

Date:

Tuesday 22 July 2025 at 2.00 pm

Venue:

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BJ

Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair)

Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Marilyn Surtees and Cllr Laura Tunney

Agenda

1. **Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 14)
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 May 2025.
5. **MTFP Update (Outturn 2024/25)** (Pages 15 - 24)
6. **Forward Plan** (Pages 25 - 34)
7. **Chairs' Updates** (Pages 35 - 48)
8. **Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme** (Pages 49 - 50)

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 Registrable 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

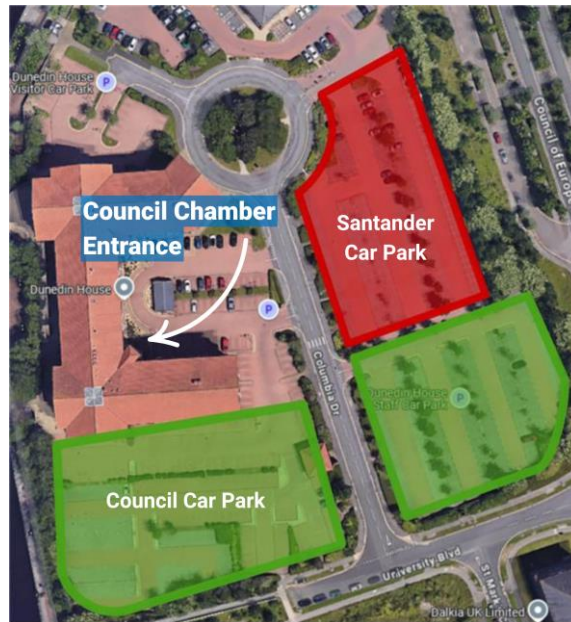
(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the Council Chamber Entrance, indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
 - do not stop to collect your belongings
 - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
 - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. await further instructions.

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

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

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Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 20th May 2025.

Present: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice-Chair), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr John Coulson (sub for Cllr Tony Riordan), Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Sufi Mubeen and Cllr Marilyn Surtees

Officers: Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods and Michelle Gunn

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Tony Riordan and Cllr Laura Tunney

ESC/1/25 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation procedure.

ESC/2/25 Declarations of Interest

For the purposes of transparency, Councillor Jim Beall declared that he was the Chair of Eastern Ravens Trust, a HAF provider.

ESC/3/25 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ESC/4/25 Children and Young People Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun (Executive Summary for Information)

The Committee considered the Executive Summary from the Children and Young People Select Committee's final report following the review of the Holidays are Fun programme.

The Committee's final report had been considered by Cabinet who had approved all the recommendations.

Members of the Committee asked for an update on:

- Easter and May Half Term Attendance Data
- Arrangements for automated reminders
- Publicity arrangements (it was noted that the advert in Stockton News had been very small)
- Alternatives to online booking

It was suggested that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attend the June meeting of the Committee when the Action Plan was due to provide an update on the above matters.

AGREED that the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/5/25 Community Safety Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (Executive Summary for Information)

The Committee considered the Executive Summary from the Community Safety Select Committee's final report following the review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres.

All Members had been asked for their views as part of the review and the Committee's final report had been considered by Cabinet who had approved all the recommendations.

AGREED that the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/6/25 Forward Plan

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted.

ESC/7/25 Chairs' Updates

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

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee.

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

Children and Young People Select Committee

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

Community Safety Select Committee

With regard to the Select Committee's next review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse, it was advised that the scope of the work would focus on the younger age group so engagement would be with midwives, nurseries, GPs etc.

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 updates be noted.

ESC/8/25 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chair reported that a topic suggestion relating to supply teaching had been received following the setting of the current year's work programme of in-depth

reviews. Committee Members agreed that the suggestion should be considered as part of the process for setting the 2026/27 work programme.

As the MTFP Quarter 2 Update would be considered at the 11 December Cabinet meeting, it was agreed that an additional meeting of the Committee would be scheduled for 16 December 2025 to allow timely consideration by the Committee.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair:

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

17 JULY 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Resources and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Paul Rowling

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN – OUTTURN MARCH 2025

SUMMARY

This report updates Cabinet on the draft financial performance and position as at 31 March 2025.

The overall financial position is similar to the position projected at the end of December 2024, as outlined in the Budget report in February 2025, with a variance of £69,000 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. Significant progress has been made on this to date, and further reports will be presented throughout the year providing updates.

There has also been a notable movement in the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit, increasing to £6.7m as a result of growing numbers of children with Education, Health & Care Plans.

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 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Note the outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2025 and the updated Capital Programme.

DETAIL**FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025****GENERAL FUND**

1. The following table sets out the financial position for each Directorate at 31 March 2025. 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)	Projected Variance Q3 Over/(Under)	Movement from Q3
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	97,424	99,626	2,202	1,895	307
Children's Services	58,153	64,224	6,071	4,762	1,309
Community Services, Environment & Culture	53,083	53,516	433	1,489	(1,056)
Finance, Transformation & Performance	14,505	14,414	(91)	96	(187)
Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	613	1,765	1,152	1,110	42
Corporate Services	11,284	11,150	(134)	6	(140)
Corporate Items	9,421	7,235	(2,186)	(1,980)	(206)
Total	244,483	251,930	7,447	7,378	69
Release balances to fund outturn position			(7,447)	(7,378)	(69)

Adults, Health and Wellbeing

2. Demands in adult social care continued to increase in Q4, particularly for people requiring mental health support £521k.
3. The level of uncollected debt increased over the year leading to an increase in the bad debt provision of £296k.
4. In the previous MTFP report to Council in February we referred to a potential income of £500,000 through the Better Care Fund pooled budget, the actual figure agreed with NHS colleagues was £1.16m, creating an additional £660,000 used to fund the increased social care pressures.
5. There was an overspend of £150,000 within community safety in relation to the purchase of equipment to support the digital switchover.

Children's Services

6. Members will be aware of the continued growth in demand relating to Children's Social Care and the ever increasing costs of external residential provision. Alongside many other Council's across the country, we continue to see this be a major challenge for Children's Social care budgets, and there has been a further overspend in the final quarter of the year of £1.4m on external residential costs for Children in our Care.
7. Supported Accommodation costs have increased over those projected by £390,000 due to new placements and higher fee packages as well as £120,000 of additional independent living allowances to support young people.
8. There has also been increase in the number of connected persons carers in the last quarter, resulting in a further overspend on this budget of £130,000.

9. This was offset in part (£600,000) by a one-off technical accounting entry relating to the profit we receive from the joint venture arrangement with Spark of Genius.

Community Services, Environment & Culture

10. There have been a number of smaller movements compared to the projected position across the directorate totalling a movement of £1.05m
- (£100,000) reduction in costs relating to Grounds Maintenance
 - A one-off technical accounting adjustment relating to school meals income of (£280,000)
 - Home to School Transport costs continue to increase relating to more children receiving transport, £80,000
 - A reduction in staffing costs relating to vacant posts (£200,000)
 - (£200,000) saving due to TAL requiring nil additional subsidy in relation to higher energy costs, TAL have absorbed these costs within their own budgets. A previous saving had already been projected earlier in the year of (£300,000), making the total saving for the year (£500,000).
 - There was a slight reduction in waste tonnages compared to the projected position making a saving of (£80,000).
 - (£235,000) relating to a number of minor variances, including additional fees and charges across the directorate.

Finance, Transformation & Performance

11. (£150,000) additional income received from the Hampton by Hilton Hotel dividend.

Regeneration and Inclusive Growth

12. (150,000) movement for the planning service relating to £50,000 more planning income than projected and £100,000 grant relating to Nutrient Migration.
13. £110,000 additional overspend on the shopping centre relating to additional voids and tenants leaving

Corporate Services

14. (100,000) additional income above budget relating to the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) rebate.

Corporate Items

15. Additional income relating to the collection fund (£200,000)

Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block

16. Schools, Early Years and Special Educational Needs (High 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. Members will be aware that we are experiencing growing demand in services for pupils with Special Educational Needs. This is also true of many Councils across the Country.
17. The growth in demand has increased sharply during 2024/25, creating significant financial pressure on the High Needs Block within the Dedicated Schools Grant. During the year there was growth in 17% children with an EHCP. The opening deficit at 1st April 2024 was £3.8m,

this has increased by £2.9m during 2024/25, leaving a closing deficit at 31st March 2025 of £6.7m.

18. Details of any variances above £200,000 against budget incurred during the year 2024/25 are

- £990,000 overspend on placing children with special educational needs in privately ran schools. This is due to a lack of capacity within maintained schools and academies.
- £640,000 overspend on placing children with special educational needs in maintained or academy schools out of the area
- £910,000 overspend on additional top up funding allocated to academies to support children with special educational needs within their settings.
- £1,030,000 overspend relating to children who have been excluded, costs for education either at home or in alternative provision
- (£460,000) underspend against the Early Years budget relating to timing of the grant funding and its relationship to census points.
- (£290,000) underspend within the Schools Growth Fund due to marginally lower admission numbers in September 2024 for specific schools resulting from basic need requirements.

19. 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. The Council has worked with the Department for Education as part of the Delivering Better Value Programme to develop a plan to resolve this position over the medium term. As part of this plan, a recent report to Cabinet on 16th January 2025; Additionally Resourced Provision in mainstream Schools – Outcome of EMS Consultation, identified one of the steps to try to address some of the demand and financial pressures we are currently experiencing. There is also a report on this Cabinet meeting agenda looking at increasing capacity within mainstream provision for children with special educational needs.

Collection Fund

20. 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.

21. Members will recall the opening position for the collection fund at 1st April 2024 was a deficit of £591,000. Performance during the financial year in 24/25 has been positive creating a surplus which has cleared the opening deficit, leaving a balanced closing position at the end of the year. The positive performance due to additional council tax growth was reflected in the MTFP projections as part of the MTFP Update and Strategy Report to Council in February 2025.

General Fund Balances and Addressing the Overspend in 2024/25

22. The total General Fund Balances at 31 March 2025 are £8m, in line with the agreed level and as outlined in the report to Cabinet in February 2025.

23. In order to fund the overspend in 24/25, as agreed in the budget report in February 2025, reserves have been used to fund the overspend position £7.447m. The earmarked reserves position has reduced in year from an adjusted opening position of £46.5m to £30.2m. The general fund balances remain at £8m.

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. The latest budget report to Council in February 2025 updated members on the performance against this savings target to date.

25. The Powering Our Futures programme, and in particular the transformation mission has identified savings of £5.8m by 2026/27 to date. The updated savings target is now £1.35m in 2025/26 and £2.256m in 2026/27. The transformation programme, alongside the wider Powering our Futures Programme, will continue to look to address the budget gap, alongside ensuring improvements to services to local residents.

CAPITAL

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

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2027	Current Approved Programme £'000	Programme Revisions £'000	Revised Programme £'000	Completed Schemes 2024/25 £'000	Variances (Completed Schemes) £'000	Revised Programme £'000	New Approvals £'000	Revised Programme £'000
School Investment Programme & Childrens Services	26,590	(324)	26,266	(13,387)	76	12,955	3,126	16,081
Inclusive Growth	19,922	(718)	19,204	(10,212)	2,212	11,204	0	11,204
Regeneration	127,020	624	127,644	(1,761)	2	125,885	20,000	145,885
Transportation	43,972	445	44,417	(21,255)	(54)	23,108	1,175	24,284
Community & Environment, Culture & Leisure	23,468	133	23,601	(4,163)	(39)	19,399	876	20,274
Adults, Health & Wellbeing	7,057	16	7,073	(1,828)	7	5,252	0	5,252
Xentrall ICT	900	0	900	(733)	733	900	0	900
Council Wide	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	20,000
Total Approved Capital MTFP	268,929	176	269,105	(53,339)	2,937	218,703	25,177	243,880

27. Members will note that the programme has been updated to reflect the approvals contained within the 2025/26 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 2024/25.

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. Medium Term Financial Plan Update & Strategy Report to Council 19th February 2025

Name of Contact Officer: Clare Harper
Job Title: Assistant Director, Finance
Telephone: 01642 528377
Email Address: Clare.Harper@Stockton.Gov.UK

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL PROGRAMME Up to 2027	Current Approved Programme	Programme Revisions	Revised Programme	Completed Schemes 2024/25	Variances (Completed Schemes)	Revised Programme	New approvals	Revised Programme	Expenditure Apr 2018 - March 2025
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES									
School Investment Programme	24,495,250	(228,357)	24,266,893	(12,049,170)	98,760	12,316,483	3,125,953	15,442,436	8,742,502
Children Investment	2,095,301	(96,116)	1,999,185	(1,337,871)	(22,307)	639,007	0	639,007	642,970
SCHOOL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME & CHILDRENS SERVICES	26,590,551	(324,473)	26,266,078	(13,387,041)	76,453	12,955,490	3,125,953	16,081,443	9,385,472
INCLUSIVE GROWTH									
Inclusive Growth & Development	9,421,909	(968,345)	8,453,564	0	0	8,453,564	0	8,453,564	2,131,843
Office Accommodation	9,500,511	0	9,500,511	(10,212,344)	2,211,833	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	2,912,242
Council Chamber	1,000,000	250,000	1,250,000	0	0	1,250,000	0	1,250,000	1,019,646
INCLUSIVE GROWTH	19,922,420	(718,345)	19,204,075	(10,212,344)	2,211,833	11,203,564	0	11,203,564	6,063,731
REGENERATION									
Stockton Town Centre Schemes	18,964,451	0	18,964,451	(18,446)	1,596	18,947,601	0	18,947,601	1,458,540
Reshaping Town Centres	10,722,460	(250,000)	10,472,460	(1,742,185)	0	8,730,275	0	8,730,275	1,591,064
Billingham Town Centre	10,000,000	0	10,000,000	0	0	10,000,000	20,000,000	30,000,000	266,009
Thornaby Town Centre	33,087,140	(16,217)	33,070,923	0	0	33,070,923	0	33,070,923	9,144,671
Re-Development of Castlegate Site	30,934,381	0	30,934,381	0	0	30,934,381	0	30,934,381	14,286,736
Yarm & Eaglescliffe LUF	23,020,000	889,840	23,909,840	0	0	23,909,840	0	23,909,840	13,591,097
Infrastructure Enhancements, Regeneration & Property Acquisitions	291,717	0	291,717	0	0	291,717	0	291,717	0
REGENERATION	127,020,149	623,623	127,643,772	(1,760,631)	1,596	125,884,737	20,000,000	145,884,737	40,338,116
TRANSPORTATION									
City Regional Sustainable Transport	16,378,679	335,011	16,713,691	(5,153,703)	(29,326)	11,530,662	1,023,121	12,553,783	7,867,389
Other Transport Schemes	25,693,593	56,886	25,750,479	(15,683,684)	0	10,066,795	132,226	10,199,021	1,395,477
Developer Agreements	1,899,109	53,311	1,952,420	(417,393)	(24,054)	1,510,973	20,000	1,530,973	1,013,610
TRANSPORTATION	43,971,381	445,208	44,416,589	(21,254,780)	(53,380)	23,108,430	1,175,347	24,283,777	10,276,476

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE									
Energy Efficiency Schemes	1,232,724	0	1,232,724	(1,227,429)	(5,295)	0	400,000	400,000	96,351
Environment and Green Infrastructure	9,482,984	4,210	9,487,194	(432,541)	(33,428)	9,021,225	26,798	9,048,023	3,736,852
Waste	7,988,465	129,355	8,117,820	0	0	8,117,820	8,119	8,125,939	3,139,475
Building Management	2,787,924	0	2,787,924	(1,976,846)	0	811,078	440,680	1,251,758	1,431,517
Vehicle Replacement	1,975,483	0	1,975,483	(526,268)	(937)	1,448,278	0	1,448,278	526,268
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE & LEISURE	23,467,580	133,565	23,601,145	(4,163,084)	(39,660)	19,398,401	875,597	20,273,998	8,930,463
ADULTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING									
Adults & Public Health Investment	392,421	0	392,421	(193,123)	2,702	202,000	0	202,000	193,674
Housing Regeneration	1,459,860	0	1,459,860	(9,346)	0	1,450,514	0	1,450,514	9,346
Private Sector Housing	5,204,651	16,388	5,221,039	(1,626,151)	4,306	3,599,195	0	3,599,195	1,846,796
ADULTS, HEALTH & WELLBEING	7,056,932	16,388	7,073,320	(1,828,620)	7,008	5,251,709	0	5,251,709	2,049,815
XENTRALL ICT									
Xentrall ICT Network	900,000	0	900,000	(733,047)	733,047	900,000	0	900,000	1,032,481
XENTRALL ICT	900,000	0	900,000	(733,047)	733,047	900,000	0	900,000	1,032,481
COUNCIL WIDE									
Unallocated council wide invest to save	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0
COUNCIL WIDE	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0
Total Approved Capital MTFP	268,929,014	175,966	269,104,980	(53,339,547)	2,936,897	218,702,330	25,176,897	243,879,227	78,076,554

APPENDIX B

Programme Revisions 2024/25

Transport

- £600,000 for works to Newport Bridge has been added to the capital programme, funded from CRSTS Grant and a contribution from Middlesbrough Borough Council.
- The Indigenous Growth Fund money from TVCA is contributing towards the Eaglescliffe Station West Car Park scheme, £358,345.

Regeneration

- Additional funding has been added to the Yarm LUF cycleway scheme from City Regional Sustainability Transport funding and Indigenous Growth Fund money, £880,000

Other

- £2,461,833 added to Accommodation schemes predominately funded from revenue. As the Dunedin scheme completed in year, this is in relation to technical accounting regulations that requires the whole scheme to be capitalised. There is also some prudential borrowing for the Council Chamber within this figure.
- £129,355 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.
- £733,047 added to the Capital Programme for ICT Infrastructure works, completed in year and funded from revenue.

Completed Schemes 2024/25

Schools Capital

- Planned Maintenance Schemes on a range of schools have been delivered in 2024/25.
- Several school expansion projects/phases of projects have completed this year.

Town Centre Schemes

- The Norton regeneration works have completed in year.

Transportation

- £20,837,387 has been spent delivering several transport schemes, including the annual City Regional Sustainable Transport programme for 2024/25.
- Several S278 Access works and S106 schemes have completed in year fully funded via Developer contributions.

Other schemes

- £1,617,651 has been spent on Disabled Adaptations in homes across the Borough.
- Several planned maintenance schemes have been delivered across a range of Council Buildings.
- Several parks and cemeteries schemes have completed in year.
- The energy efficiency works at Ingleby Barwick Leisure Centre have completed in year.
- £458,878 has been spent on the Vehicle Replacement Programme.
- Refurbishment works to the recently acquired children's home has completed this year as part of a larger investment in Children In Our Care services.
- Installation of an upgraded education software system has completed this year.
- Changing places scheme has completed in year, £126,953.

New approvals

School Capital

- Following DFE announcements in March 2025, £2,208,960 of Higher Needs Grant from 2025/26 allocations and £916,993 of Basic Need Grant from 2026/27 and 2027/28 allocations have been added to the capital programme.

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Transportation

- 2025/26 City Regional Sustainable Transport allocation £978,086 has been added to the Capital Programme for potholes.

Regeneration

- Pathfinder funding linked to LUF Round 3, from MHCLG, has been added to the programme for Billingham Town Centre following the signing of the MOU, £20,000,000.

Other schemes

- £400,000 has been added to the programme for solar panels installation at Billingham Forum, funded from Swimming Pool Support Grant.
- The 2025/26 building planned maintenance programme has been included in the programme.

Statutory Forward Plan

Key Decisions

1 June 2025 - 31 May 2026

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Invest to Save Opportunity in Billingham Forum Leisure Facility</p> <p>An opportunity to invest in Billingham Forum leisure facility. The investment is anticipated to exceed £500,000 and therefore meets the criteria of a key decision.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Community Services, Environment and Culture</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>17 Jul 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Meetings</p>	<p>reuben.kench@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Representations may be submitted to Reuben Kench via email to reuben.kench@stockton.gov.uk by 1st July 2025</p>		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Is this a Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Regeneration Powering Our Futures Update</p> <p>This report provides an update on regeneration activity and projects under the Regeneration POF Mission, incorporating updates on ongoing schemes across Thornaby, Billingham, Stockton and Yarm and Eaglescliffe, sets out opportunities, priorities and subsequent recommendations to enable development and delivery of key elements of the Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint and</p>	Tracey Carter	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Cabinet	17 Jul 2025	Cabinet	Various consultations have been held over previous years on the matters covered in this report.	<p>ian.robinson@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>tracey.carter@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>ian.robinson@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>chris.renahan@stockton.gov.uk</p>		EPIA has been completed

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy</p> <p>The report to Council to set the Council's budget and Council tax for 2026/27 and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>18 Feb 2026</p>	<p>All Members of the Council.</p>	<p>Members briefings and meetings will be held with Councillors.</p>	<p>clare.harper@stokton.gov.uk</p> <p>clare.harper@stokton.gov.uk</p>		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Is this a Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Powering our Future – Transformation Review: Children in our Care – Fostering Service</p> <p>Cabinet is recommended to agree the recommendations for modernising the fostering service, following a comprehensive review that examined all aspects of the service and potential solutions to the declining number of current foster carers and the increasing number of Children in Our Care with more complex needs.</p> <p>The proposal aims to build sufficiency within the mainstream fostering service by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Actively encouraging new individuals to take on the role of fostering. · Retaining the existing cohort of foster carers. · Meeting the diverse needs of children in our care. · Ensuring children can remain in Stockton, provided it is safe to do so. · Reducing the number of children 	Director of Children's Services	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Cabinet	17 Jul 2025	Cabinet	Meetings and emails	<p>majella.mccarthy@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>NA</p>		NA

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Housing Strategy 2026-2036</p> <p>Updated and refreshed Housing Strategy to ensure it remains relevant to the local Housing environment, provides a clear market position statement, and evidence to support future funding initiatives / opportunities.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Cabinet	11 Dec 2025	Cabinet	Meetings and emails	<p>jane.edmends@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>jane.edmends@stockton.gov.uk</p>		EPIA will be completed.

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Schools & SEND Capital Funding Investment Strategy</p> <p>Cabinet decision required to agree proposed spend of capital funding on school investments.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	Director of Children's Services	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Cabinet	17 Jul 2025	Cabinet and consultation taken place with all key stakeholders, local area partnerships and parents in September-October 2024.	Meetings and email	elisha.dyball@stoc kton.gov.uk		An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment has been completed.

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2025-30)</p> <p>To present the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2025-30) for approval. The Strategy will set out Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's strategic aims to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping in the Borough.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Cabinet	18 Sep 2025	<p>Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Service Users (Prevention cases and individuals currently in temporary accommodation) - Stakeholder partners 	Meetings and emails	strategichousing@Stockton.gov.uk		An EPIA will be created after the consultation period.

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Strategy for Outdoor Play Provision</p> <p>Following the Scrutiny Review of Outdoor Play Provision, in April of 2024, the Crime and Disorder Select Committee (now renamed) recommended that officers should prepare a strategy (later approved by Cabinet) which includes the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's aims in relation to the provision of outdoor play spaces. • The locations and assessments of existing and outdoor play 	<p>Director of Community Services, Environment and Culture</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>17 Jul 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Meetings and emails</p>	<p>neil.mitchell@stokton.gov.uk</p> <p>neil.mitchell@stokton.gov.uk</p>		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
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Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

Chair's Update – July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Reablement Service	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>This review was paused following the Committee's agreement in April 2025 that its final report to Cabinet should be delayed until it had received the full findings of the Peopletoo (external consultants) report on local reablement provision, as well as the outcome of the late-2024 Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of SBC adult social care services.</p> <p>Whilst still not sighted on the CQC report, the Committee did receive the Peopletoo findings on the 4 July 2025.</p>
Problems or concerns	As raised in previous Chair's Updates, the availability of necessary information for the Committee to scrutinise has been a challenge during the course of this review.
Planned this / next month	Revised timelines for concluding this review will be discussed at the next meeting in July 2025. However, the Committee's final report will not be able to be presented to Cabinet until September 2025 at the earliest.
On track – yes / no	No – see above.

Scrutiny Review – Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service	
Achieved since last meeting	Officer discussions on the draft scope and plan for the Committee's next in-depth review of Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service took place in June 2025 before an initial tri-partite meeting was held at the start of July 2025 to firm-up proposals.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	A final draft scope and plan document will be presented to the Committee at its July 2025 meeting for approval.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) Quality Account 2024-2025: Senior NTHFT representatives delivered their annual Quality Account-related presentation at the ASCH Select Committee meeting in May 2025. The Committee's third-party statement of assurance for inclusion in the Trust's final Quality Account publication was then collated, agreed by the Committee, and submitted to the NTHFT – this can be found via https://www.nth.nhs.uk/resources/quality-accounts-2024-2025/ (see pages 116-118).</p> <p>During discussions at the May 2025 meeting, the Trust invited the Committee to visit its Discharge and Command Centre – this is</p>

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

	<p>likely to take place at the end of July 2025 (subject to confirmation).</p> <p>Norton Medical Centre: The Practice Manager and a GP Partner addressed the Committee in May 2025 to respond to concerns raised by the CQC. An Action Plan in response to the inspection findings was included in the presentation for information – this demonstrated the issues identified by the regulator across each of its key domains, the action taken to date, and planned actions for the future. Specific achievements included the introduction of a new care navigation system, improvements to triaging and patient access, the appointment of a new Practice Manager, and the implementation a new management structure (job descriptions and roles / responsibilities were being reviewed to ensure accountability and oversight).</p> <p>PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) – 2024-2025: The Committee was presented with the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) for 2024-2025 at its meeting in June 2025. Members heard that 2024-2025 had seen a general improvement in ratings when set against the outcomes of inspections from the previous two years. In response, the Committee raised questions in relation to the uploading of PAMMS-related material on Stockton Information Directory (SID), providers who owned multiple homes moving managers around in order to get improved inspection outcomes, medication oversight within settings, and the promotion / uptake of medication training.</p> <p>Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone: Following last year's (June 2024) presentation, relevant SBC officers have been invited to update the Committee on developments around the proposed Care and Health Innovation Zone – this is scheduled to take place at the July 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Care Quality Commission (CQC): Following consideration of the latest CQC / PAMMS quarterly inspection update report in June 2025, the Committee noted that a total of 19 reports had been published by the CQC during the year following inspections of Stockton-on-Tees providers (10 adult services; seven primary medical care services; two hospital / other health care services) – this compared to 46 in 2019-2020. Members again expressed concerns about this reduced output, as well as the fact that many CQC inspections in recent years only focused on two ('Safe' and 'Well-Led') of the well-established five domains. Allied to the reluctance of CQC representatives to attend the Committee to give an annual update on the national and local state of care, this was yet further evidence of a disappointing downward trend in the reliability of the regulator to supply intelligence on the performance of health and care providers. The Committee requested that a letter be sent by the Chair to relevant CQC representatives reflecting ongoing frustrations.</p>
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Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

NHS Updates / Consultations	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Arrival Medical Practice and Riverside Medical Practice (Merger): In May 2025, confirmation was received (and subsequently shared with the Committee) on the merger between Arrival Medical Practice and Riverside Medical Practice. Following an engagement period, the NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB (NENC ICB) subsequently approved the application along with the subsequent closure of the Arrival site. The merger took effect as of 1 June 2025, with the new merged practice known as Riverside Medical Practice.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025: Further to a presentation on the PNA 2025 to the Committee in February 2025, a statutory 60-day consultation on draft proposals began in April 2025 (ending on the 22 June 2025).</p> <p>NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): May 2025 saw health experts in the North East and North Cumbria warn people about the risks of using weight loss medicines bought from private clinics or online (see https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/patients-advised-to-speak-to-their-gp-before-using-private-weight-loss-medication/). GP practices across the region were reporting cases where patients had become unwell after using weight loss treatments, or 'skinny jabs', from private clinics or online providers, which may not be safe for them because of existing health conditions.</p> <p>In June 2025, NENC ICB unveiled its new medicines strategy, to help improve healthcare, cut down on unnecessary prescriptions, and make the best use of NHS resources. The plan is a key part of the ICBs 10-year vision to tackle the region's biggest health problems, reduce health inequalities, and ensure high-quality care for everyone. For more information, see https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/new-nhs-plan-to-use-medicines-better-waste-less-and-help-people-stay-healthy-for-longer/.</p> <p>NHS 10-Year Plan: The UK Government published its 10-year health plan for England ('Fit for the Future') in early-July 2025 – the executive summary and full plan can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-year-health-plan-for-england-fit-for-the-future.</p>

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 Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council for 2025-2026. The first meeting of this municipal year was held on 8 May 2025 where the Committee considered Quality Account-related presentations for both North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) – third-party</p>

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

	<p>statements for inclusion in both Trusts' final published documents were then collated, agreed and submitted.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 17 July 2025 (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>
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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"> • Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (September 2025)
Requests for more information	None

2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews

- Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service
- Adult Education and Skills

Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Tuesday 22 July 2025	Tuesday 16 December 2025
Tuesday 23 September 2025	Tuesday 20 January 2026
Tuesday 21 October 2025	Tuesday 17 February 2026
Tuesday 18 November 2025	Tuesday 17 March 2026

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

The Select Committee's review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment culminated in a report setting out 17 shared objectives.

Given the breadth of the work, a recommendation lead has been identified for each objective and it is the intention that progress updates will be provided at each future Select Committee meeting on particular recommendations with the relevant recommendation lead attending each meeting.

At the June meeting the Select Committee received action plans in respect of:

Recommendation 3 - Improve communication

Design, deliver and support parent/carers communication strategies.

Recommendation 4 - Identify and support young carers

Raise awareness of young carer identification and support for pupils.

Extend the range of opportunities for young carers to link with others socially.

Recommendation 8 - Extend enrichment offer

Strengthen and extend curriculum enrichment offer which better matches pupils' needs and interests.

Recommendation 9 - Celebrate achievement

Extend the range of opportunities to celebrate achievement including recognition for out of school activities and engagement with local, regional and national awards and competitions.

The lead officer for implementing the recommendation attended the meeting and presented an action plan setting out planned actions and progress to date on a range of initiatives supporting delivery of the objective.

Final action plans are scheduled into the Select Committee Work Programme for September. After this the Select Committee will be receiving progress updates from the lead officers.

Scrutiny Review – Holiday Activities and Food Programme known locally as Holidays Are Fun (HAF)

At the June meeting, the Select Committee received an action plan in respect of its previous review of Holiday Activities and Food Programme following approval of the review recommendations by Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People also attended the meeting to provide an update. A presentation was given outlining:

- The Team
- Funding
- Latest booking data
- Update on the new booking system, including a demonstration at the meeting
- Plans for the summer programme

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update July 2025

Key issues highlighted and discussed included:

- Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility had increased year on year in England although Government funding had reduced slightly. If the funding remained the same, there would be less funding for each Local Authority
- Stockton undertook an auto enrolment exercise in Autumn 2024 and identified over 300 children that were eligible for free school meals, taking Stockton's total to over 9,000 eligible children
- In Easter, there were 6,042 universal spaces and 267 dedicated SEND spaces. 1345 unique children booked 5,500 spaces, broken down into 1100 primary and 245 secondary aged children, equating to approx. 4 places per child. There were over 40 different activities across the borough through 28 individual providers
- In Easter, there were a few new providers including Stockton Libraries and Stockton Sixth Form College bringing new activities such as Lego @ the Library
- The new booking system had been extremely well received with positive feedback from parents and providers. The booking system was accessible on different devices and also sent reminders about bookings which had made a huge impact on reducing non-attendance. Within the booking system, it would be possible to identify and target children who lived in the 10 most deprived wards
- Rules could be applied to the booking system for example to limit the number of places that could be applied for a particular child. The system also prioritised FSM children and sent details to providers to ensure that they were equipped to meet the needs of individual children. The system also flagged up clashes and identified immediately when a child did not attend a session
- Bookings for summer were opening on 4 July but interest could be registered a week before
- As well as making bookings through the new booking system, the website provided details on how to speak to a member of the team
- Members commented that there needed to be improved visibility of the programme and booking system on the Council website
- For summer, around 50 providers had applied, creating over 17,000 spaces. Based on suggestions from young people, new providers are offering:
 - Cycling
 - Tees Active gym passes
 - Football School
 - 3D pen project
 - Storytelling and games for the 5-8 at the libraries
- Members acknowledged the need to lobby the government for continued funding. One lobbying route was through the CYP Board of the LGA

Scrutiny Review – Additionally Resourced SEND Provision

After receiving an introductory presentation, the Select Committee approved the scope and project plan for the Select Committee's next review.

The overall aim of the scrutiny review is to receive an update on the implementation of the transfer from September 2025 and engage with secondary schools to secure additional applications from the secondary sector, exploring the barriers to the schools becoming Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs) and identifying ways in which we may overcome this to secure the provision required for children and young people in the borough. Not having a full complement of secondary schools taking up the places risks undermining the effectiveness and reach of this key element of the local SEND Strategy and means that there may be implications for children upon transition to secondary that there may not be

Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update July 2025

the same type or level of support available to them, potentially creating pressure on special school places and missed opportunities for inclusive education in mainstream settings. The Select Committee will therefore be exploring the following key lines of enquiry as part of the review:

- How will the transfer improve the outcomes for children with special educational needs across our Borough?
- How does the project support the Council's vision and strategy for SEND provision?
- What does DfE Guidance tell us?
- Will the changes ensure that there is sufficient and suitable educational provision for SEND pupils in both primary and secondary?
- What are the barriers to secondary schools becoming additionally resourced provision? How can the number of ARP placements in secondary be increased?
- To what extent do families and schools understand the changes and how will they be engaged during implementation?
- Can lessons be learnt from the primary ARP model and the higher uptake?
- Is the funding provided to ARP adequate and sustainable for them to provide the support needed?

The July meeting will be hearing from the Stockton Parent Carer Forum and North East and North Cumbria ICB about their involvement in the work to date, feedback from parents/ carers, the opportunities from moving to ARPs, challenges and next steps.

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	Outstanding monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - A further progress update to be scheduled in due course • Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment - Ongoing
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Next Scrutiny Review

Children not in School

**Children and Young People Select Committee
Chair’s Update July 2025**

Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)
16 July 2025 17 September 2025 15 October 2025 12 November 2025 17 December 2025 14 January 2026 11 February 2026 11 March 2026

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres	
Achieved since last meeting	A draft Action Plan in relation to the Committee's agreed recommendations (which were endorsed by Cabinet in April 2025) was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee in May 2025.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	An update on progress of the agreed actions linked to the review's recommendations will be presented to the Committee in mid-2026.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Children affected by Domestic Abuse	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>A draft scope and plan was presented to, and approved by, the Committee at its meeting in May 2025. The main aims of the review were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the impact of domestic abuse on children, the extent of this issue across the Borough, and the ways in which those who experience this are identified. In particular, explore how domestic abuse impacts children in their early years, and the extent of the lasting impact as they grow older. • Articulate the current local offer for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, providing clarity for frontline professionals, families and children / young people. • Explore opportunities for early intervention (focusing on those services engaging with children / families with children in their early years) to protect children from the enduring impacts of domestic abuse. <p>A large number of contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including SBC directorates / departments (Children's Services; Public Health), Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership, Cleveland Police, and Harbour. Given the intention to focus specifically on early years, it was also proposed to engage with NHS Trusts from a midwifery and health visitor perspective, as well as early years providers (e.g. childminders). It was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be reported to Cabinet in March 2026.</p> <p>The first evidence-gathering session took place in June 2025 and featured presentations from SBC Public Health and SBC Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care.</p>
Problems or concerns	None

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

Planned this / next month	It is anticipated that the next evidence-gathering session in July 2025 will involve contributions from the local Domestic Abuse Steering Group, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office (regional lead), and representatives of the commissioned support service, Harbour.
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) • Outdoor Play Provision (July 2025) • Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (TBC – mid-2026)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP): Minutes of previous SSP meetings are now periodically included on Committee agendas so Members are sighted on developments within that forum.
Requests for more information	None

2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children affected by Domestic Abuse • Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budgets

Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Thursday 31 July 2025	Thursday 18 December 2025
Thursday 25 September 2025	Thursday 29 January 2026
Thursday 30 October 2025	Thursday 26 February 2026
Thursday 27 November 2025	Thursday 26 March 2026

People Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Partnership Working in Early Help	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee agreed the Scope and Project Plan for the review at the meeting in May. Early Help offers support to children and their families who require help with a range of presenting issues and the review will aim to gain a greater understanding of the effectiveness of the partnership and early help offer across the partners.</p> <p>The SBC Early Help offer was outlined at the June meeting, which included Family Hubs, Family Solutions Teams, Therapeutic Team, Family Group Conferencing, Targeted Youth Support, Youth Support and the Turnaround programme.</p> <p>School Support attended the July meeting to explain the support they provided and the Team around the School Service. Social Care also attended to discuss Social Care Assessments, rates going to assessments, and their views on what is needed to reduce demand.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The Committee will receive evidence from several partners that offer early help services – PITSTOP (Cleveland Police), Harrogate & District Foundation Trust, and Family Action.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The second progress update for the Cost of Living Response was considered at the May meeting. All recommendations were agreed as fully achieved except recommendation 2 regarding school uniforms which was on track. A briefing note on the feedback received from schools on the letters issued on pre-loved school uniform will be presented to the Committee at the October meeting</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 - October 2025 • Disabled Facilities Grant – November 2025
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.

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Requests for more information	None
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Next Scrutiny Review
Post 16 Provision

2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)
Monday 8 September 2025 Monday 6 October 2025 Monday 3 November 2025 Monday 8 December 2025 Monday 5 January 2026 Monday 2 February 2026 Monday 2 March 2026

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Muslim and Faith Burial Services	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee received evidence in May from North East Muslim Funeral Services who explained burial customs in the Muslim faith and their views on burial chambers. They believed that there was a demand for burial chambers in the Muslim Community and burial rings was the preferred option.</p> <p>The Committee also received evidence from Officers at the May meeting outlining the different options for burial chambers which included concrete burial chambers, concrete burial rings, and plastic burial chambers.</p> <p>At the June meeting the Committee received evidence from Thornaby Funeral Services, accompanied by an Imam and chair of two Mosques in the Middlesbrough area. They stated their view that there was not a requirement in Islam for burial chambers, there was little demand in the communities that they served for burial chambers, and that the chambers/rings created issues due to the water table and terrain of the cemeteries in this area.</p> <p>The Committee also received evidence from Middlesbrough Council Burial services regarding the use of burial chambers/rings in their cemeteries at the June meeting.</p> <p>Imam's and a chair of three mosques within the Borough were invited to the July meeting to give their views on burial services and the need for burial chambers. The Committee also received a summary of burial services, including a more detailed breakdown of the cost of concrete burial rings.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The next meeting will be the informal meeting where the Committee will review the evidence received and formulate draft recommendations.
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 May meeting, and there was one outstanding action to be completed, introducing a mapping layer to enhance maps@stockton. The Committee believed that the recommendation had been partially achieved and no further updates were required.</p> <p>A progress update was also presented for the Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections review at the May meeting. One action, regarding the implementation of the green waste collection service, had been fully achieved. All remaining actions were on track, with</p>

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

	<p>communication plans in place to ensure residents are fully aware of the changes to collections.</p> <p>The Action Plan for Affordable Housing was agreed at the June meeting. It was noted that the outcomes of Affordable Housing Option Appraisal which the review supported would be presented to Cabinet in June 2025, and it was confirmed that the changes to the Common Allocation Policy would be implanted in July 2025. Members believed that the letter to Government regarding Local Housing Allowance Rates should be sent as a matter of urgency and the date to complete this action was brought forward to end of June.</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 (September) • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (November 2025) • Affordable Housing (TBC)
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

- Governance of Capital Projects

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

Monday 15 September 2025
Monday 13 October 2025
Monday 10 November 2025
Monday 15 December 2025
Monday 12 January 2026
Monday 16 February 2026
Monday 9 March 2026

Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025-2026

In addition to the Standing Items:

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

Date	Item	Attending
20 May	Final Report of Children and Young People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of HAF (Executive Summary for information)	Judy Trainer
	Final Report of Community Safety Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (Executive Summary for information)	Gary Woods
22 July	MTFP Outturn	Clare Harper
23 September	MTFP Quarter 1	Clare Harper
	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman – Annual Review Letter	Ged Morton
	Scrutiny – Overview and Performance	Jonathan Nertney
18 November	Final Report of Place Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision (Executive Summary for information)	Michelle Gunn
16 December	MTFP Quarter 2	Clare Harper
20 January		
17 March	Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27 – Selection of In-Depth Scrutiny Reviews	Jonathan Nertney

Regular Reports

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

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