on proposed investment in facilities to rationalising / removing existing sites. For the Council, whilst there would be an understandable reluctance to compromise much valued resources for children / young people and their families across Stockton-on-Tees, it was clearly not sustainable to keep all existing play sites open, and difficult decisions would 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 had to follow to ensure quality, accessible, and geographically balanced provision that lasted.

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- The important role of Section 106 agreements attaching to planning permissions to ensure adequate and timely provision
- The need for equitable provision and replacement of play provision across the Borough
- Councillors could play a role working with the community to draw in external support and funding
- Ensuring that procurement delivered best value for money

AGREED That the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/5/24 Forward Plan

AGREED That the Forward Plan be noted.

ESC/6/24 Chair's 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 that following consideration of the latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) quarterly report (Q3 2023-2024) at its meeting in February 2024, the Committee had invited the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) Lead Governor to the April 2024 meeting to question what the Governors' view of this latest CQC report on the Trust was and how they were addressing the concerns outlined by the regulator. Due to Cabinet changes made at the Annual Meeting, and following correspondence with senior TEWV officers, it was now anticipated that other relevant TEWV personnel would respond to the Committee at a forthcoming meeting.

It was suggested that it would be useful for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care to attend that meeting.

Children and Young People Select Committee

Members noted the update from the Children and Young People Select Committee.

Community Safety Select Committee

Members noted the update from the Community Safety Select Committee which had recently changed its name following a recommendation from Executive Scrutiny Committee.

People Select Committee

Members noted the update from the People Select Committee.

Place Select Committee

Members noted the update from the Place Select Committee.

AGREED That the Chairs' updates be noted.

ESC/7/24 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25

AGREED That the work programme be noted and, subject to other diary commitments, Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting dates be moved towards the end of the month to facilitate more timely reporting of the MTFP report from Cabinet to Executive Scrutiny Committee.

Chair.....

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

18 JULY 2024

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE,
TRANSFORMATION &
PERFORMANCE AND
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Councillor Robert Cook

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – OUTTURN MARCH 2024

SUMMARY

This report updates Cabinet on the draft financial performance and position as at 31 March 2024.

The overall financial position is 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 has continued to be carefully monitored.

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

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

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To update Cabinet on the Medium Term Financial Plan, including the outturn position for 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Note the outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2024 and the updated Capital Programme.

DETAIL**FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024****GENERAL FUND**

1. The following table sets out the financial position for each Directorate at 31 March 2024. The reasons for any significant variances from those previously reported are summarised in the paragraphs below.

Directorate	Annual Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(Under)	Forecast Variance at Q3 Over/(Under)	Movement from Q3
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	88,616	89,526	910	1,545	(635)
Children's Services	49,820	59,452	9,633	8,415	1,218
Community Services, Environment & Culture	54,180	52,742	(1,438)	(790)	(648)
Finance, Development & Regeneration	14,687	14,076	(611)	(670)	59
Corporate Services	12,296	12,345	49	(356)	405
Corporate Items	3,629	604	(3,025)	(2,789)	(236)
Total	223,228	228,746	5,518	5,355	163
Pay Offer Pressure		1,541	1,541	1,541	0
Revised Total	223,228	230,287	7,059	6,896	163
Release balances to fund outturn position			(7,059)	(6,896)	163

Adults, Health and Wellbeing

2. The Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate position improved by £635,000 from the projected position in December. The movement is mainly due to strong partnership working which secured an agreement with the ICB to utilise the Better Care Fund to fund the large pressures experienced through the discharge to assess national programme. Demand on Adult Social Care continues to grow locally with a 16% increase in demand, and the market remains challenging nationally and locally. Work is ongoing to prevent, reduce and delay demand in line with the Care Act 2014.

Children's Services

3. Members will be aware from previous reports of the significant financial challenges facing all Councils in respect of Looked after Children. The final position for Children's Services in 2023/24 is £9.6m spend in excess of budget.
4. The main reasons for the movement from the previously reported position are a further £1m spend on placements for children in our care. £700,000 of this is for additional costs for children in external residential placements. £100,000 of costs relating to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in excess of the grant we receive from government. £200,000 relating to young people in care within supported accommodation settings.
5. The 2024/25 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan report includes an uplift in the base budget to reflect the pressures. Members will also be aware of the significant work around Children in our Care both as part of the Children's Improvement Plan and the transformation programme, which focuses on providing support and care for children in our care in the most

cost effective way. Some examples of the work ongoing include the creation of an edge of care team to support children to remain at home, increased focus on re-unification of children within care to enable them to return home and are reviewing our foster offer to increase our capacity to provide such support.

Community Services, Environment & Culture

6. The Community Services, Environment & Culture directorate saw an improved position against forecast of £648,000, making an overall underspend of £1.4m against budget for 2023/24. The reasons for the movement include a further reduction in the financial support to Tees Active Leisure relating to energy of £400,000. Whilst TAL are still experiencing higher energy costs similar to the Council, their overall performance was extremely positive meaning they do not require any of the earmarked funding within the budget for energy this year.
7. Additional income was achieved across a number of services including Heating, Ventilation and Electrical and Flood Risk Management (£260,000). Savings against some early scheme estimates, combined with fewer gritter runs as a consequence of a mild winter, resulted in an in-year underspend on highway and network assets of £500,000.
8. There are however some ongoing challenges relating to particular budgets; the catering service cost £200,000 more than the income it generated due to rising payroll and meal prices and the cost to operate car parking also exceeded income by £300,000.

Finance, Development & Regeneration

9. The final outturn for Finance, Development and Regeneration is £611,000 under budget. This is only a minor movement from the position projected at quarter 3.

Corporate Services

10. The previous projection for Corporate Services was an underspend of £356,000 and related to salary savings predicted in year. Although the salary savings were broadly achieved, there were a number of areas where these savings were in fact used to fund pressures.

Corporate Items

11. Budgets within the corporate items line improved by a further £236,000. The reason for the movement is relating to a one-off release of funds by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities relating to the national business rates account (£330,000). This was offset by greater spend on our apprenticeship programme due to the growth in the number of apprentices in employment £130,000.

Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block

12. Maintained schools and Special Educational Needs provision are funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The grant is awarded by the Department for Education on an annual basis and the amount is determined by a national formula. Alongside many other Council's we are continuing to experience growing demand in services for pupils with Special Educational Needs. This is creating significant financial pressure on the High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. Due to these issues the Council's expenditure has exceeded it's funding in recent years generating a deficit within the Dedicated Schools Grant account. The deficit was £3.8m at 31 March 2024, a reduction of £70,000 from the previous year.
13. The dedicated schools grant is accounted for in a separate ring-fenced account and guidance states that any deficit should not be funded from the Council's General Fund. This deficit is therefore not included within the Council's overall budget gap. Through the Delivering Better

Value Programme the Council are working with the Department for Education on a plan to resolve this position over the medium term.

Collection Fund

14. The collection fund is a ringfenced account which includes the actual amount collected for both Council tax and business rates. In line with statutory requirements the Council forecasts the overall surplus or deficit on the collection fund in January, which is used in budget setting for the following year. Actual performance of the amount of Council tax and business rates collected is not known until the end of the financial year.
15. The overall collection of Council Tax and business rates performed well during the year, however as part of an ongoing review of debts, a larger amount of debt was written off than estimated, meaning the overall collection fund at 31st March 2024 is £591,000 less than estimated in January. Due to the nature of accounting rules for the Collection Fund, this shortfall will affect the 25/26 budget rather than the 24/25 budget. This will be considered in the 25/26 budget, which will also take into account the performance of the fund during 2024/25.

General Fund Balances and Addressing the Overspend in 2023/24

16. The total General Fund Balances at 31 March 2024 are £8m, in line with the agreed level and as outlined in the report to Cabinet in February 2024.
17. In order to fund the overspend in 23/24, as agreed in the budget report in February 2024, £7.1m of balances have been used in 2023/24 and these have been replenished immediately on 1st April 2024. The general fund balances remain at £8m.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

18. Members will recall that there were external factors outside of the Council's control causing a delay to the publication of the final audited 2021/22 and 2022/23 statement of accounts. These issues related to the accounting treatment of triennial revaluation of the pension fund as at 31st March 2022, as more up to date information was available for the Council to reflect in the 2021/22 financial statements. These were delays within the pension fund information and accounting treatment of infrastructure assets. These issues have now been resolved sufficiently to allow both sets of final audited accounts to be complete and published on the Council's website.
19. The audit certificate for 2021/22 has now been issued by the Council's External auditors, Forvis Mazars, following the completion of the national Whole of Government Accounts consolidation. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's Accounts. As part of the audit, the auditors are also required to review the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The auditors have nothing to report in respect of being dissatisfied with the Council's approach.
20. The auditors have also issued an unqualified opinion for the 2022/23 accounts. The audit certificate will be issued following the completion of the national Whole of Government Accounts consolidation for this year.
21. The deadline for publishing the Council's draft accounts for 2023/24 is 31st May 2024. Due to delays in the provision of pension fund information from the Teesside Pension Fund actuary, there has been a delay to the publication of the draft statement of accounts for 2023/24. The draft accounts were approved by Audit and Governance Committee on 27th June, and the Public Inspection Notice is now live on the Council's website.

22. There continues to be ongoing issues of capacity within the audit sector for auditing local authority and pension fund accounts. This potentially has an impact on the timescales for when external audit can begin the audit of the Council's 2023/24 accounts. Many local authorities and pension funds are affected by the issues outlined above, causing the majority of authorities to be delayed in finalising their accounts.
23. This is an incredibly frustrating situation, as Stockton on Tees Borough Council have an unblemished track record in meeting publication and audit deadlines in relation to our Statement of Accounts. We continue to keep in regular contact with auditors and are regularly updating Audit and Governance Committee on progress.

Addressing the Budget Gap

24. As described in previous reports, alongside most other Councils, we are experiencing unprecedented financial challenges due to high inflation levels and greater demand for services leading to significantly increased costs to deliver vital services to residents. Members will recall in the budget setting report to Council in February 2024, there is a projected budget gap across the medium term financial plan rising to £8.1m by 2026/27.
25. The Powering Our Futures programme will be a key tool in closing the budget gap, alongside ensuring improvements to services to local residents. Members will be aware from the considerable engagement ongoing, work is progressing across the Powering our Futures programme and future reports will outline proposals from the transformation reviews.

CAPITAL

26. The Capital Programme is summarised below and shown at **Appendix A**.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2024	Current Approved Programme £'000	Programme Revisions £'000	Revised Programme £'000	Completed Schemes 2022/23 £'000	Variances (Completed Schemes) £'000	Revised Programme £'000	New Approvals £'000	Revised Programme £'000
School Investment Programme & Childrens Services	48,245	0	48,245	(20,045)	(43)	28,157	2,715	30,872
Housing Regeneration Development & Growth	18,237	0	18,237	(14)	(1)	18,222	82	18,304
Town Centres	137,664	36	137,700	(13,707)	(783)	123,210	0	123,210
Transportation	43,845	349	44,194	(6,585)	127	37,736	850	38,586
Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure	20,275	173	20,448	(3,765)	9	16,692	1,647	18,339
Adults & Public Health	4,146	36	4,182	(2,763)	280	1,699	324	2,023
Total Approved Capital MTFP	272,412	594	273,006	(46,879)	(411)	225,716	5,618	231,334

27. Members will note that the programme has been updated to reflect the approvals contained within the 2024/25 Budget Report and to reflect changes to the programme resulting from the sourcing of external funding. The changes are summarised in **Appendix B**. The Programme has also been updated to reflect schemes which have completed in 2023/24.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

28. 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

29. None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

30. The report updates Members on the Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

31. There are no specific legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

32. This Medium Term Financial Plan update 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

33. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

34. None

Name of Contact Officer: Garry Cummings,
Job Title: Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance and Deputy Chief Executive
Telephone: 01642 527011
Email Address: garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2026	Current Approved Programme	Programme Revisions	Revised Programme	Completed Schemes 2023/24	Variations (Completed Schemes)	Revised Programme	New approvals	Revised Programme	Expenditure Apr 2017 - March 2024
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES									
School Investment Programme	39,821,249	0	39,821,249	(19,558,278)	(36,195)	20,226,776	2,547,324	22,774,100	26,518,179
Children Investment	8,424,105	0	8,424,105	(486,816)	(6,428)	7,930,861	167,912	8,098,773	1,181,717
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES	48,245,354	0	48,245,354	(20,045,094)	(42,623)	28,157,637	2,715,236	30,872,873	27,699,895
REGENERATION, DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH									
Inclusive Growth & Development	8,736,642	0	8,736,642	(13,746)	(987)	8,721,909	81,631	8,803,540	1,277,507
Office Accommodation	9,500,511	0	9,500,511	0	0	9,500,511		9,500,511	7,300,102
REGENERATION, DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH	18,237,153	0	18,237,153	(13,746)	(987)	18,222,420	81,631	18,304,051	8,577,609
TOWN CENTRES									
Stockton Town Centre Schemes	2,914,451	0	2,914,451	0	0	2,914,451	0	2,914,451	1,131,498
Reshaping Town Centres	28,912,960	0	28,912,960	0	0	28,912,960	0	28,912,960	1,238,148
Billingham Town Centre	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	245,956
Thornaby Town Centre	29,800,440	36,700	29,837,140	0	0	29,837,140	0	29,837,140	3,598,143
Re-Development of Castlegate Site	43,635,313	0	43,635,313	(13,655,767)	(795,165)	29,184,381	0	29,184,381	18,830,267
Yarm & Eaglescliffe LUF	22,070,000	0	22,070,000	0	0	22,070,000	0	22,070,000	3,979,561
Infrastructure Enhancements, Regeneration & Property Acquisitions	330,334	0	330,334	(51,259)	12,642	291,717	0	291,717	51,259
TOWN CENTRES	137,663,498	36,700	137,700,198	(13,707,026)	(782,523)	123,210,649	0	123,210,649	29,074,833
TRANSPORTATION									
City Regional Sustainable Transport	19,867,605	344,568	20,212,173	(5,034,196)	64,650	15,242,627	850,036	16,092,663	5,952,730
Other Transport Schemes	20,699,744	(6,151)	20,693,593	0	0	20,693,593	0	20,693,593	16,440,578
Developer Agreements	3,278,145	10,232	3,288,377	(1,550,463)	62,187	1,800,101	0	1,800,101	2,816,855
TRANSPORTATION	43,845,494	348,648	44,194,142	(6,584,659)	126,837	37,736,321	850,036	38,586,356	25,210,164
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE									
Energy Efficiency Schemes	1,248,108	0	1,248,108	(115,384)	0	1,132,724	111,386	1,244,110	1,246,462
Environment and Green Infrastructure	12,588,898	130,483	12,719,381	(226,972)	(18,190)	12,474,219	0	12,474,219	3,829,026
Building Management	3,486,888	0	3,486,888	(1,887,924)	26,955	1,625,919	1,536,029	3,161,948	2,590,259
Vehicle Replacement	2,951,049	42,276	2,993,325	(1,534,995)	0	1,458,330	0	1,458,330	1,534,995

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE	20,274,943	172,759	20,447,702	(3,765,275)	8,765	16,691,192	1,647,415	18,338,607	9,200,742
ADULTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING									
Adults & Public Health Investment	466,451	35,970	502,421	(494,353)	433	8,501	323,920	332,421	584,720
Housing Regeneration	1,465,311	0	1,465,311	(5,451)	0	1,459,860	0	1,459,860	5,451
Private Sector Housing	2,214,242	0	2,214,242	(2,263,546)	279,928	230,624	0	230,624	2,263,546
ADULTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING	4,146,004	35,970	4,181,974	(2,763,350)	280,361	1,698,985	323,920	2,022,905	2,853,718
Total Approved Capital MTFP	272,412,446	594,077	273,006,523	(46,879,150)	(410,170)	225,717,204	5,618,237	231,335,441	102,616,961

Programme Revisions 2023/24

Schools

- In respect of the Bishopton Pru site, due to the original contractor going in to administration further costs of approximately £450,000 are anticipated. These have been funded through the savings identified on a number of schemes that have completed in 2023/24 with the Schools Investment Strategy.

Transport

- £657,968 for works to Newport Bridge has been added to the capital programme, funded from CRSTS Grant and a contribution from Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Other

- £279,928 added to Disabled Adaptations funded from client contributions and revenue contributions.
- £123,335 has been added the Capital Programme in respect of SBC share of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Residual Municipal Waste Treatment, funded via loan from TVCA

Completed Schemes 2023/24

Schools Capital

- Planned Maintenance Schemes on a range of schools have been delivered in 2023/24.
- A number of school expansion projects/phases of projects have completed this year.

Town Centre Schemes

- The Relocation and Demolition of Castlegate Site have completed this year. In line with accounting standards £795,165 of the Relocation costs and associated funding have been moved to revenue.

Transportation

- £5,034,195 has been spent delivering schemes as part of the City Regional Sustainable Transport programme.
- A number of S278 Access works and S106 schemes have completed in year fully funded via Developer contributions.

Other schemes

- £2,252,770 has been spent on Disabled Adaptations in homes across the Borough.
- A number of planned maintenance schemes have been delivered across a range of Council Buildings.
- A number of parks and cemeteries schemes have completed in year.
- The works to install PV Panels at Ingleby Barwick Leisure Centre have completed in year.
- £1,534,995 has been spent on the Vehicle Replacement Programme, funded from receipts from sales of vehicles and revenue contributions.
- Children's carers extension/adaptation works costing £286,816 have been delivered in year. This supports the service to ensure children remain looked after in a family environment.

- Refurbishment works to Oakview Children's Home have completed this year as part of a larger investment in Children In Our Care services.
- Works carried out at Whitton land fill site have completed in year, £170,433 funded from revenue contributions.

New approvals 2023/24

School Capital

- Following DFE announcements in March 2023, £2,547,324 of Higher Needs Grant from 2023/24 and 2024/25 allocations have been added to the capital programme.

Transportation

- 2023/24 and 2024/25 City Regional Sustainable Transport allocation £850,036 have been added to the Capital Programme for pot holes.

Other schemes

- £111,389 has been added to the programme for energy efficiency works at Ingleby Barwick Leisure Centre, funded from Swimming Pool Support Grant.
- Round 2 of the Local Authority Housing Fund grant from DLUHC has been added to the programme and completed in year, £323,920.
- The 2024/25 building planned maintenance programme has been included in the programme.
- £167,912 grant received from DfE for Children In Our Care investment and added in to the programme.

Agenda Item 6

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2024

REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE

SUMMARY

This report provides Cabinet with an update on the priorities included in the Council Plan 2023/26.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To update Executive Scrutiny Committee on the progress in implementing the Council Plan priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report.

DETAIL

1. This report focuses on the implementation of the Council Plan 2023/26. This is therefore the year-end update on progress during 2023/24.
2. An update on each of the Council Plan priorities is set out in Annex 1. The report indicates significant progress in all areas of this year's priorities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. No direct implications.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

4. No direct implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. No direct implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. No direct implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This Council Plan Update 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

8. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. Not applicable.

Name of Contact Officer: Garry Cummings

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

Telephone: 01642 527011

Email: garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk

OUR PEOPLE

Making the borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm means creating a place where:

People live in cohesive and safe communities

People are supported and protected from harm

People live healthy lives

Priority	Update
1. Support achievement for all pupils including a focus on narrowing the gap in outcomes	The scrutiny review focused on narrowing the gap is to encompass an appreciative inquiry. Early Help support is being brought into education to strengthen a school based community asset approach. Current results at primary level are being evaluated to strengthen support for narrowing the gap and provide targeted interventions. Work is being targeted at raising achievement for higher grades at A level and GCSE to close the gap that has developed between the North East region and the rest of England. 'Closing the gap' briefings are being tailored with new government information to provide support for all education providers (inc. post 16).
2. Deliver improvement programme focusing on workforce, practice and partnerships for children and families in need	The 'Strengthening Services' improvement plan is in place which maximises corporate resources and has oversight from a multi-agency board to ensure collective accountability across the Children's system. An interim senior leadership structure and additional interim capacity has been implemented to re-focus improvement activity. The ASYE academy which will work to continuously improve the quality of social work practice is now operational. Recruitment and retention and workforce development programme developed and Implemented. Bespoke training offered to staff within social care and early help - assessment and analysis to improve planning and intervention. Data and performance practice embedded into social care to enable better understanding of how we are doing and priorities for improvement.
3. Continue to develop and enhance provision and support for children and young people with additional needs or accessing alternative provision	In Sept 2023 the multi million pound development at Bishopton Pupil Referral Unit opened its doors for the first time. The well-established and successful Abbey@Northshore provision was expanded with building works and refurbishment completed whilst the children were on their Summer break leading in increased numbers of children being able to access this provision from September 2023.

Priority	Update
4. Implement the investment proposals for children in our care, including new provision and new models of delivery	<p>Placement Sufficiency has been confirmed as one of the key pillars of the corporate transformation programme and a work programme has commenced which will implement proposals on new models of delivery for fostering and external residential placements.</p> <p>One new children's home has been purchased and is in the process of planning to enable it to open in January 2024. One existing children's home has been refurbished.</p> <p>Work undertaken to understand our current cohort and need, and measures in place to resolve some legacy issues as well as new process of decision making and permanence planning proposed to reduce risk of children remaining in our care that do not require this.</p>
5. Support the Arson Reduction Strategy in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade	<p>A new arson reduction strategy was launched in the summer of 2023 following the successful completion of the previous multi-agency strategy. Deliberate fire setting has reduced in Stockton on Tees but the significant partnership working must continue to ensure this is consistent across all wards. Joint patrols in deliberate fire setting hotspots has taken place and will continue throughout the summer months when we see an increase in deliberate fire setting during the school holidays.</p> <p>A dedicated preventative approach has been taken through the 'bonfire' period in late 2023 to tackle seasonal increases in deliberate fire setting across Stockton on Tees which was a success and resulted in reductions in arson and deliberate fire setting.</p>
6. Maximise the effectiveness of the additional investment made in our community safety related services in order to protect residents	<p>Following the additional investment made by the Council within our Community Safety related services we appointed an additional 12 Civic Enforcement Officers. These officers are new resources on top of the existing team of 18 Civic Enforcement Officers already employed by the Council. The additional 12 Civic Enforcement Officers are now in position and are actively working within all of our town centre settings, with the objective of ensuring they are safe and welcoming places to visit and shop. A particular area of focus has been the recent Public Space Protection Order in both Stockton and Norton Village. Additional funding has been received via TVCA to extend the additional provision until March 2025.</p>
7. Consider and develop a new serious violence reduction strategy in partnership with other responsible authorities	<p>A new serious violence reduction strategy was introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Court Act in 2022 and came into effect in early 2023. As a result, we are now under a duty to understand the implications of serious violence on our communities, produce a strategy to tackle the causes and work in partnership with other responsibly authorities. The introduction of serious violence reduction duty in the Community Safety Plan has been completed and is now live.</p> <p>A Violence Reduction Unit (CURV) has been introduced following additional funding from the Home Office, in Cleveland. Stockton BC is represented on this group and part of the decision-making process for funding allocation and the introduction of new initiatives to tackle serious violence.</p>

Priority	Update
<p>8. Give due consideration to the new Protect Duty placed on local authorities as part of the wider national counter-terrorism strategy</p>	<p>In July 2023, the government released a draft Bill which covers the new duties under the Protect element of the CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy. The draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill aims to place a duty on qualifying public premises or events to take certain steps to deter and minimise the threat and impact of terrorism to the public. In February 2024 the Government released a draft bill for consultation, known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill which will essentially be legislation to enable the Protect Duty. Work is on going in terms of the impact this will have and how we can ensure we meet the requirements of the final Act.</p>
<p>9. Support people to live healthy lives and address health inequalities through a focus on early prevention, long term conditions, substance misuse, smoking, obesity / physical activity, and mental health</p>	<p>Our multi-agency Tobacco Alliance is progressing work on smoking in pregnancy, vaping and we are a regional pilot site for the national NHS swap to stop scheme (provision of free vapes to support adults with quitting smoking in line with national guidance). We are working with TEWV to support people with mental health problems to quit smoking and have issued a response to the government's Smoke Free Generation consultation through the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>We continue to develop our asset-based community working approach, including our peer advocacy pilot to support people with multiple complex needs (particularly domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill health).</p> <p>Good progress is being made on implementing the new Domestic Abuse Strategy. Latest updates include work with Tees partners on a perpetrator strategy, local work on outcomes monitoring strengthening links to primary care. We continue to progress a comprehensive workforce development programme and a programme to support those in the community where DA may be disclosed e.g. hairdressers. We are developing a lived experience charter to embed this focus into our work and are supporting mapping work of support to children and young people being carried out by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner - we have a specific local service offer in place.</p> <p>We continue to work across agencies to improve the opportunities for people to be physically active. The recommendations of the healthy weight needs assessment are being implemented along with the resulting strategic framework for healthy weight, reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We are working closely with Tees Valley Sport and Sport England on further opportunities for the borough.</p>

Priority	Update
<p>10. Continue to lead the public health response to Covid and support the approach to recovery and addressing the impact of Covid, working with partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board</p>	<p>The multi-agency Health Protection Collaborative continues to meet, reporting to Health and Wellbeing Board to maintain oversight and provide assurance on health protection issues. The Health and Wellbeing Board has been updated regularly on Covid, flu and other infections throughout Winter and a well-attended (50+) conference held with the VCSE to share information to support the community to keep well in Winter. Access to Covid and flu vaccinations has been improved for groups experiencing barriers to access - we have worked with the GP Federation partners to run bespoke clinics resulting in an additional 200 vaccinations. We have also supported national campaigns promoting Covid and flu vaccination uptake and have undertaken behavioural insights work to understand vaccination uptake in young people. The public health team continues to link to support the care sector with advice and information and is supporting education settings regarding the national increase in measles cases.</p>
<p>11. Support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and offer help to people who are feeling lonely</p>	<p>The new Care at Home framework tender closed with a significant interest from the provider market. The Council remains on track to go live for this new service. Aligned with the new framework, we will start working with the provider market to develop our approach to a more outcome focussed delivery and use of Individual Service funds (ISF). We are piloting activity monitoring software across reablement and our early intervention services to assess how this could act as an enabler for people to remain independent and will report back in July on option to deploy this at scale across care at home. The Council has committed to support and develop key services during 2024/25 to support people who may be socially isolated and lonely.</p>
<p>12. Continue to work with adult residential care and care at home providers to improve quality of care and to continue to support them as they respond to the challenges arising from COVID-19</p>	<p>The new framework for older people's residential care homes was commissioned in Q4 2023/24 and went live on 01 April 2024. Developed in collaboration with providers and key stakeholders, this has reinforced (through the specification) the focus on lived experience and person-centred support within a residential setting. The Council will undertake annual PAMMs assessment for older people care homes to ensure providers are delivering the expected standards of care and will be given support where they have not achieved a "good" or "excellent" rating. A new framework for mental health has been commissioned (in Q4 2023/24) to deliver local capacity and expertise in residential care for people with complex and highly complex mental health needs. This framework will work with interested providers to develop the local offer through 2024/25. The Transformation Team continue to deliver key interventions to support both care home and care at home market, including leadership network, Well Led Programme, activity coordinator network, provider forums, care academy, research network and care quality group. In Q4, we successfully delivered the 2024 "Care Home Legends" event with 15 care homes, 95 residents and carers plus 15 students from secondary school and 4 catalyst volunteers.</p>

Priority	Update
<p>13. Engage with individuals, families, carers and communities when developing adult social care support and continue to collaborate with the NHS to ensure health and care services work effectively together</p>	<p>The Council continues to work effectively with ICB and Trust across the NHS. Integrated Community Equipment Board (ICES): the Council is working collaboratively with the ICB to review the future of this service (along with the other 3 host LAs); ICB are a standing member of the Tees Local Implementation Group (LIG) and are working with SBC and the other Tees Valley LAs to source new housing and care solutions for people with learning disability, autism and mental health needs. ICB and Trust are standing members of the Powering our Future (PoF) mission “Supporting People to live Independently”. The Council have regular integration events with NHS colleagues. At the meeting held in April 2024 we discussed the Care and Health Zone, hospital admission avoidance, hospital discharge, homelessness and leadership. Where issues are identified, the ICB work effectively with SBC to look at the reasons, impact and future solutions. For example, the impact of recent care home closures and change of ownership has reduced our overall nursing bed capacity has led the Council to work with the ICB to identify issues and agree future solutions.</p>
<p>14. Review out of area placements and day options provision for adults</p>	<p>An assessment of the 29 out of borough placements made in 2023/24 has been undertaken and plans for 2024/25 agreed. Capacity for complex mental health residential placements in the borough. The new framework has been commissioned and through this we plan to develop more of the required provision in borough. Requirement for “male only units” was identified through local intelligence (through brokerage evidence) and through the deep dive of out of borough placements. A specific lot in the older people’s care home framework (which went live on 01 April 2024) will allow us to develop this provision locally. It is planned that we engage with the market in June / July to procure this provision. In addition, we have established a Housing group, across social care, procurement and housing to identify people who are struggling to source housing and what plans we can put in place to find them suitable accommodation in borough. This group is considering several development opportunities with local Registered Providers which will bring market capacity into Stockton on Tees.</p>

Priority	Update
15. Develop a new model for the health and wellbeing of children and young people 0-19 (25 for SEND), working across key partners and including service commissioning	We have worked closely with partners including children, young people and their families to develop the overarching approach to improving children and young people's health and wellbeing. This focuses on early prevention, based on research evidence and the local picture with the aim of improving outcomes, addressing inequalities and supporting work to prevent escalation of need and demand on services. A section 75 agreement has been secured, enabling us to enter into a strategic partnership to work closely with our provider in developing and delivering this approach. We have worked closely with children and families in developing the model so far and this will be an ongoing process. Through this the 0-19 model (encompassing health visiting, public health school nursing and healthy weight support for families) will be further embedded in the community and wider support across partners including the healthy schools approach, work of maternity services and links to primary care.
16. Work with our communities and partners to develop our approach to healthy places, in the context of regeneration plans and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Locally we are embedding impact on health and wellbeing and inequalities into key policy e.g. the Local Plan, the town centre blueprint and the Care and Health Zone. We are also looking at learning from other areas to maximise the impact planning, place-shaping and licensing have on creating places that enable people to be healthier. Our local needs assessment work has identified recommendations across the Council and partners to shape an environment that enables people to be more physically active and to have access to healthier food options for example. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed, working across partners in the context of the Council as place-shaper and lead for place (Team Stockton) and the developing ICS. Healthy place and a focus on the wider determinants of health will be key. We are working with the Making it Real Board in developing the Strategy. Working with Tees Valley partners and linking to the Tees Valley ICP, we have developed a programme of work across Tees Valley on healthy place including Anchor institutions, work and health and transport. This support local work such our activity across public health, inclusive growth and learning and skills to support people back into work.
17. Work with our partners in the VCSE sector and the Community Partnerships to tackle food poverty in the Borough	Via monies secured through Household Support Fund Round 3 and Thirteen have enabled the Council to deliver 5 low cost Food Hubs (delivered by the Bread and Butter Thing, an award winning charity). Each Hub is run by local volunteers and an anchor VCSE partner, providing food support to around 400 families per week. HHSF funding has also supported 2 rounds of the Food Aid Fund providing financial support to over 60 VCSE organisations who have delivered a range of food related support initiatives to the boroughs vulnerable residents. The Councils wider commitment to the Stockton Food Power Network, community food pantries and Holiday Enrichment Programme (an extensive programme supporting children and their families during the summer holidays through the provision of health food and free activities) all continue in partnership with Catalyst.

Priority	Update
18. Continue to prevent and relieve homelessness	The Council continues to see an unprecedented service demand for those who are homeless and or threatened with homelessness (3030 presentations made to the service during 2023/24). Due to limited affordable housing options in both Registered Provider and private rented sectors the need for temporary accommodation has significantly increased. To address growing service pressures additional units of temporary accommodation have been procured and the service continues to deliver a holistic approach to supporting individuals and families experiencing or threatened with homelessness (i.e. the service currently includes a Domestic Abuse worker, a specialist refugee worker, and a Welfare Support colleague). Due to limited affordable housing options in both the private rented and Registered Provider sectors the service is supporting an increasing number of people seeking support and the waiting time to secure sustainable accommodation are increasing.

OUR ECONOMY

Making the borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed means creating:

A growing economy

Improved education and skills development

Job creation and increased employment

Priority	Update
19. Continue to develop the Invest Stockton-on-Tees branding campaign and attract inward investment into the Borough	Continued marketing in the north west area particularly Manchester including Manchester Airport. Continuing to utilise B2B media (Tees Business, Commercial Property publications etc)
20. Develop options to bring forward development on vacant employment land	Durham Lane Business Park - Cabinet approval received in March for preferred developer Development Agreement to dispose of land in accordance with the DA. Developer commitment to submit a hybrid planning application within 6 months of signing the DA. Part application may come sooner as currently working with an interested party
21. Continue to deliver the objectives in the Inclusive Growth Strategy and using an agreed Action Plan	Review of current strategy being undertaken by Assistant Director of Inclusive Growth & Development. The current strategy has been reviewed and is undergoing consultation with internal and external stakeholders.
22. Continue to develop the successful Employment and Training Hub Model	<p>990 people into employment, will reach the 1000 milestone in May 2024, large marketing campaign planned. 5500 people registered with the Hub.</p> <p>Portal launched end of July 2023. Since its launch 150,000 visits, vacancies page is the most visited. New content includes support around internships.</p> <p>SeAH wind event – 125 people attended, numerous people since attended to update CV's to apply for roles at SeAH.</p> <p>Career Change Event held for those looking to upskill, enter management or change sector. 80 people attended, great feedback from businesses and residents, moving forward these will be held quarterly.</p> <p>Upcoming events include the SBC Apprenticeships and the Summer jobs event.</p> <p>Hub on Tour – visited 12 locations, partnered with the Warm Space Initiative, well attended and looking to continue and grow.</p> <p>2 x Engagement Officers recruited April 2024 to widen the 'Hub on Tour' project and work with those 'economically inactive'.</p>

Priority	Update
	<p>Social Media Engagement – since Jan 1st 2024 75k reach. Working on larger recruitment campaigns such as Amazon and Primark, Ninja Warrior. Amazon supported 240 people into employment, Primark campaign will launched April 2024, 175 people have secured roles. Primark launch national campaigns, on average receive 2000 applications per store. For the Stockton store they received 6500, interviewed 650, appointed 175. Upcoming campaigns include Ninja Warrior in June 2024 and Practice Plus in July 2024. Practice Plus are a new business to Stockton handling 111 calls. Delivering enterprise projects with secondary schools linking education to employment, more specifically working with the Senior Leadership Team from Billingham schools to look an alternative curriculum linked with enterprise and emerging opportunities in the Borough.</p>
<p>23. Develop a procurement charter with partners to promote social value and identify potential areas of development of supply chains in order to support local business</p>	<p>To sit within Partnership Powering Our Future</p>
<p>24. Advance our major transport-related projects including the Portrack Relief Road, Billingham and Eaglescliffe Station improvements, Elton Interchange, and improvements along the A689 corridor.</p>	<p>Portrack Relief Road – On hold due to budget gap of around £15m. Billingham station – All works due to be completed. Eaglescliffe Station – Car Park Estimated start date 2nd qtr. 2024 completion date forecast 4th Qtr 2024. Bridge to be complete 2nd qtr 2025. Elton Interchange – Completed. A689/A19 interchange – Detailed design of A689/A19 interchange improvements and footbridge is nearing completion and project is programme for works to commence 3rd Qtr 2024. A689 corridor improvements – Included in CRSTS 2 programme 2027 to 2032.</p>
<p>25. Continue the redevelopment of Stockton Town Centre including demolition of Castlegate and development of the Urban Park</p>	<p>Work underway on construction of urban park in January 2024. At this stage work remains on programme.</p>

OUR PLACES

Making the borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive means creating:

Great places to live and visit

Clean and green spaces

Rich cultural experiences

Priority	Update
26. Deliver interventions for Town Deal in Thornaby	Design work on new swimming pool progressing and cost plan to be produced. Procurement of contractor planned for early summer 2024. Update to Cabinet on Golden Eagle planned for May 2025.
27. Finalise the plans for improvements in Yarm, Preston Hall Museum and Grounds and cycleway infrastructure in line with the Levelling Up fund allocation	Work underway on site for Preston Park Museum extension. Planning application due in 2024 for cafe and toilets. Design work for aviary and south lodge underway.
28. Conclude the continued redevelopment of the Sycamores	The development of The Sycamores in partnership with Keepmoat Homes is on track (final sales expected to be complete June 2024).
29. Development of a business case to actively accelerate the provision of affordable and specialist housing provision within the borough	Work is ongoing across directorates (Regeneration, Finance, Adults, Health & Well-being) to explore delivery models which have the potential to accelerate the delivery of affordable and specialist housing provision.
30. Develop blueprints for before phases of redevelopment of town centres.	Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint complete by end of May 2024. Billingham Masterplan being developed in conjunction with centre owners. Planning for others to follow shortly.
31. Develop structures and models for future development of Stockton and Billingham town centres.	Blueprint for Stockton and site specific master planning out to consultation. Ongoing dialogue with owners of Billingham town centre on potential development partnership

Priority	Update
32. Continue the programme of road / pavement maintenance and repairs and deliver our City Regions Sustainable Transport programme schemes	Programme of road/pavement maintenance and repairs is ongoing. By year end the carriageway programme was 92% complete with 47 of 51 schemes completed. The remaining 4 schemes were delayed due to programming issues and are all due for completion by the end of April 2024. The footway programme was 96% achieved with 23 of 24 schemes completed by year end, the remaining scheme was ongoing and is due for completion during April 2024. CRST – Programme in place and shared with TVCA. Internal and external resource requirements identified and schemes being progressed. LUF scheme to be tendered in April, Towns Fund schemes in detailed design.
33. Continue implementation of the Carbon Reduction and Environmental Sustainability Strategy action plan which includes coalitions with residents, businesses, and partners.	<p>We continue to work with service teams to deliver actions identified within the ‘live’ action plan. The action plan is monitored by a Senior Management Team Oversight group. We now have 128 service area actions, 40.63% of those actions are now embedded into standard practice. 51.56% of the actions are in progress and 7.81% are yet to commence.</p> <p>The data collection and analysis framework continues to work well, proving to be a useful tool for many areas of the authority.</p> <p>The four independently chaired Climate coalitions (Creative, Youth, Community and Business) continue to meet and have agreed individual action plans. All four coalition chairs meet to share good practice and challenges to delivery.</p> <p>A new Carbon Literacy training course has been developed with our learning and skills colleagues; this will work alongside our carbon awareness training for members, school governors and our business communities.</p>
34. Development and implement the 2023 borough-wide events programme, incorporating celebrations for the King’s coronation and ongoing preparations for Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary	<p>Range of coronation events supported across the Borough including 75 street parties and 9 community events.</p> <p>Ongoing support for community event organisers across the Borough.</p> <p>S&DR bicentenary preparations ongoing.</p>
35. Support the Combined Authority and Bus Operators in delivering the agreed outcomes set out in the Tees Valley Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan and Scheme	Stockton working on bus corridor improvement schemes across the Borough funded by the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement to provide better bus priority measurers. SBC staff involved in working groups looking at ticketing, fares, marketing and network improvements to encourage people back to bus following covid pandemic. Tees Flex extended for a further 18 months. £2 Fixed Single Fare Cap in place and extended until Dec 2024.

OUR COUNCIL

We are committed to being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve, this means we will provide:

Financial sustainability and value for money

Dedicated and resourceful employees

Strong leadership and governance

Priority	Update
36. Review of Medium Term Financial Plan including delivery and funding.	The Budget and MTFP report was approved by Council in February. This shows a budget gap rising to £9m across the MTFP and how this will be addressed. The Powering Our Futures programme, in particular the transformation mission, will be the main route to resolving the budget gap. Ensuring successful delivery of this programme is key to delivering a balanced MTFP. The level of expenditure pressures seen in 23/24 are significant, particularly across Social Care. Funds have been identified to meet this overspend if it arises as predicted by the end of the year. The MTFP is under constant review considering inflationary pressures, demand pressures and future NNDR position. A review has been undertaken of all reserves and provisions, with a large sum of reserves paused, and greater controls introduced on expenditure.
37. Develop a Corporate Debt Strategy	On with options appraisal, expected completion during May 2024.
38. Respond to and implement Government's review of Business Rates and Revaluation	Implemented new rating list following revaluation.
39. Develop and deliver a transformation programme across all services to support the Medium Term Financial Plan	Report presented to Cabinet in April 2024 outlining the transformation programme incorporated with the Powering our Future programme. The programme is being developed with a range of reviews underway with particular focus on Childrens Services.
40. Deliver proposals for the redevelopment of Dunedin House to support flexible working arrangements and the re-location of staff from current buildings	Refurbishment works progressing on programme with the 3rd floor already handed back to SBC in February 2024. 1st floor and ground floor including the café and meeting spaces will be complete in July 2024. HR and Comms plan in place covering staff site visits, building inductions, ID badges and welcome packs. Regular updates provided to staff through the Intranet pages. Relocation of staff to start at the end of July 2024 through until September 2024.

Priority	Update
41. Review the Council's land and assets and develop plans for disposal or for any potential development	Review of administration buildings on-going linked to decant of staff/tenants. Other land and assets being reviewed monthly by Place Asset Group as new requirements/opportunities emerge.
42. Add new features and functions to the Council website and improve online services for customers	The new website went live in February 2022, along with 152 live self-serve transactions. Since then we have continued to add content and have developed a total of 245 online solutions. As at 31 March 2024 35,168 customers have signed up for My Council accounts. We completed the work to redesign the Stockton Information Directory and went live with the new site in February 2024.
43. Launch a new Council Volunteering Strategy to support our employees to volunteer in the community and to provide additional volunteering opportunities at the Council	Council Employee Volunteering Policy approved by Cabinet 13 th July 2023 – employees able to have 1 days paid leave in a rolling 12 month period to volunteer in the borough. Team volunteering also encouraged as a team building exercise.
44. Implement the new flexible working arrangements to capitalise and build on the technological advancements and new working practices developed during the pandemic	Flexible Working arrangements continue to be available to eligible employees – further guidance and policy will be provided with the planned moves to Dunedin House
45. Continue to develop the Bright Minds Big Futures initiative to ensure that the voice of young people is heard and valued in the development and delivery of Council policies and services	BMBF continue to work on a number of initiatives and are also supporting the Councils Powering Our Communities programme. For example BMBF are part of the Young Person and Family Friendly Borough work to encourage the retention of young people within the borough (to live & work), they are supporting the climate coalition . Looking ahead they will be supporting the Council's Employee Engagement Day, a range of summer community events and also be running a further recruitment campaign.

Priority	Update
46. Respond to and implement the Local Government and Parliamentary boundary reviews	<p>For the Local Government ward boundaries within the Borough. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England review is complete. The 2023 local elections held in the Borough were successfully delivered on the new ward boundaries.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission for England have concluded their review of Parliamentary Boundaries and published their final recommendations for the Tees Valley region and those specifically for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The Boundary Commission has recommended some changes which will affect the current Stockton North and Stockton South parliamentary constituencies. The Electoral Services team have completed their work to ensure the Electoral Register is ready to implement the new Constituency arrangements at the next Parliamentary General Election. The Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023, which implements the new boundaries was approved in November 2023. The new boundaries for Stockton North and Stockton West (previously Stockton South) will be used at the next general election.</p>
47. Continued implementation of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework to address poverty and inequality in the Borough	<p>Activities concluded in 2023/24 included embedding A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (FSOT) within all Council activities (examples include the introduction of the FSOT branding/the Councils adoption of a Social Value Policy which directly aligns and supports council strategies including a FSOT). Work is also been ongoing to establish a CSR Network (bringing together local business and VCSE partners) / drafting Equality and Impact Assessment Toolkit (to ensure all Council policies, strategies and decisions' are considered with a 'poverty and inequality lens') / & working with those with lived experience to co-produce an Anti-Poverty Plan.</p>
48. Continue the development and roll out of the Cost-of-Living Hub to support the Borough's residents	<p>A range of support activities have been implemented, they include for example; the 'Here to Help Hub' (one stop shop on the Councils website), the circulation of 10,000 Cost of Living Booklets to a range of community and partner organisations, Here to Help events held across the 7 community Partnerships, the continued development of the 'Community Spaces' (previously known as Warm Spaces) the current network is an offer of nearly 70 venues, with many committed to deliver a year round support offer, Winter Warm boxes and wider support and signposting through a range of communications including Stockton News.</p>

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2024

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC SUGGESTION – MUSLIM AND FAITH BURIAL PROVISION

SUMMARY

The report presents a topic proposal of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision for the 2024/25 scrutiny work programme for consideration and approval by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny Committee is asked to approve the proposal for addition to the Work Programme for 2024/25.

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

1. At the March 2024 meeting, Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed the work programme for 2024/25. The agreed programme focusses on supporting the Council's Powering Our Futures Programme, by undertaking transformation and regeneration reviews.
2. A topic suggestion has now been received requesting an in-depth review of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision, attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. The topic suggestion acknowledges that there was a previous review of burial provision in 2020/21. The scope of the previous review focussed on burial capacity rather than the type of burial offered. This new topic suggestion requests that further investigation take place into the provision of burial tombs/vaults in the Boroughs cemeteries.
4. The topic suggestion has been shared with the Service Manager for the relevant service, who has confirmed that there is a need to consider the burial provision offered to residents in the borough.
5. Under the Pick Scoring System, the topic receives a high score when compared with other topics submitted in previous years. It should be stressed that the score is a tool to aid prioritisation and is not binding in any way. The scoring assessment is a matter for Members to determine. The scores are set out below:

Public Interest 2
Impact 2
Council Efficiency and Performance 2
Keep in context 3
Council Plan Priority 2
Outcome 3
Total 14

6. If agreed by Executive Scrutiny Committee, it would be appropriate to add this to the work programme for Place Select Committee to complete. The Place Select Committee are currently undertaking a review of Affordable Housing. Due to operational demands relating to implementing changes to waste and recycling, this review would not be able to start until March/April 2025. If agreed, the topic would roll forward as the first topic for the next municipal year.

CONSULTATION

7. Prior to setting the current year's work programme, all Councillors were asked to advise of any urgent matter that they felt should be reviewed in 2024/25 alongside the proposed Powering our Futures / transformation work.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets. No legal implications are identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. There is a need to meet legislative requirements and for the Council to put in place internal mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of key services in addition to deploying resources in the most effective way. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of officer and Member time and resources.

Name of Contact Officer: Jonathan Nertney
Telephone No: 01642 526312
Email Address: jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk

Name of Contact Officer: Judy Trainer
Telephone No: 01642 528158
Email Address: judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers: None
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific
Property Implications: None

Select Committee Work Programme Suggested Review – Pro Forma

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

The issue of Muslim burial provision was previously touched upon in the wider Place Select Committee Report, Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision, May 2021. The final report shows that there is approximately 20 years of Burial Provision at Thornaby Cemetery. No provision is identified at any of the other cemeteries in the Borough. The aim of that review centred on the provision of space/land.

The Muslim community were under the impression that during the last scrutiny review the issue of burial chambers and/or vaults (choice) was going to be part of the review. This may have been discussed during the initial scoping exercise, but missed out when the aims of the review were tightened up.

- To understand the impact on the Council if SBC fail to provide the **appropriate choice** to residents.

Additionally, choice appears to be focused on which cemetery is available to be used.

<https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202105201630/Agenda/att40517.pdf>

The proposed scrutiny review is to understand, and hopefully provide, the need for the provision of a burial chamber/vault as an option to choose, away from the provision of a standard grave plot.

Cremation of the body is strictly forbidden in Islam.

The provision of a chamber/vault is provided as a choice in many local authorities throughout the United Kingdom. Locally, Middlesbrough Borough Council provide this choice.

The scrutiny review would specifically focus on the provision, as a choice, the option of a chamber/vault rather than a standard grave plot. Indeed, this option should be open to all and not necessarily restricted to Muslims.

It is recognised that that this provision/choice will come at a higher financial burden to the family who choose this option.

It is also recognised that cost savings can be achieved, and the surrounding ground become less disturbed, if a number/line of chambers/vaults are constructed ahead of any subsequent requests for this option, rather than construction on the day of a funeral.

There are many companies in the UK who provide this construction service, an example being,

<https://greengraves.com/products/concrete-headstone-socket/>

The desired outcome would be choice regarding the type of burial available to the Muslim and other faith communities that make up our Borough.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The issue of death is a sensitive subject that we all approach with humanity and dignity, and as a Council we have a proud record of ensuring all our communities are listened to. The Muslim community, rightly, or wrongly were under the impression that their concerns were being addressed regarding the choice of burial.

The provision/choice of the type of burial shows that as a local authority we are listening to our communities and endeavouring to provide a better and improving service.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The wellbeing and needs of our Muslim community, like any other minority community in the Borough are in the forward thinking that the local authority undertakes when reviewing to provide a better service. The previous review on Burial Provision missed an opportunity to encompass the provision of choice, type rather than land area on that occasion. Having been identified that this provision was missed, it should be incumbent on the Council to undertake a short, and very quick review of the specific provision of chamber/vault as a choice in burial provision.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

The identified savings, at this time, are the excavation and construction of a number of burial chambers/vaults ahead of request for burial at short notice, that the council already provides. This short notice does come at a cost to the council and is reflected in the cost to the family requesting this service.

Should the review identify that a choice, chamber/vault should be provided, then the savings in prior excavation and construction en-masse are evident. Providing a chamber/vault at short notice would invariably cost more and has the potential for greater ground disturbance in the surrounding plots by the use of machinery to lift a chamber/vault into place.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None currently

Place Select Committee carried out a Review of Burial Provision in 2020/21 but did not fully explore the provision and choice of burial chamber/vaults.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

This topic supports the Council Plan vision that people live in cohesive and safe communities:

We are proud that community cohesion is strong in the Borough and that people report a strong sense of belonging here and we want it to stay that way. The provision of choice will further this commitment we have made.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?	
The provision and choice of a burial chamber/vault.	
Signed:	Date:
Please return to: Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section Democratic Services Municipal Buildings Church Road Stockton on Tees TS18 1LD Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158	

PICK Priority Setting

P for Public Interest

Members' representative roles are an essential feature of Scrutiny. They are the eyes and ears of the public, ensuring that the policies, practice and services delivered to the people of the District, by both the Council and external organisations, are meeting local needs and to an acceptable standard. The concerns of local people should therefore influence the issues chosen for scrutiny. This could include current issues. For example, dignity is consistently cited as a high priority for service users (e.g. Mid Staffordshire Enquiry, care in Winterbourne hospital) and scrutiny committees are well placed to influence the agenda locally and drive forward better-quality services). Members themselves will have a good knowledge of local issues and concerns. Surgeries, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups are all sources of resident's views. Consultation and Surveys undertaken by the Council and others can also provide a wealth of information.

I for Impact

Scrutiny is about making a difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. Not all issues of concern will have equal impact on the well-being of the community and there may be issues which are important to residents but where the Council can exert little or no influence. This should be considered when deciding the programme of work, giving priority to the big issues that have most impact and where scrutiny can tangibly influence the outcome. To maximise impact, particularly when scrutinising external activity, attention should also be given to how the committee could influence policy and practice.

C for Council Performance

Scrutiny is about improving performance and ensuring the Council's customers are served well. With the abolition of external inspection regimes, scrutiny has an even more important role to play in self-regulation. Members will need good quality information to identify areas where the Council, and other external organisations, are performing poorly. Areas where performance has dropped should be our priority. As well as driving up Council performance, scrutiny also has an important role in scrutinising the efficiency and value for money of Council services and organizational development. In the current financial climate, the challenge for scrutiny is investigating whether improvements can be made within existing resources or with less resource and identify ways that demand for services can be reduced.

K for Keep in Context

To avoid duplication or wasted effort priorities should take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered. Is there another review happening or planned? Is the service about to be inspected by an external body? Are there major legislative or policy initiatives already resulting in change? If these circumstances exist Members may decide to link up with other approaches or defer a decision until the outcomes are known or conclude that the other approaches will address the issues. Reference should also be made to proposed programmes of work in the Council's plans and strategies and whether topic suggestion is in line with the Council's four policy principles.

Council Plan

All topic suggestions should be in line with the Council Plan.

Outcome

Greater weighing will be given to those suggestions where it is clear that scrutiny will make a tangible difference, can exert influence, achieve savings and reduce pressure on demand for services.

Scoring System

- **P**ublic Interest: the concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen

Score	Measure
0	no public interest
1	low public interest
2	medium public interest
3	high public interest

- **I**mpact: priority should be given to the issues which make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area

Score	Measure
0	no direct impact
1	low impact
2	medium impact
3	high impact

- **C**ouncil Performance and efficiency: priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well or proposals will identify efficiencies/ savings and reduce pressure on demand for services.

Score	Measure
0	'Green' on or above target performance
1	'Amber',
2	low performance 'Red'

- **K**eep in Context: work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Score	Measure
0	Already dealt with/ not a Council/ public sector priority
1	Longer term aspiration or plan
2	Need for review acknowledged and worked planned elsewhere
3	Need for review acknowledged

In addition, extra weighting will be given to suggestions which are in line with the Council's priorities and where it is clear that scrutiny can achieve a positive outcome:

- **C**ouncil Plan Priority

Score	Measure
0	Not a Council Plan priority
1	Council Plan priority but worked planned elsewhere
2	Council Plan priority and need for review acknowledged

- **O**utcome

Score	Measure
1	Low value added
2	Medium value added
3	High value added

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ACCESS TO GPs AND PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE****1.0 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's scrutiny review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care.
- 1.2 Accessing the help and advice of General Practitioners (GPs) and other professionals working in primary care general medical practices within the UK has long elicited a range of experiences and, indeed, opinions. Exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent knock-on effect to all health and care providers, the ability to make contact with and then use such services in the context of changed systems, working practices and workforce capacity has further sharpened views on this topic.
- 1.3 Conscious of the ongoing debate around these existing challenges, the Government released a new plan in May 2023 to make it easier for patients to see their GP and, in collaboration with the NHS, then announced a major new primary care access recovery plan which aimed to facilitate faster, more convenient care. Regionally, the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) publicised a three-year programme in June 2023 bringing together the NHS and Councils with voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to tackle long-standing inequalities and poor health. This investment included extra support for the 'Deep End' network of GP practices in the region's most deprived communities, and steps to attract and retain more GPs to work in deprived areas, with extra training and support to encourage trainee doctors to build their careers in these practices.
- 1.4 Locally, this scrutiny topic was proposed back in February 2022 (though was unable to be undertaken during the 2022-2023 municipal year due to competing work programme demands). At that point, several related concerns were highlighted around processes involved in accessing general practice, including call wait times, the need to complete online questionnaires, and the initial requirement to tell call-handlers of very personal issues before receiving an appointment. Whilst it is acknowledged that work will have taken place in relation to this topic since early-2022, recent national and regional announcements regarding primary care (general practice) access demonstrates the ongoing high-profile nature of what is a key frontline health service.
- 1.5 The main aims of this review were to firstly understand the existing local 'access to GPs' landscape in the context of national / regional developments around this ongoing issue. The Committee then sought to ascertain current systems for accessing general practice services, how these were communicated to the public, and how effective they were. Finally, and most importantly, determining any areas which may assist in improving the experience of the local population, and practices themselves, when individuals wish to contact and / or access general practice services was established.

- 1.6 The Committee heard that 'primary care' functions are the entrance to the healthcare system (acting as the 'front door' of the NHS), and include general practice, community pharmacy, dental, and optometry (eye health) services. General practices are the first point of contact with healthcare for many patients and act as gatekeepers to secondary care – they exist as individual businesses whose services are contracted by NHS commissioners to provide generalist medical services in a geographical or population area. Responsibility for commissioning primary care services, including general practice, sits formally with NHS England – however, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) have taken on full delegation of these commissioning requirements.
- 1.7 GP contracts are complex, with three different types used by NHS commissioners in England. There are, however, core requirements for all general practices, one of which is an expectation for public and patient involvement in shaping service delivery. Whilst the existing GP contract stated that 'practices must provide essential services at such times, within core hours (8.00am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except Good Friday, Christmas Day or bank holidays), as are appropriate to meet the reasonable needs of its patients', there was no precise definition as to what constituted 'essential' nor 'reasonable needs'. It was recognised that practices, as independent businesses, were able to (and indeed many did) meet their core contract requirements differently depending on registered population demographic needs and skill mix of staff (as well as enhance service provision depending on appetite to deliver additionally commissioned services), though this was not a standard offer across the Borough and could lead to the impression that some residents were getting better / worse services than others. From a practice perspective, frequent changes to contract expectations (often resulting in further pressures on financial and / or staffing resources) were not helpful.
- 1.8 The crucial issue of funding for general practice was explored, with providers able to supplement core 'Global Sum' payments (based on an estimate of a practice's patient workload and certain unavoidable costs, not on the actual recorded delivery of services) with several other potential income streams. Some of these can be accessed independently by a practice (e.g. Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)), whereas others involve collaboration as part of a wider Primary Care Network (PCN) (groups of practices working together which are led by a Clinical Director). There are four PCNs within Stockton-on-Tees which are expected to deliver nationally directed enhanced services (DES) in addition to what practices need to provide as part of core contracts – one of the requirements of the PCN DES since October 2022 is 'enhanced access' (evening and weekend) obligations.
- 1.9 21 general practices exist across Stockton-on-Tees providing a range of services, with an average list size of 9,808 (as at January 2023). The Committee heard that a list size of 7,000-8,000 was considered financially sustainable, though there were significant fluctuations across the Borough, with the largest list size being 21,555, and the smallest 2,303.

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee
Scrutiny Review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care

- 1.10 Despite the publication of the national Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP) in May 2023, it was important to recognise that the high-profile aim to tackle the '8.00am rush' did not translate verbatim into the existing GP contract, nor did it mean that an individual would get an appointment on the same day, despite some elements of the media interpreting this so (however, if there was a clinically urgent need, a person should be offered an appointment appropriate to that need, which could be on the same day). That said, several other national measures were in place to support providers, including the General Practice Improvement Programme (GPIP), the Additional Role Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) which provided funding to recruit to 18 roles (June 2023 data showed an additional 61 headcount (58.04 WTE) across the Borough through this scheme), and cloud-based telephony / digital tools funding. Local providers had been proactive in seeking involvement in these, and other, initiatives.
- 1.11 Whilst practices themselves, supported by various health bodies, were trying to facilitate better access to services, there were several issues influencing these efforts. An overriding factor was the ongoing legacy of the COVID pandemic which, as had been well documented nationally, led to greater demands on the health system, with associated problems arising in terms of a backlog of patients requiring often increasingly complex care and staffing challenges (sickness and recruitment / retention difficulties) – this had, in turn, affected many patients' attitudes towards, and experiences of, contacting their local general practice, with frustrations growing about access limitations (e.g. higher call waiting times), and increases in reported abuse of practice staff. From a practice perspective, other external events were also at play, with cost-of-living / inflationary pressures (increasing staff wages) contributing significantly to a tough period for the sector.
- 1.12 As the representative body for all general practices and GPs within Tees, Cleveland Local Medical Committee (LMC) emphasised its focus on 'workforce' considerations (i.e. capacity, workload, ensuring patient safety) as opposed to 'access', with improvements to the latter being inextricably linked to progress on the former. However, ensuring an appropriate staffing resource across the Tees Valley was not aided by trainees preferring to work in larger city areas, nor the case that around 18% of GPs were over the age of 55 (a significant loss of expertise was therefore looming which, without action, would exacerbate existing workforce concerns). Interestingly, Cleveland LMC stated that there were a number of GPs seeking work / additional work within Teesside who practices could not afford to employ due to financial restrictions.
- 1.13 With regards care navigation, Cleveland LMC highlighted that call handlers did not like having to ask questions of those contacting services, and that this was causing problems in relation to the retention of reception staff who were seeking less stressful roles outside the sector. Given reports that patients often feel uncomfortable in having to discuss their (potentially sensitive) health condition to someone over the phone (albeit that this can aid the individual being directed to the most relevant health professional), health authorities and practices themselves should consider what can be done to relieve this burden on all parties.

- 1.14 Hartlepool & Stockton Health (H&SH) GP Federation provide a vital service in supporting local practices through a variety of initiatives, particularly its digital staffing pool which providers could tap into if experiencing workforce pressures (the acquisition of a bus to assist in taking healthcare into the community was another innovative development which may help engagement with hard-to-reach individuals). In terms of ongoing challenges, H&SH expressed concerns around nursing numbers (an issue raised by PCNs and Cleveland LMC), an element of the workforce which serviced many of the populations day-to-day needs rather than GPs.
- 1.15 The Borough's four PCNs provided their collective views on the current situation around access to services, and the Committee was encouraged by the broad acknowledgement that patients must not be digitally excluded and that practices must continue to think of those who may not be technologically minded / able when designing contact / access pathways. Echoing concerns raised by the Cleveland LMC, PCNs noted delays to secondary care resulting in patients contacting primary care providers for support in the interim, a situation which amplifies how pressures in one part of the healthcare system can impact on other elements. Of course, this can also work the other way round, with those struggling to access general practices sometimes attending secondary services (e.g. A&E) when not necessarily appropriate.
- 1.16 Given concerns evident in the national media, it was perhaps not surprising to hear of local frustrations around a lack of face-to-face appointments from the public / patients, as well as issues in using technology (particularly for older residents) which had been brought in to enhance access to services. Worryingly, 2023 GP patient survey feedback showed significant difficulties for individuals trying to get through on the phone to a good proportion of local practices, an experience which data showed had become a deteriorating trend for many over recent years. On a more positive note, public / patient feedback also demonstrated a number of welcome developments that were acknowledged by those contacting / accessing services. As is often the case, experiences can be very individual, and what health bodies introduce / change can suit some whilst at the same time cause difficulties for others. Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) reporting that they felt listened to by their practices is therefore an encouraging and necessary finding, particularly when shaping current and future service delivery.
- 1.17 National leaders continue to wrestle with this highly charged scrutiny topic, and finding solutions to fundamental issues (headlined by the need for consensus around GP contract content / funding) at a local level is extremely difficult. However, this review has shone yet another light on a sector which remains under significant strain, principally due to the twin pressures of sustained high-level demand and ongoing workforce challenges (which could get worse). Despite this, stakeholders were being proactive in trying to ensure that local people could access general practice services in a timely fashion via multiple routes (both digitally and in-person), and the challenge remains to help the public understand who to contact and which services they should be trying to access depending on their presenting condition. Whether enough health staff are in place to meet that need is, however, a much more significant concern moving forward.

Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

General

- 1) All relevant health bodies (NENC ICB, Cleveland LMC, H&SH, NHS Trusts, and general practices) engage regularly and constructively around the issues raised as part of this review to ensure that patients are approaching / receiving care from the most appropriate services based on need.**

Communications

- 2) All relevant health bodies continue efforts to increase public / patient understanding about accessing the most appropriate services (including in the context of the *Pharmacy First* initiative), using all available communication mechanisms (both print and digital) and links through local community networks (e.g. community partnerships), to ensure key messages are reinforced.**
- 3) Councillors and local MPs be supported in helping with these communication messages as leaders in their communities (as well as their role in raising concerns expressed by the community), and encourage positive feedback as well as concerns (to help share and spread learning and best practice).**
- 4) The value and importance of all general practice roles are highlighted and publicised by health bodies and practices themselves.**
- 5) Local practices be recognised for continuing to deliver primary medical care services safely in Stockton-on-Tees despite the ongoing challenges raised during this review.**

Operational

- 6) All general practices move towards providing the full use of digital telephony capabilities (including call-back functionality), with appropriate staff in place to support these arrangements.**
- 7) All general practices be encouraged to review and refresh care navigation processes, ensuring adequate training is in place to support implementation to ensure both staff and patients are comfortable with the approach.**

(continued overleaf...)

Recommendations (continued)

The Committee recommend that:

- 8) To ensure appropriate workforce capacity is in place to maximise the local general practice offer:**
 - a) NENC ICB continue to support / encourage uptake of the ARRS scheme, particularly amongst those PCNs which had not accessed this initiative.**
 - b) All relevant health bodies continue to explore further and develop options to increase GP recruitment and retention in the Borough.**
 - c) Options to increase nursing numbers (including strengthening training offers and uptake) be explored further.**
- 9) The Borough's four PCNs be encouraged and supported to work together collaboratively to share and adopt good practice.**

Public / patient feedback

- 10) Relevant health stakeholders be proactive in encouraging involvement of patients in practice Patient Participation Groups (PPGs), aim to ensure these are representative of a practice's patient list demographic, and consider fostering links between the Borough's PPGs to assist in identifying / addressing any access issues.**
- 11) NENC ICB consider its complaint / compliment reporting mechanisms so future data can be provided at a local general practice level.**

Place Select Committee

Scrutiny Review of (Unauthorised) Roadside Advertising

PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF (UNAUTHORISED) ROADSIDE ADVERTISING**

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Concern had previously been raised regarding the amount of unauthorised advertising material being placed on, or adjacent to the highway. This varies from fly posting on the back of road signs, to trailers specifically designed to be left on, or adjacent to the roadside, including on walls and fencing. The control of advertising on or adjacent to the highway covers many different services including highways, planning and enforcement. The review sought to ensure that a coordinated approach to the control of roadside advertising was adopted, with clear responsibilities, allowing, where appropriate and safe to do so, legitimate roadside advertising while controlling, efficiently and effectively, inappropriate roadside advertising.

1.2 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 defines advertising as:

“any word, letter, model, sign, placard, board, notice, awning, blind, device or representation, whether illuminated or not, in the nature of, and employed wholly or partly for the purposes of, advertisement, announcement or direction, and (without prejudice to the previous provisions of this definition) includes any hoarding or similar structure used or designed, or adapted for use and anything else principally used, or designed or adapted principally for use, for the display of advertisements.”

1.3 The Act divides advertising into three main categories:

- Those permitted without requiring consent from the authority;
- Those with deemed consent;
- Those which require the express consent of the local authority.

1.4 During the review the Committee found that the powers to enforce the legislation on unauthorised roadside advertisements were held between community safety (enforcement and trading standards) and planning services. The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act has given more powers for enforcement of the issue, including the ability to issue Community Protection Notices (CPN). Permission is needed to remove unauthorised advertising on private land.

1.5 There is now a coordinated approach between Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council teams when dealing with complaints regarding roadside advertising. All complaints are initially assessed and recorded by community safety and where possible they are

resolved either through education and advice, warnings or enforcement action, including Fixed Penalty Notices for flyposting. Complaints relating to planning consideration are passed to planning service if all methods of resolving without enforcement action are exhausted. Planning services follow the government guidance: *Outdoor advertisements and signs: a guide for advertiser (2007)*. Signage on roundabouts is assessed by road safety.

- 1.6 The Committee was assured that most advertisements placed on the roadside in the Borough follow the guidelines. There had only been 161 requests for service from the public since January 2022. This represented only 0.7% of all requests for community safety services during the same period. The main area for complaints were flyposting, linked to commercial areas such as Portrack Lane, Stockton Town Centre, and Bon Lea Industrial estate, and these sites were monitored. No complaints relating to banners had been received since 2022, with the introduction of a clear planning position, and there had not been any accidents reported where roadside advertising was stated as the cause.
- 1.7 The Committee was therefore satisfied that unauthorised roadside advertising is no longer regarded as a major concern for the Borough and mechanisms were in place to deal with any issues regarding unauthorised roadside advertising efficiently and effectively. The recommendations seek to ensure the public are fully informed of the rules regarding roadside advertising and reporting systems are strengthened. The Committee felt that online reporting could be enhanced through the introduction of mapping layers, similar to the approach currently being used for reporting of flyposting and that the online reporting system should be reviewed to ensure that all relevant information is obtained to enable issues to be directed to the appropriate service for action.

Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

1. Further information and guidance regarding the planning regulations for roadside advertising be placed on the planning area of the website.
2. The online reporting system is reviewed to make it easier for members of the public to report an issue.

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair’s Update – July 2024

Scrutiny Review – Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>Following the ‘summary of evidence’ session in April 2024, the draft final report was prepared and presented to the Committee at its meeting in May 2024 – this was subsequently agreed subject to a minor amendment to one of the recommendations.</p> <p>The Committee’s final report was presented to Cabinet in June 2024 which endorsed all the recommendations within (note: it was also suggested and agreed that the report should be shared with the Tees Valley Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)).</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	An Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations is being collated and is scheduled to be presented to the Committee for approval at its meeting in July 2024.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Reablement Service	
Achieved since last meeting	An initial officer meeting was held in late-June 2024 to consider this topic which would be the focus of the Committee’s next in-depth review.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	An initial tri-partite meeting has been arranged during July 2024, and a draft scope and project plan would be presented to the Committee for approval later that month.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV): Further to the Committee’s request for the now former TEWV Lead Governor to attend a future meeting (to question what the Governors’ view of the latest CQC report on TEWV was and what they were doing to address the concerns outlined by the regulator), and following Cabinet changes made at the recent Annual Meeting, the TEWV Chair and TEWV Managing Director instead addressed the Committee at its meeting in May 2024. Members expressed deep concern at the Trust’s latest inspection outcomes. The new TEWV Governor (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care) was also in attendance and briefly spoke to provide assurance about her intentions moving forward.</p> <p>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT): Quality Account 2023-2024: Following the annual NTHFT presentation to the Committee in March 2024 to outline performance against the Trust’s quality priorities for 2023-2024</p>

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

	<p>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 was collated, agreed and submitted to the Trust for inclusion in its final published version.</p> <p>Care and Health Innovation Zone: Further to a request by the Committee, a briefing on this initiative was provided at the meeting in June 2024. Members expressed enthusiasm at the overarching concept which was a pertinent development given the ongoing growth that the Borough was experiencing. The Committee did, however, voice concern at the lack of Member engagement around the initiative (despite the frequent mentions of community / stakeholder involvement), resulting in missed opportunities by the Council and its partners for the voice of residents to be relayed. SBC officers acknowledged the importance of communication with Councillors and gave assurance that, moving forward, Members would be fully engaged (including being linked-in with workstream leads) and that views were welcome at any point in time. Future updates would be provided to the Committee as plans progress.</p>
<p>Requests for more information</p>	<p>Care and Health Innovation Zone: Members requested further detail regarding the timescale for cleaning up the Marshalling Yards.</p>

NHS Updates / Consultations	
<p>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</p>	<p>Community Water Fluoridation Expansion in the North East of England: The public consultation for the submission of views regarding these proposals was recently extended to 31 July 2024. Feedback can be provided via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-water-fluoridation-expansion-in-the-north-east-of-england</p> <p>Group Name Announcement: Further progress has been made in the collaborative work at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and NTHFT. Following contributions from staff, patients, and partner organisations, the two trusts have announced a new name for the group – University Hospitals Tees. Further information can be accessed via https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/news/we-are-university-hospitals-tees/.</p>
<p>Requests for more information</p>	<p>None</p>

Regional Health Committees	
<p>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</p>	<p>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: Further to the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) Quality Account presentations that were considered at the meeting in March 2024, and following receipt of their draft Quality</p>

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

	<p>Account documents, third-party statements on behalf of the Committee were produced, shared for comment, and submitted to both Trusts to include in their final published versions.</p> <p>The chair and support function for the Committee has moved to Hartlepool Borough Council for the 2024-2025 municipal year. The first meeting date is yet to be finalised.</p> <p>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p>North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p>Day Opportunities for Adults: The third update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Day Opportunities for Adults was considered in May 2024. Examples of efforts to make public / private transport options accessible and responsive to the needs of people who use day opportunities were relayed, as were developments in relation to identifying and supporting opportunities that were most meaningful to younger people as they transitioned into adult services. A snapshot of the current dashboard involving day opportunities data was provided – SBC had looked at the information on cost / activity and feedback from people accessing support, with a re-mapping of the available in-house and commissioned services, the nature of each offer, the level of uptake of offer, and the connection with and use of community assets being considered. Since all remaining actions were now deemed 'fully achieved', the overarching Action Plan approved by the Committee following the original review was signed-off as complete (no further updates required).</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care at Home (TBC) • Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (TBC)
Requests for more information	<p>Day Opportunities for Adults: With reference to the hybrid dementia friend sessions for bus drivers and the SBC Community Transport team, the Committee asked for details of SBC community bus driver uptake – this was subsequently provided and shared with Members.</p>

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

Next Scrutiny Review

- Reablement Service

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

Tuesday 23 July 2024

Tuesday 17 September 2024

Tuesday 22 October 2024

Tuesday 19 November 2024

Tuesday 17 December 2024

Tuesday 21 January 2025

Tuesday 18 February 2025

Tuesday 18 March 2025

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update July 2024

Scrutiny Review – Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment	
Achieved since last meeting	<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"> • 8 March 2024 – Attendance • 22 March 2024 - Communication (vocabulary, oracy and literacy) <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 was rolled out across children's services to reach a range of stakeholders based on the same key questions for the pupil voice interviews. This closed on 19 April.</p> <p>An informal session was held on 15 May to facilitate discussion with health colleagues around the key lines of enquiry.</p> <p>The Parent/ Carer Forum conducted a further consultation with their 1800 members around the key engagement questions and attended the Committee's meeting on 12 June to present their feedback. This meeting also reviewed the summary of evidence and identified high level findings and emerging areas for recommendations.</p> <p>This will be followed by a further stakeholder session with one key representative from each sector/ group to refine draft recommendations / actions from the review.</p> <p>We have used scheduled committee meetings to provide presentations to support Members' understanding of this area of work.</p> <p>We are looking to conclude work by September 2024.</p> <p>Alongside engagement, the Committee have been receiving presentations and updates to provide background to their review. These have included:</p>

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update July 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December – New Team around the School Partnership Offer January – Draft Attendance Strategy February – Early Help Appreciative Inquiry March – Feedback from Pupil and Parent Carer Voice Interviews; Outcomes for Vulnerable Groups report April – Attendance by the newly appointed regional DfE Advisor on attendance
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	Follow up stakeholder workshop on Friday 6 September with one key representative from each sector/ group to refine draft recommendations / actions from the review.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	No reports since last update.
Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>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.</p> <p>Further progress updates are scheduled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Leavers EET – July 2024 Contextual Safeguarding – July 2024
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Next Scrutiny Review

HAF Programme

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update July 2024

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)
17 July 2024 25 September 2024 16 October 2024 13 November 2024 11 December 2024 15 January 2025 12 February 2025 12 March 2025

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Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2024

Scrutiny Review – Outdoor Play Provision	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee's agreed final report was presented to Cabinet in May 2024 where all recommendations were subsequently endorsed.</p> <p>A draft Action Plan in relation to the approved recommendations was presented to, and agreed by, the Committee in June 2024. An update on progress of the confirmed actions would be required in mid-2025.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	n/a
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>Following initial officer and tri-partite meetings to discuss this scrutiny topic, a draft scope and project plan was presented to the Committee in June 2024 – the key aims of which would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the key issues within each of the Borough's six town centres with regards safety. • Understand the measures already in place to address these issues and ascertain any gaps in future plans. • Identify any potential learning from other parts of the UK. <p>Numerous contributors were proposed including a number of SBC departments, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Authority / Brigade, Town Councils, business forums / groups, Catalyst / VCSE Sector, and residents / communities. The Committee also intended to learn from other Local Authority areas. Site visits would also be considered as part of the evidence-gathering phase, with a view to presenting the Committee's findings and recommendations to Cabinet in February 2025. The Committee subsequently approved the scope and plan.</p> <p>The evidence-gathering phase began at the meeting in July 2024 with a presentation focusing on the work of the teams within SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services (Licensing, Trading Standards and Environmental Health). Discussion subsequently ensued on a variety of issues including the difference between reported crime / ASB data and perceptions of safety, the provision of bleed packs, the impact of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Stockton / Norton, air quality, and the need to promote success stories in making the Borough's six town centres move welcoming and safe.</p>

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2024

Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The second evidence-gathering session in September 2024 is due to feature contributions from other SBC departments, including Town Centres Development, Inclusive Growth and Development, and Public Health.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p>Tree Asset Management: The second update on progress of agreed actions in relation to outstanding recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Tree Asset Management was considered in June 2024. Included within the update was a draft SBC Tree Management Policy (a document which the Committee recommended was refreshed) and an updated Tree Preservation Order (TPO) easy read guide. Given there were still some actions to be fully achieved, a further update would be scheduled for a future Committee meeting (to be confirmed).</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC) • Tree Asset Management (TBC) • Outdoor Play Provision (TBC)
Requests for more information	Tree Asset Management: Further information was sought by the Committee in relation to private owners refusing to comply with a request from the Council to deal with overgrown trees / vegetation impacting upon public space – this was subsequently provided by SBC officers after the June 2024 meeting.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2024

Next Scrutiny Review

- Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

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

Thursday 26 September 2024
Thursday 24 October 2024
Thursday 28 November 2024
Thursday 19 December 2024

Thursday 23 January 2025
Thursday 27 February 2025
Thursday 27 March 2025

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People Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2024

Scrutiny Review – Disabled Facilities Grant	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee agreed the scope and project plan for the review at the meeting in May. A background presentation from the link officer was also received.</p> <p>In June, members considered the SBC Disabled Facilities Grant policy and Financial Assistance policy, along with a breakdown of the how the government's 2018 recommendations could be implemented which included the effect on both the customer and the service. Discussions focused on the application process, grant conditions including how items are recovered and ensuring quality of adaptation and working with registered providers.</p> <p>Foundations, the national body for DFG, attended the July meeting to share best practice in other Local Authorities and a review of SBC's policy. Members also considered the 2023/24 DFG Annual Report.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	Council Officers will present the Occupational Therapist and HVE processes in relation to DFG in September
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The Action Plan for agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of the Cost of Living Response, which included a separate action plan for school uniforms, was agreed by Committee in May.</p> <p>Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Living Response - November • Disability Inclusive Borough - October
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None

People Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2024

Next Scrutiny Review
TBD

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

Scrutiny Review – (Unauthorised) Roadside Advertising	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The draft final report was presented to, and agreed by, the Committee in May 2024.</p> <p>The Committee's final report was presented to Cabinet on 17 June 2024. Both recommendations were endorsed.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The Committee will be informed when recommendations have been implemented.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Affordable Housing	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The draft scope and project plan was approved by the Committee in May 2024. Several contributors were identified, including housing providers, private developers, private letting agent, the LGA and other local authorities. A background presentation was provided by the link officers outlining local housing statistics, the strategic response, and current challenges.</p> <p>In June 2024, the Committee received a presentation regarding the Local Plan from officers. This included considerations in relation to affordable housing during the process of developing and adopting the Local Plan, national policy, supplementary planning documents, and calculating off-site contributions.</p> <p>In July 2024, three Registered Housing Providers were invited to give evidence regarding their investment plans for the borough. This included the impact of substantial repairs of current stock, the length tenants are staying in properties, and types of properties that are financially viable for RP's.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	<p>Site visits are planned to shadow the lettings and nomination team taking calls to gain a customer insight.</p> <p>A Private Letting Landlord and a private developer have all been invited to attend the next meeting in September to share their experience. Northern Housing Consortium have also been invited to the September meeting to give evidence on regional best practice.</p>
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2024

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial Provision (TBC) • Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space (September 2024) • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (October 2024)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None

Crustacean Deaths Collaborative Working Group	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	In May 2024 the Working Group circulated a holding statement on the information considered so far. At the meeting held on 14 June 2024 the group expressed disappointment with the response received from Environment Agency, declining to attend a meeting of the group, as well as with the other agencies contacted not responding. Members of the Working Group were asking the leaders of their respective Councils to assist by issuing a joint letter led by Recar & Cleveland Council to the relevant agencies.
Requests for more information	Following a further incident in May 2024, the working group are looking to create a database of reports of crustacean deaths.

Next Scrutiny Review	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)	
	Monday 9 September 2024 Monday 14 October 2024 Monday 11 November 2024 Monday 9 December 2024 Monday 13 January 2025 Monday 10 March 2025

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
7 May 2024	Final Report of Crime and Disorder Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision (Executive Summary for information)	Gary Woods
23 July 2024	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
	Topic Suggestion – Muslim and Faith Burial Provision	Jonathan Nertney
	MTFP Outturn	Garry Cummings/ Clare Harper
	Council Plan Update	Ian Coxon
17 September 2024	MTFP Quarter 1	Garry Cummings/ Clare Harper
19 November 2024	Council Plan Update TBC	Geraldine Brown
	Final Report of Children and Young People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment (Executive Summary for information)	Judy Trainer
17 December 2024	MTFP Quarter 2	Garry Cummings/ Clare Harper
18 March 2025	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)

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