

Date: Tuesday 17 September 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 23 July 2024 | (Pages 9 - 14) |
| 5 | Medium Term Financial Plan Quarter 1 Update Report | (Pages 15 - 24) |
| 6 | Chair's Updates | (Pages 25 - 38) |
| 7 | Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25 | (Pages 39 - 40) |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Microphones

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

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EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 23 July 2024.

Present: Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice-Chair and Chair for the meeting), Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Marilyn Surtees.

Officers: Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Michelle Gunn (CS), Garry Cummings, Clare Harper (DCE&F) .

Also in attendance: Cllr Eileen Johnson

Apologies: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair) and Cllr Laura Tunney.

ESC/8/24 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation procedure.

ESC/9/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ESC/10/24 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ESC/11/24 Medium Term Financial Plan - Outturn March 2024

The Committee received a report on the draft financial performance and position as at 31 March 2024.

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

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

There were ongoing financial pressures and the Powering our Futures Programme was integral to identifying opportunities for resolving the gap. Further reports would be presented throughout the year providing updates.

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

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- Debt write-off 2024/25 – this related to longer term debt over 8 – 10 years old and would affect the 2025/ 26 budget due to accounting rules
- Capital programme - Details were sought on what was included under the building management maintenance programme
- Relocation and demolition of Castlegate site – it was confirmed that under accountings standards a proportion of these costs had been met from revenue.
- Works carried out at Whitton land fill site – £170,433 had been funded from revenue contributions. It was permissible to use revenue contributions for the capital programme, typically for smaller schemes. Further details would be provided

AGREED that the report be noted and responses provided in relation to the queries set out above.

ESC/12/24 Council Plan Update

The Committee received an update on the priorities included in the Council Plan 2023/26. This was the last time that an update would be provided in this format due to the refresh of the Council Plan.

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- It was important that residents without online capability still received an efficient service via telephone enquiries. Members reported issues that had been experienced, for example, by elderly residents being cut off and asked that this should be examined as part of the relevant transformation review. Councillors also expressed frustration with officers not leaving telephone messages as the system did not reveal the identity of the caller
- An update was requested on the operation of the Public Spaces Protection Order in Stockton and Norton Village
- Portrack Relief Road – the update included a reference to a footbridge nearing completion as part of the A689/A19 interchange improvements, however, it was believed that the footbridge was no longer going ahead. Officers would check and report back to the Committee
- Elton Interchange – Members reported accidents that had occurred owing to confusion about the right turn onto the A66 and requested that the road safety audit be referred to the appropriate body and ward Members for consideration
- Plans for the maintenance of the new riverside development had not been included in the update. The Committee were advised that work was on going regarding safety and cleansing and further details would be provided as part of future updates

AGREED that the report be noted and responses provided in relation to the queries set out above.

ESC/13/24 In Depth Scrutiny Review Topic Suggestion - Muslim and Faith Burial Provision

At the March 2024 meeting, Executive Scrutiny Committee had agreed the work programme for 2024/25 which focused supporting the Council's Powering Our Futures Programme.

A topic suggestion had now been received requesting an in-depth review of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision.

The topic suggestion referenced 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 requested that further investigation takes place into the provision of burial tombs/vaults in the Borough's cemeteries.

Under the Pick Scoring System, the topic received a high score when compared with other topics submitted in previous years. There was also an acknowledged need to consider the burial provision offered to residents in the Borough.

If agreed by Executive Scrutiny Committee, it would be appropriate to add this to the work programme for Place Select Committee to complete. 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 therefore roll forward as the first topic for the next municipal year.

AGREED

- (1) that the topic of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision be agreed as the first topic for the Place Select Committee for 2025/26, following the conclusion of the Select Committee's current review of Affordable Housing.
- (2) That, in the meantime, officers be asked to explore whether there can be any flexibility to book in burials after 3pm each day.

ESC/14/24 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)

The Committee considered the Executive Summary from the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care.

The main aims of this review had been 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 might assist in improving the experience of the local population, and practices themselves, when individuals wished to contact and / or access general practice services.

The review had shone another light on a sector which remained under significant strain, principally due to the twin pressures of sustained high-level demand and ongoing workforce challenges and made recommendations relating to communication, operation matters and public / patient feedback.

AGREED that the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/15/24 Final Report of the Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of (Unauthorised) Roadside Advertising (Executive Summary for Information)

The Committee considered the Executive Summary from the Place Select Committee's review of Unauthorised Roadside Advertising.

The Committee was satisfied that unauthorised roadside advertising was no longer 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 sought to ensure the public were fully informed of the rules regarding roadside advertising and strengthen reporting systems. 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 was obtained to enable issues to be promptly directed to the appropriate service for action.

AGREED that the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/16/24 Chairs' Updates

Members were provided with updates from the Chairs of each Select Committee. Discussion included:

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

The Chair advised that the scope and project plan for the Select Committee's next review of the Reablement Services would now be considered in September to allow more work to take place on clarifying the scope of the work.

Members thanked the new Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (and new TEVV Governor) for attending the May meeting which was exploring concerns outlined by the regulator regarding the operation of the Trust.

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.

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 Chair's updates be noted.

ESC/17/24 Chair's Update and Executive Committee Work Programme 2024/25

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

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

SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

The report also presents an update on the Capital Programme.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

DETAIL

FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

GENERAL FUND

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

Directorate	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Q1 Over/(Under)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	96,036	97,655	1,619
Children's Services	57,081	58,739	1,658
Community Services, Environment & Culture	51,694	53,185	1,491
Finance, Transformation & Performance	14,628	14,755	127
Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	(291)	80	371
Corporate Services	12,132	12,212	80
Corporate Items	12,632	12,032	(600)
Total	243,912	248,658	4,746
Pay Offer		(800)	(800)
Revised Total	243,912	247,858	3,946

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

Reasons for Variances over £100,000

Adults, Health and Wellbeing

3. The demand for residential placements has increased significantly, with the numbers of clients exceeding the budgeted numbers for both older persons and mental health residential and nursing placements. There is also an increase in the amount of care clients receive, which comes at a greater cost. If numbers remain static this will result in an overspend by the end of the year of £829,000.
4. We are also experiencing similar budget pressures for residents receiving care at home. The numbers of clients as well as the amount of care per client is increasing. The income received from clients towards the cost of their care is also anticipated to be less, although this is being reviewed. This has a predicted overspend for the year of £665,000.

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

Children's Services

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

children as well as cost but at this point in time it is difficult to predict financial savings. There were also assumptions on savings from initiatives incorporated into the budget. These activities are being reviewed and incorporated into the transformation programme, which together with a robust programme management approach should ensure plans are implemented.

Community Services, Environment and Culture

14. The income received from car parking is significantly below the cost of providing and maintaining car parks within town centres. This is resulting in a £400,000 predicted budget pressure this year.
15. Members will be aware of the high inflation increases in recent years, particularly in relation to food costs. This has meant that the cost of providing our catering services has increased significantly. This is particularly true in schools where maintaining high quality and healthy meals to school pupils is a particular challenge. Income for delivering these services has not kept pace with the cost of delivery, creating a budget pressure of £350,000.
16. Similar cost drivers are also creating budget pressures for the purchase and maintenance of our vehicle fleet. In order to maintain the level of service across a number of areas, the cost has increased creating a predicted overspend of £366,000.
17. The Home to School transport service has a predicted overspend of £129,000 due to higher bus and taxi prices as well as greater numbers of children being transported.
18. It is worth noting that all of the above areas are being considered as part of the transformation programme.
19. The grounds maintenance service is also predicting an overspend of £170,000 due to the higher prices for goods and services. Without a fundamental change to the operation of the service, these costs can not be avoided.
20. Members will be aware that in previous years we have earmarked resources to support TAL to manage inflationary pressures in respect of energy costs and £500k is currently included in the plan. In previous update MTFP updates, we have reported that due to the overall financial performance of TAL, this resource has not historically been required. Due to energy prices continuing to fall and usage being carefully managed it is currently anticipated that £300k of this will not be required in 2024-25.
21. Highways Maintenance is anticipating a £297,000 overspend. This is predominantly down to the increased costs of materials and increased repair work.
22. The cost of operating the museums service continues to increase due to the same price increases as outlined above. Income generated through ticket admissions does not cover the cost of operating the service. £127,000 overspend.

Finance, Transformation and Performance

23. The Council's system for billing and collecting council tax and business rates is due to incur a one-off cost of £250,000 this year due to a renewed licence costs. This is significantly lower than the first quotation and was reduced following robust negotiation and challenge. There will be an ongoing increase to annual subscription of £75,000 per annum.
24. This is partly offset by employee savings of (£123,000)

Regeneration and Inclusive Growth

25. Planning income can be difficult to predict, with the timing of planning applications often unknown. There is currently a predicted shortfall against the income target of £150,000.
26. Wellington Square is anticipated to have a shortfall on shopping centre income from car parking and vacant units of £221,000. The Council continue to work with prospective tenants on future lettings to mitigate against this.

Corporate Services Directorate

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

Corporate Areas

28. Members will be aware of the partnership arrangement with Keepmoat Homes to deliver the redevelopment of the former Victoria Estate (The Sycamores). The project is now nearing completion with an estimated profit share to the Council of (£480,000). This is an excellent outcome as the Council in partnership has delivered a total of 143 new homes of which 60 are affordable (42 for rent and 18 for homeownership) and generated a profit. If a traditional approach to disposing of the site had been adopted, a capital receipt would have been unlikely and the Council would have had no influence over the units developed. This aligns with the principles of the Regeneration Powering our Future Mission.
29. The Council has received a one-off payment from TVCA relating to a historic ICT network arrangement of (£120,000).

Pay Offer 2024/25

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

Powering Our Futures

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

General Fund Balances & Reserves

32. The Council aims to retain General Fund Balances at a prudent level, currently at £8,000,000. There are no additional balances available to fund the overspend.
33. In addition to the £8m General Fund balances the Council holds a number of earmarked reserves. This is funding earmarked for specific reasons such as insurance fund, fleet renewal fund, Public Health and Adults Integration reserves but could be re-directed to fund core expenditure. If savings do not materialise to fund the overspend, in order to replenish the general fund reserves, we would need to look at redirecting funds from these reserves.
34. The use of reserves to fund overspends is not sustainable and it is a key area that we must work to avoid as part of the transformation programme.

CAPITAL

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

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

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

Reasons for movements over £100,000

New schemes

Transportation

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

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

Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure

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

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

Other

41. The initial costs for Billingham Sports Hub have been added to the programme, £718,369 which are funded from developer agreement money and Football Foundation Grant. The balance of the scheme will be added to the programme when all funding agreements are signed.

Additional funding

Schools Investment Programme

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

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

Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure

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

Housing

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

Town Centres Investment

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

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

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

48. No direct implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

50. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

52. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Name of Contact Officer: Garry Cummings

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

Telephone No. 01642 527011

Email Address: garry.cummings@stockton.gov.uk

Capital Programme June 2024 – Appendix A

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

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

Scrutiny Review – Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care	
Achieved since last meeting	A draft Action Plan in relation to the recommendations within the Committee’s final report was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee at its meeting in July 2024. An update on progress of the confirmed actions will be required in mid-2025.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	n/a
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Reablement Service	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>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 work.</p> <p>The initial tri-partite meeting, originally scheduled for July 2024, was pushed back to September 2024 to allow for more time to understand the aims of this review in light of recent developments in relation to this service instigated via the Council’s <i>Powering Our Future</i> initiative.</p>
Problems or concerns	Given decisions have already been made about the future direction of this service, establishing what the Committee aims to get out of the review will be key.
Planned this / next month	Following the initial tri-partite meeting in early-September 2024, 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>PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) – 2023-2024: The Committee was presented with the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) for 2023-2024 at its meeting in July 2024. Members reiterated their praise for the work of the SBC Quality Assurance and Compliance (QuAC) Team, particularly in the context of decreasing Care Quality Commission (CQC) output. Officers drew attention to the need for the Council to conduct a bed sufficiency assessment next year on all older people’s residential care contracted providers – this meant that PAMMS assessments must be completed on all these providers which would bring challenges for the SBC QuAC Team given existing resource levels.</p> <p>Care Quality Commission (CQC) Engagement: As part of ongoing efforts to re-establish CQC engagement with the</p>

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

	<p>Committee, an informal meeting has been arranged with the local representative during September 2024.</p> <p>Frontline Visits: In August 2024, as part of the remit around quality assurance, Committee Members were again invited to propose any local health and social care services for the Committee to visit during the 2024-2025 municipal year.</p>
Requests for more information	None

NHS Updates / Consultations	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Regional Health Committees	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: The chair and support function for the Committee sits with Hartlepool Borough Council for the 2024-2025 municipal year. The first meeting date is scheduled to take place on 19 September 2024 (agenda to be confirmed).</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>No updates had been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.</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	None

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

Next Scrutiny Review

- Reablement Service

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

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

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Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 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>Work will conclude 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 September 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	<p>Follow up stakeholder workshop on Friday 6 September with one key representative from each sector/ group to refine draft recommendations / actions from the review.</p> <p>Select Committee approval of the final report.</p>
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>At their July meeting, the Select Committee received progress updates in relation to agreed actions from previously completed reviews of Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships and Care Leavers EET.</p> <p>With regard to Contextual Safeguarding, work was progressing in respect of the actions, most of which were on track. Key issues highlighted were as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work had been undertaken with Cleveland Police and other partners through the YOT board and the SSP to develop a strategic partnership approach to Risk Outside the Home and particularly youth violence • The Risk Outside the Home Policy and Guidance was currently under review. Since the scrutiny

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

	<p>review the terminology had reverted back to “exploitation” as this was more consistently used amongst partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvements in case management and planning and support packages had improved significantly since the implementation of this scrutiny action plan• More work was still needed to develop an understanding of contextual safeguarding and signs and indicators of CE/CSE across the workforce and with elected Members• Visits were to be arranged to other local authorities where they had Guardians in place to see if this could be replicated or developed in Stockton• A dedicated team and a Head of Service had been established through the recent review within Children’s Services. This area included, YOT, MACE, a dedicated social work team and adolescence team <p>A further progress update would be submitted to the Committee in due course.</p> <p>The Select Committee signed off all actions in relation to the review of Care Leavers EET.</p> <p>A corporate group had been established at senior level and with local businesses focussing on EET and a report was to be presented to Cabinet in July with a recommendation to endorse additional employability support for care experienced young people aged 16 – 25 including prioritising access to apprenticeships and job vacancies and guaranteed interviews for those meeting essential criteria. The success of this would form the basis for how the Council approached external partners and local employers to progress beyond the Council.</p> <p>A care experienced young person also attended the meeting to share his experiences of being part of the No Limits programme and progressing through to a successful apprenticeship. His experience demonstrated the importance of receiving support from the Council as a corporate parent.</p>
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Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update September 2024

Next Scrutiny Review
HAF Programme

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

Community Safety Select Committee Chair’s Update – September 2024

Scrutiny Review – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres	
Achieved since last meeting	No Committee meetings held since the last update to the Executive Scrutiny Committee.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / 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>No updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.</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	None

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

Next Scrutiny Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed

Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Thursday 26 September 2024	Thursday 23 January 2025
Thursday 24 October 2024	Thursday 27 February 2025
Thursday 28 November 2024	Thursday 27 March 2025
Thursday 19 December 2024	

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People Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2024

Scrutiny Review – Disabled Facilities Grant	
Achieved since last meeting	At the September meeting member received evidence regarding the Occupational Therapist assessment which included demand on the service over a 5 year period. Building Services also gave evidence regarding their process and the challenges that they face.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	Members will receive the results of the Parent/Carer Forum questionnaire regarding their members experience of DFG, along with data from the customer surveys carried out by the service.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
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"> • 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

Next Scrutiny Review
TBD

Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)
Monday 7 October 2024 Monday 4 November 2024 Monday 2 December 2024 Monday 6 January 2025 Monday 3 February 2025 Monday 3 March 2025

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Place Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2024

Scrutiny Review – Affordable Housing	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>In July members attended site visits to the lettings and nomination team to gain an understanding of their processes and the kind of issues faced by the team. Members also shadowed the team taking calls to gain a customer insight.</p> <p>Keepmoat Homes attended the September meeting to share their experience and views on building affordable housing. Evidence from Story Homes and Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire was also circulated at the meeting. The evidence provided by the private developers included ways the Council can work with private developers to increase the supply of affordable housing.</p> <p>Michael Poole Estate Agents also attended the September meeting to discuss the private rental market, including whether homes currently on the market meets the demand and requirements of their customers.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	A representative from the Northern Housing Consortium has been invited to the October meeting to discuss regional best practice.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>A progress update was presented for the Planning (Development Management) and Adoption of Open Space review at the September meeting.</p> <p>Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial Provision (TBC) • 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

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2024

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The working group met on 26 July and had a discussion with the MP for Redcar & Cleveland, Anna Turley. She agreed to write a joint letter with relevant local MPs to the government and appropriate agencies requesting a public inquiry. The working group would send the evidence that they had gathered and work that they had carried out so far.</p> <p>Members of the group were keen to have a face-to-face meeting with the government regarding the issue and Anna Turley MP stated she would look in to facilitating this meeting.</p> <p>The working group agreed a separate letter to the government requesting a public inquiry.</p> <p>The group had planned to conclude in November 2024, however, will now await the response from Anna Turley MP and continue to meet if a public inquiry is granted.</p>
Requests for more information	None

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

Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

In addition to the Standing Items:

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

Date	Item	Attending
7 May	Final Report of Crime and Disorder Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision (Executive Summary for information)	Gary Woods
23 July	Final Report of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (Executive Summary for information)	Gary Woods
	Final Report of Place Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Unauthorised Roadside Advertising (Executive Summary for information)	Michelle Gunn
	Topic Suggestion – Muslim and Faith Burial Provision	Jonathan Nertney
	MTFP Outturn	Garry Cummings / Clare Harper
	Council Plan Update	Ian Coxon
17 September	MTFP Quarter 1	Garry Cummings / Clare Harper
19 November	Council Plan Consultation	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	MTFP Quarter 2	Garry Cummings / Clare Harper
18 March	Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/26 – Selection of In-Depth Scrutiny Reviews	Jonathan Nertney
	Final Report of People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facilities Grants (Executive Summary for information)	Michelle Gunn
	Final Report of Place Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Affordable Housing (Executive Summary for information)	Michelle Gunn

Regular Reports

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