Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL
www.stockton.gov.uk

Executive Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date:
Tuesday 22 September 2026 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 Stephen Dodds, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Tony Riordan and Cllr Marilyn Surtees

Agenda

1. Livestreaming

This meeting will be filmed for live and / or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 12 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you attend and make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. When admitted to the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for livestreaming and / or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please contact Democratic Services prior to attending the meeting.

If there are any technical difficulties with the livestreaming, the meeting will still proceed.

2. Evacuation Procedure (Pages 7 - 10)

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Declarations of Interest

5. Minutes (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 July 2026

6. Financial Update and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) (Pages 15 - 46)

7. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Complaints Report 2025/26 (Pages 47 - 50)

Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
Monday 14 September 2026

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.

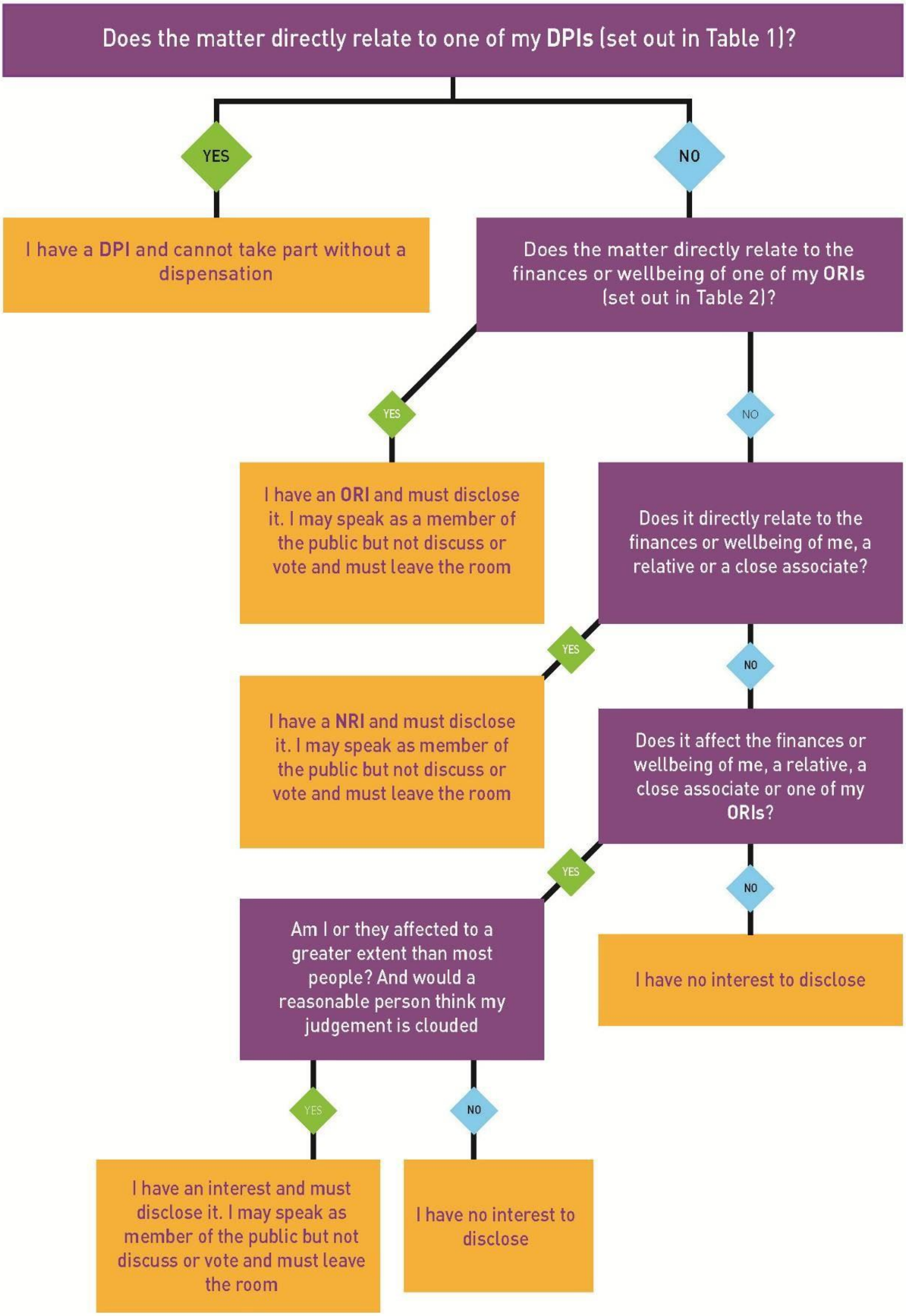
Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

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



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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.

Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

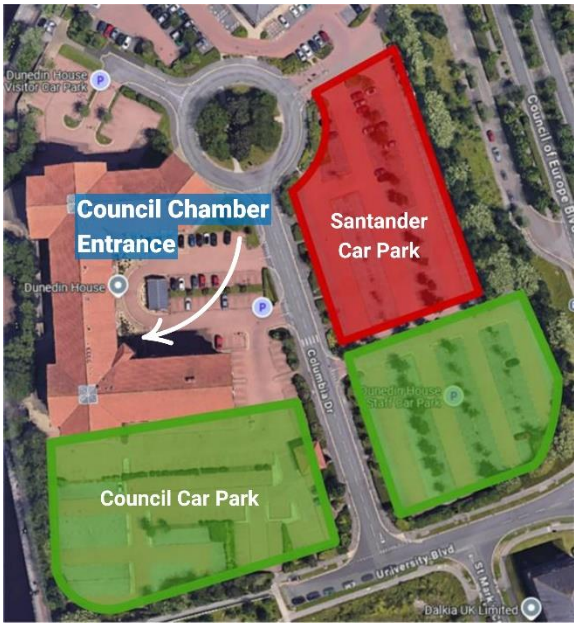
(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(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

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 to the left of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber and the rear 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 <u>MUST</u> 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 <u>immediately</u> - 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 21st July 2026.

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

Officers: Clare Harper, Lisa Tague, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods and Michelle Gunn

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: None

ESC/16/26 Livestreaming

The Chair announced to those present that the meeting would be livestreamed.

ESC/17/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

ESC/18/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

ESC/19/26 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 May 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ESC/20/26 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Outturn March 2026

The report provided an update on the financial performance and position as at 31 March 2026.

The overall financial position remained broadly consistent with that projected at the end of December 2025, as outlined in the budget report in February 2026, with a minor overall variance of (£72,000) from the previously reported position of £3.937m. The final year-end position reflected an overspend against budget of £3.865m.

During the financial year, pressure continued across the largest demand-driven services, namely Adults' and Children's Social Care, Home to School Transport, and support for children with Special Educational Needs. These areas were the focus of ongoing transformation reviews.

In the final quarter of the financial year, there was a notable improvement in the projected financial position across most budget areas. Improvements against earlier forecasts across directorate budgets enabled the Council to ring-fence the required

10% (£1.7m) for Special Educational Needs without the need to identify further savings. However, there was a worsening position in Children's Social Care and a significant increase in the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit, which rose to £17.1m, driven primarily by continued growth in the number of children with Education, Health and Care Plans.

The Capital Programme was updated to reflect the inclusion of new schemes and the completion of projects as at the financial year end.

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- With reference to the 700k transformation saving shortfall, the MTFP report to Cabinet in February 2026 provided a more detailed breakdown of the performance of phase one transformation reviews and timeline for savings. This shortfall was accounted for in the MTFP set in February's budget report.
- With regard to the reduction in agency spending in children's services, further details would be provided after the meeting along with targets for further savings. The Director of Children's Services had undertaken focused activity within children's services and a review was also now underway examining agency spend across all directorates
- The dividend from the Hampton by Hilton Hotel in year was in excess of the budget set for that year and further details would be provided after the meeting

AGREED that the report be noted.

ESC/21/26 Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Education

The Committee considered the Executive Summary of the People Select Committee's Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Education which was due to be presented to Cabinet in September.

Overall, the Committee recognised the importance of building on the strong foundations already in place for post-16 collaboration and improving outcomes. The Committee concluded that with sustained focus and collective commitment, there was significant opportunity to further enhance post-16 education in Stockton-on-Tees, improving participation, reducing NEET levels, and enabling more young people to achieve their potential while contributing to the Borough's future economic growth.

AGREED that the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/22/26 Scrutiny Review of Additionally Resourced SEND Provision

The Committee considered the Executive Summary of the Children and Young People's Select Committee's Scrutiny Review of Additionally Resourced SEND Provision which was due to be presented to Cabinet in September.

Early in the scrutiny review, the Government announced that it would be publishing a White Paper outlining the intended approach to SEND reform. The announcement came amid increasing calls for action regarding the rising number of registered SEND pupils and the associated challenges faced by councils. Following the announcement, the Select Committee decided to pause the review to await the detail of the White Paper.

In May 2026 the Select Committee received a presentation on the White Paper and considered the implications for their work. The Select Committee agreed to summarise the evidence collected and key findings and advise Cabinet that they would be concluding their work given that the Government was now making plans to direct all schools to have Inclusion Hubs.

The evidence, findings and conclusions would therefore be presented to Cabinet for noting.

The Committee requested that the full report be circulated.

AGREED that the Executive Summary be noted.

ESC/23/26 Forward Plan

Members requested that in future all Members be notified when an item is added to the Forward Plan.

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted.

ESC/24/26 Chairs' Updates

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

AGREED that the Chairs' Updates be noted.

ESC/25/26 Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

Chair: ....

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY
22 SEPTEMBER 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Paul Rowling

FINANCIAL UPDATE AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN (MTFP) – 2026/2027 Quarter 1

Summary

This report summarises the Council's financial performance and projected position at the end of the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

The Council continues to face expanding and emerging cost increases and demand pressures leading to greater costs and greater financial challenges. The quarter one budgetary control position identifies significant budget pressures across Council services, driven by a combination of increasing costs and continued demand for services. Based on activity to date and current intelligence, the most significant forecast pressures relate to Children's Social Care, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services, and Community Services.

The forecast overspend of £5.8m against the approved revenue budget for the current financial year. The projected overspend represents a significant financial challenge that will need to be actively managed throughout the remainder of the year. Work is underway across services to identify mitigating actions and opportunities to reduce the forecast overspend and improve financial performance. If the forecast overspend materialises by the end of the financial year, it will be a further call on earmarked reserves, reducing the resources available to support existing commitments and placing further pressure on the Council's financial sustainability and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The Council has developed a programme of transformation and savings through Phase 2 of the Powering Our Futures Programme to help address the underlying budget gap and support long-term financial sustainability. The budget report to Council in February identified a budget gap of £6.7m for the current financial year, this has successfully identified £5.3m so far, with work underway across the Council's Powering our Future's programme to identify the remaining savings.

Nevertheless, growing demand for council services and increases in service delivery costs are placing pressure on the budget for the current financial year, and are likely to place additional strain on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), increasing the budget gap and therefore the level of savings and efficiencies that will be required in future years. While these pressures are not unique to the Council and reflect challenges being experienced across the Local Government Sector, these factors both local and national reflect a significant financial challenge. Maintaining financial sustainability will require continued focus on robust financial management, delivery of transformation plans and timely corrective action.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To provide an update on the Council's financial performance and 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.

2. That the revised Capital Programme at Appendix C be noted.

Detail

FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

GENERAL FUND

3. The following table sets out the projected financial position for each Directorate in 2026/2027, based on information at 30 June 2026. A detailed breakdown of the budget is presented at Appendix A. 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	118,309	117,426	(883)
Children's Services	71,487	73,886	2,399
Children's Services - DSG 10% High Needs Stability Grant	0	1,520	1,520
Neighbourhood Services	55,028	58,156	3,128
Finance, Revenue, Benefits & Welfare	10,258	10,006	(252)
Corporate Services	19,485	19,575	90
Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	3,758	3,473	(285)
Corporate Items	15,508	15,198	(310)
Total	**293,833**	**299,240**	**5,407**
Pay Offer	0	400	400
Revised Total	**293,833**	**299,640**	**5,807**

4. The projected financial position indicates significant pressure in the current financial year, primarily driven by inflationary cost increases and rising demand for services,

resulting in expenditure exceeding budgets. The forecast overspend presents a considerable financial challenge and will place further strain on both current and future years' budgets. All Directorates are actively exploring opportunities to reduce, defer, or avoid expenditure where possible to help mitigate the position. Performance against the budget within the current financial year, and impacts upon future year budgets across the medium term will continue to be closely monitored throughout the remainder of the year, with measures being implemented to improve the forecast.

5. However, delivering planned savings while maintaining existing service levels is becoming increasingly challenging in the current financial climate. This challenge is compounded by the significant medium-term budget gap already facing the Council, as identified in the budget-setting report approved by Council in February. Furthermore, the forecast in-year overspend is expected to place additional pressure on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), increasing the existing budget gap and, consequently, the level of savings and efficiencies that will be required in future years. The need to address both current-year budget pressures and substantial future funding gaps limits the Council's ability to absorb additional costs and reinforces the importance of identifying sustainable solutions to support long-term financial resilience.

REASONS FOR PROJECTED VARIANCE OVER £100,000

6. Detail of the variances against budgets exceeding £100,000 are noted below, and further detail is included at appendix A.

Adults, Health and Wellbeing

7. Based on information at quarter one, Adult Social Care placement budgets are not anticipated to generate any significant variances. However, as these figures are based on placements as at the end of June, demand pressures are usually experienced throughout the winter period which may impact upon these projections. This will continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

8. In June 2026, the UK Supreme Court handed down a landmark judgment which significantly changes how Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are assessed. Understanding the impact of this ruling is still in early stages, but there may be significant savings, projected to be (£445,000). This position will be reviewed over the year.

9. There are anticipated to be savings across Adult Social Care due to staffing vacancies, leading to a projected underspend of (£292,000). However, recruitment is underway for critical posts within the services, so this is likely to reduce.

Children’s Services

10. Members will recall the commentary on the pressures in previous reports and the investment in Children’s Services across recent years, along side a wide raging Transformation Programme of work.

11. The Children's Transformation Programme comprises several service improvement and demand management initiatives, one of which has been the implementation of the Integrated Family Help Front Door in April 2026. Early evidence indicates that the new model is supporting a greater focus on prevention and early intervention, improving access to support for children and families at the earliest opportunity and strengthening partnership working across education, health, voluntary sector organisations and the Council.

12. Whilst it is too early to quantify any financial benefits arising from these changes, the emerging outcomes are positive and indicate the potential to reduce future demand for higher-cost statutory interventions. The increased use of Early Help provision, digital triage tools, Family Hubs and partner-led support is helping to ensure that families receive the right support at the right time through lower-cost community-based services, supporting the longer-term objective of delivering improved outcomes within a more sustainable and cost-effective service model.

13. The proposal to modernise the Fostering Service as part of the Transformation Review was approved by Cabinet in July 2025. The objective is to address the declining number of foster carers and the increasing number of children in external private provider care, to support better outcomes for children in our care, and help give them the best start in life. The proposal aims to build sufficiency within the mainstream fostering service by encouraging new foster carers, retaining existing ones, and meeting the diverse needs of children in care. The business case anticipates less reliance on costly external residential placements, therefore relieving pressure on the budget across the medium term.

14. The MTFP includes savings anticipated to accrue from the implementation of the business case, through moving children from external placements into mainstream fostering arrangements. Securing additional foster carers as an alternative to external residential is on-going and to date the projected savings have not yet materialised. This, accompanied with more children in external residential placements, at higher cost that anticipated, is leading to a projected overspend position on the external residential budget of £2.960m.

15. However, several children have been moved from an external Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) into a mainstream fostering arrangement, which generates a financial saving for the Council. There are anticipated to be savings across internal and external fostering budgets due to less children being supported in these placements than budget, projection at Q1 is (£510,000).

16. There are more children being supported in a connected foster care arrangement than anticipated in the budget, leading to a projected overspend position. However, work is on-going to identify children who could be supported under a Special Guardianship Order. The projected overspend across these budgets is £340,000 to the year end, however if more children can move across to Special Guardianship Orders this position will improve.

17. There is anticipated to be a savings against adoption allowances paid to adoptive parents in the financial year (£100,000).

18. The additional children in connected care arrangements are leading to staffing pressures within the Family Placement Team, equating to an estimate of £120,000. This is offset with staffing vacancies across the safeguarding teams (£120,000).

19. Recruitment of Education Psychologists continues to be a challenge and is a recognised national issue for Local Authorities, with continued reliance on use of external professionals to deliver assessments. Additional budget was provided within the 2026/2027 MTFP, however the budget is projected to be overspent by a further £102,000.

20. Reviewing of grants and availability of one-off resources continues to be a key focus of work across the Council. This has identified (£291,000) of one-off resources to mitigate the Children's Services position. Also grant has been awarded to support Family Finding, Befriending and Mentoring which was not budgeted and will lead to a saving of (£100,000).

Children's Services – Dedicated Schools Grant

21. Members will recall in previous reports, that the Council is experiencing growing demand in services and costs for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND). This is also true of many Councils across the Country. These costs are met by the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is accounted for in a separate ring-fenced account.

22. Earlier this year, the Government announced changes to the arrangements for funding Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits. Under the proposed arrangements, local authorities may be eligible for a Sustainability Grant of up to 90% of their cumulative DSG deficit as at 31 March 2026, subject to meeting specified grant conditions. In recognition of the uncertainty surrounding the final level of support, the Council prudently set aside funding at the 2025/26 outturn to meet its anticipated 10% contribution towards the historic deficit.

23. The Council has submitted its SEND Local Area Reform Plan and is awaiting the outcome of the Department for Education's assessment, including confirmation of the level of Sustainability Grant funding that may be awarded. In addition, further Government announcements are expected later in the year regarding the long-term funding arrangements and accounting treatment for existing and future DSG deficits. Pending this clarification, it is considered prudent to continue providing for 10% of any in-year DSG deficit, consistent with the approach adopted by many other local authorities. This provision helps mitigate financial risk and ensures that any future liability can be accommodated within the Council's medium-term financial planning assumptions.

24. The overall DSG is forecast to show an in year overspend of £15.2m, we are therefore assuming £1.52m will be required to be funded in the current financial year. There is more detail on the reasons for the forecast overspend later in this report.

Neighbourhood Services

25. Waste – the council implemented a new waste collection service in April in line with the introduction of the Simpler Recycling legislation and statutory weekly food waste collections. This is a fundamental change in the way waste was collected and required a major change to the service operations, following a scrutiny review in 2024.

26. The new model has reduced the volume of residual waste sent for disposal through incineration and landfill, generating cost savings. While the service remains in the early stages of implementation, initial data indicates that tonnage reductions are exceeding expectations. As a result, disposal costs are forecast to be lower than anticipated, with projected savings of £700,000 by year-end. However, these figures are based on early data and will need to be monitored over a longer period before a steady-state position can be confirmed.

27. The projected income from the selling of recyclable materials is significantly down on budget to date, due to international factors affecting the resale value of recyclable materials, leading to a forecast deficit of £400,000 against the projected income target by year end.

28. The income from the green waste bins has not grown in line with the financial model and as such there is forecast to be a £300,000 shortfall against this area.

29. The new waste collection model is still in the early phase of roll out, and more time will be required to monitor participation levels. In order to ensure kerbside collection is met in respect of recycling, additional waste collection rounds have been required to meet demand. This has resulted in additional costs and therefore the cost of collection is currently projected to be £942,000 higher than the original modelling and budget.

30. Work is ongoing across departments to understand the current position and identify ways to mitigate the projected financial pressures. The service is undertaking a deep dive review and this will be reported to a future Cabinet meeting.

31. The vehicles budget is forecast to overspend by £1.1m. This is primarily because of an increased number of vehicles being hired to meet the increased uptake of recycling and food waste, amounting to £750,000 of the projected overspend. Alongside this, the conflict in the Middle East is driving an increase in the costs of fuel across the country.

32. Income from the crematorium is below that currently budgeted, £100,000. Work is ongoing to understand what opportunities there are to drive this and address the shortfall.

33. Home to School transport continues to see significant financial pressures, and these are intrinsically linked to the drivers of the DSG deficit outlined elsewhere in this report. The main drivers of this are a growth in young people requiring passenger assistants and increased costs of external buses and taxis. These are currently forecast to generate a pressure of £628,000.

34. The catering service continues to experience financial pressures due to the increase in food costs and rising staffing costs. Whilst significant work has been undertaken to

address this since the previous financial year, including price increases, there is still expected to be a £226,000 pressure on this service in 2026-27.

35. Within the transport service there is an increased cost in the Concessionary Fares service from £3.7m to £4.0m for 2026-27, thus adding a £300,000 pressure to the Council. This scheme is delivered by the TVCA who undertake negotiations with the main operators on behalf of the Tees Valley authorities.

Finance, Revenue, Benefits & Welfare

36. There are anticipated to be significant savings across the Directorate due to staffing vacancies, leading to a projected underspend of (£252,000).

Corporate Services

37. Legal Services is projecting a net overspend of £247,000, driven by factors outside the service’s direct control. Case volumes and complexity relating to Children’s Services have increased significantly this year, requiring greater use of external specialist legal advice and representation from counsel, together with associated court and ancillary costs. This has created a gross pressure of £447,000, partially offset by £200,000 of staffing vacancy savings, reducing the net position to £247,000.

38. There are anticipated to be savings within the Procurement and Governance Service due to staffing vacancies, leading to a projected underspend of (£140,000).

Regeneration and Inclusive Growth

39. There is an anticipated underspend of (£476,000), mainly driven by ensuring the continued efficient use of grants together with savings from vacant posts. This is partially offset by pressures arising from income shortfalls and additional costs associated with held assets £157,000

Corporate Items

40. Treasury Management (AMRA) costs have been reviewed. The Council is currently benefiting from an improved position in the short term. The Council has retained a higher level of cash balances than originally anticipated and is benefiting from investment interest earned on these. This is mainly due to reprofiling of the capital programme and interest rates remaining at a higher rate than originally forecast, resulting in savings against budget of (£270,000). This continues to be subject to volatility in interest rates.

Pay Offer 2026/2027

41. The pay award for 2026/27 for employees on National Joint Council (inc. Chief Officers) terms and conditions has been agreed with the trade unions. The terms of the pay award are that all employees will receive an increase of 3.3%. This will be paid to employees as part of their September salary. The MTFP for 2026/27 included a provision at 3%, therefore the additional amount above this has resulted in a budget pressure of £400,000.

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT

42. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ringfenced grant received to deliver defined education services including Schools, Early Years and Special Educational Needs (High Needs). The grant is awarded by the Department for Education on an annual basis, and the amount is determined by a national formula. Members will recall in previous reports, that the Council is experiencing growing demand in services and costs for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND). This is also true of many Councils across the Country.

43. 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 currently included within the Council's overall budget. The deficit on 31 March 2026 was £17.134m.

44. The Final Local Government Finance Settlement included some announcements on the approach to addressing DSG deficits, whilst the Government transitions to reform the SEND system. The initial phase will address historic deficits accrued up to 31 March 2026. All local authorities with a SEND deficit will be eligible to receive a High Needs Stability Grant, subject to approval of a Local SEND Reform Plan by the Department of Education, covering 90% of their High Needs-related DSG deficit accrued up to the end of 2025-26, which will be paid in 2026/27.

45. If the reform plan is approved and all other conditions are met, then the authority will receive a Stability Grant payment of £15.4m in the autumn of 2026. Local authorities must meet the cost of the residual 10%. In preparing the year-end financial position, the positive movement across directorate budgets enabled sufficient funding to be identified to set aside the required 10% (£1.7m) in reserves, avoiding the requirement to identify further savings.

46. There is a statutory override in place until 31st March 2028, meaning that any on the DSG is accounted for separately within an unusable reserve within the Council's accounts.

47. Members will recall that the budget setting report in February 2026 allocated £500,000 per year to meet the costs of servicing the financing of the accrued deficit. The Council will still incur these costs until the stability grant is approved and paid, therefore the allocation of £500,000 for the current financial year is still anticipated to be needed. This will continue to be monitored, alongside government announcements relating to current and future year deficits, and any variation to the existing financial plans will be reflected in future MTFP reports.

48. The table below summarises the estimated year-end financial position for the DSG budget. This shows an in-year overspend on the High Needs Block of £15.2m. There have not been any announcements from the government associated with grant funding

2026/27 deficits but if they do apply the same criteria then the Council will need to find the remaining 10% which would equate to £1.52m.

Dedicated Schools Grant 2026/27	**Annual Budget £'000**	**Quarter 1 Projection £'000**	**Variance £'000**
DSG Expenditure			
Schools Block	184,877	184,877	0
Central Schools Block	1,479	1,479	0
Early Years Block	37,533	37,533	0
High Needs Block	46,972	62,169	15,197
Total DSG Expenditure	**270,861**	**286,058**	**15,197**
DSG Funding	(270,861)	(270,861)	0
In-year deficit	**0**	**15,197**	**15,197**
DfE Stability Grant			
Cumulative Unusable Reserve at 31/03/2026 (DSG Deficit)			17,134
Estimated DfE Stability Grant (90%)			(15,421)
Estimated SBC contribution required to offset deficit (10%)			(1,713)
In-year deficit 2026/27 (as above)			15,197
Estimated DfE Stability Grant (Assumption 90% but not confirmed)			(13,677)
Estimated SBC contribution required to 2026/27 deficit (10%)			(1,520)

49. Details of significant variances against budget estimated to occur during the 2026/27 financial year are:

- Independent Special School placements – £5.15m overspend expected as numbers are still increasing along with fee increases.
- £0.503m additional high needs place recoupment costs expected relating to new ARP/SEN Units.
- £0.220m anticipated overspend relating to tutoring support costs with external providers.
- £0.460m overspend expected on additional top-ups/exceptional payments to maintained schools.
- Academy High Needs top-up funding - £4.4m overspend expected. Funding to support new ARP/SEN Units. Expected exceptional payments and further top-ups/additional payments to SBC mainstream schools and SBC Special Academies.
- Out of area schools (not independent) - £3.6m overspend expected. Number of places still increasing. Currently 177 placements although the budget was based on 138.

- Post-16 top-ups - £0.460m overspend expected. Increase in number/cost of post-16 high needs pupils, including some agreed exceptional payments to an SBC Special Academy.
- Alternative Provision - £0.250m overspend expected on tuition costs and additional top-up funding relating for pupils, who due to exclusion, illness, or other circumstances would not receive suitable education. Numbers of children being excluded continues to rise.

Powering Our Futures – Transformation Reviews

50. The Council's Powering our Futures programme is well established, and work is progressing across the large transformation mission, resulting in savings or additional income to address the budget gap. The transformation reviews are focusing on day-to-day efficiencies, alongside Outcome based Reviews and cross council transformation. This approach aims to balance continuous improvement in services ensuring they are fit for purpose to address the challenges faced, and that the Council continues to be a high-performing, sustainable council that does our best for communities alongside the need for decisive and immediate financial savings.

51. Several reports have been presented to cabinet this financial year, detailing the progress of the reviews and the impact upon the MTFP to date. The current position is reflected in the table below:

Date of Report	Title of Report	Savings Identified 26/27 £	Savings Identified 27/28 £	Savings Identified 28/29 £
	Budget Gap (February 2026)	**6,700,000**	**13,775,000**	**18,365,000**
14th May 2026	Powering our Future - Transformation Reviews Update	(2,974,000)	(2,364,000)	(2,364,000)
14th May 2026	Yarm Levelling Up Fund – Reconsideration of Decision following Call-in	(1,015,000)	(65,000)	(65,000)
16th July 2026	Powering our Future - Transformation Reviews Update	(1,231,000)	(1,091,000)	(1,091,000)
	Total Savings Identified to date	**(5,220,000)**	**(3,520,000)**	**(3,520,000)**
	Remaining Budget Gap	1,480,000	10,255,000	14,845,000

52. The table above shows that the programme has identified £5.2m of savings in 26/27, with work underway to identify the remaining £1.5m. The revised budget gap for 2027/28 is now £10.3m and £14.8m in 2028/29. This is prior to any updates required to the MTFP from 2027/28 onwards reflecting factors such as cost inflation, increased demand for services and government funding.

53. The Council continues to face a highly challenging financial position. Should the projected quarter one forecast overspends materialise at year end, it will place additional pressure on future years' budgets alongside the existing and significant medium-term budget gap. The widening gap between available funding and forecast expenditure is not sustainable, and reliance on reserves to support recurring expenditure cannot be considered a long-term solution.

54. The Council's transformation programme, service reviews and efficiency initiatives, including Phase 2 of the Powering Our Futures Programme, will continue to play a critical role in addressing these financial pressures. However, the scale of the challenge means that further action and difficult decisions are likely to be required and delivered at pace, to ensure the Council achieves a balanced and sustainable financial position over the medium term, while continuing to deliver essential services and support for local communities

General Fund Balances and Earmarked Reserves

55. The Council's General Fund balances and earmarked reserves are reviewed regularly as part of the budget monitoring and Medium-Term Financial Planning process. Members will recall that recent reports have highlighted the critical importance of maintaining adequate reserves and balances in ensuring the Council's financial resilience and ability to manage unforeseen financial risks. The Council's earmarked reserves have reduced steadily over several years, largely as a consequence of funding budget overspends and supporting service delivery in a period of sustained financial challenge.

56. The reserves strategy approved by Council as part of the budget setting report in February established a clear plan to rebuild earmarked reserves and General Fund balances to a more sustainable level over the life of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). This approach was reflected within the approved 2026/27 budget and indicative MTFP and was intended to strengthen the Council's financial resilience and capacity to respond to future risks and pressures.

57. If the forecast overspend for 2026/27 materialises by year end, this will need to be funded. As outlined above, significant work is underway across all Directorates and the senior leadership team to mitigate the financial pressures currently being experienced. However, given the scale of the projected overspend, it is likely that there will remain a requirement to draw upon reserves to fund part of the in-year budget deficit should the current forecast materialise at year end.

58. Any additional use of reserves would further exacerbate an already challenging reserves position and would reduce the Council's ability to respond to future financial risks and unforeseen events. Any in-year use of reserves will therefore need to be carefully considered and reflected as part of the 2027/28 budget setting process and future revisions to the MTFP.

59. The table in Appendix B provides an updated projection of the Council's reserve balances across the Medium-Term Financial Plan period. The opening balance of earmarked reserves at the start of 2026/27 was £27.469m. Planned contributions to reserves as per the MTFP report and planned reserve usage are anticipated to lead to reserves balances of £22.153m by the end of the financial year. The Council's reserves are earmarked to fund existing service delivery and commitments, redirecting them to support the MTFP will result in ceasing service activity and weakened financial resilience. Should the current forecast overspend materialise, this would reduce reserves to £16.346m, by the end of the financial year. This is materially below the reserve levels assumed when the budget was approved in February and is not considered sustainable over the medium term. Consequently, action will be required through future budget-setting and transformation activity to restore reserve balances to an appropriate level.

60. A comprehensive review of earmarked reserves is currently underway to reassess existing commitments, ensure reserve provisions remain aligned to current risks and priorities, and identify any opportunities to release or repurpose funding. Whilst this work may provide some limited flexibility to support the Council's financial position, the underlying budget challenge remains significant and cannot be addressed through reserves alone. Sustainable recurring solutions will be required to secure a balanced budget and support the replenishment of reserves over the medium term

Medium Term Financial Plan Outlook

61. The in-year projected position for the current financial year provides important intelligence to inform and predict matters which may impact upon future years' budgets and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The financial pressures currently being experienced across several service areas are likely to have longer-term implications for the Council's financial sustainability and may require a reassessment of future funding requirements, savings targets and service delivery models.

62. When the indicative MTFP was approved by Council in February, it included provision for growth across several services to reflect known and anticipated cost pressures. The largest areas with existing budget growth allocations within the MTFP are Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and pay awards. Work is ongoing to understand the longer-term impact of the current year's financial projections on future budgets and to assess whether existing growth assumptions remain sufficient.

63. In addition, the Council's financial planning assumptions will need to be reviewed in light of recent national announcements, including the business rates reconciliation, which have demonstrated the potential for changes in funding levels and resource allocation. Further announcements are expected as part of the Autumn Budget and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, the outcomes of which may have a significant impact on the Council's future financial position and medium-term planning assumptions. These announcements will be carefully assessed as further information becomes available and reflected in future MTFP update reports.

64. The Council continues to face a highly challenging financial position, with current and emerging budget pressures expected to have implications for both the current year and the medium-term financial outlook. Phase 2 of the Powering Our Futures Programme will continue with a renewed focus on identifying and delivering timely and sustainable solutions to address the Council's financial challenges and improve long-term financial resilience. This will require continued emphasis on transformation, service redesign, delivery at pace, efficiency improvements and robust financial management to ensure the Council can achieve a balanced and sustainable financial position over the medium term whilst continuing to deliver essential services and support for local communities.

CAPITAL

65. The Capital Programme is summarised below and shown at **Appendix C.**

Capital Programme up to 2030	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Changes @ 30/06/26	Revised Capital Programme	Prior year spend	Capital Programme 26/27	Capital Programme 27/28	Capital Programme 28/29	Capital Programme 29/30	External (Grants & Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)
At 30/06/26	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**
Adults, Health and Wellbeing	6,808	6,340	3,024	9,363	1,813	3,961	1,717	264	1,607	(7,736)	-	(1,628)
Children's Services	21,355	28,455	705	29,160	8,378	12,426	6,031	2,325	-	(27,736)	(734)	(690)
Neighbourhood Services	53,593	38,420	(251)	38,169	12,503	16,125	7,622	1,919	-	(22,422)	(12,220)	(3,527)
Finance, Revs, Bens & Welfare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate Services	900	658	-	658	658	-	-	-	-	-	-	(658)
Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	158,845	152,572	(888)	151,684	62,367	47,987	33,168	500	7,663	(99,942)	(46,769)	(4,973)
Corporate Items	19,350	18,616	-	18,616	-	616	6,000	6,000	6,000	-	(18,616)	-
Total Approved Capital MTFP	**260,852**	**245,061**	**2,590**	**247,651**	**85,719**	**81,115**	**54,538**	**11,008**	**15,270**	**(157,836)**	**(78,339)**	**(11,476)**

66. The capital programme has increased by £2.59m from £245.061m to £247.651m since the Outturn report to Cabinet in July 2026. The table below shows the changes between financial years. Further detail in respect of all changes covering, re-profiling of schemes, additions and virements on a scheme by scheme basis are shown in appendix C.

Capital Programme up to 2030	**Prior years**	**Capital Programme 26/27**	**Capital Programme 27/28**	**Capital Programme 28/29**	**Capital Programme 29/30**	**Total Capital Programme**	**External (Grants and Contributions)**	**Internal (Borrowing)**	**Internal (Other)**
At 30/06/26	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**	**£000's**
Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	85,719	94,944	43,358	21,039	-	245,061	(153,940)	(78,339)	(12,782)
Changes @ 30/06/26	-	(13,829)	11,180	(10,031)	15,270	2,590	(3,896)	-	1,306
Revised Programme @ 30/06/26	**85,719**	**81,115**	**54,538**	**11,008**	**15,270**	**247,651**	**(157,836)**	**(78,339)**	**(11,476)**

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

67. 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

68. None

Financial Implications

69. The report updates on the financial position for 2026/27 based on information for the first quarter of the financial year.

Legal Implications

70. There are no specific legal implications.

Risk Assessment

71. The report provides an update to Members on projected year end position for 2026/2027, based on information at 30 June 2026. The MTFP is included within the Council's Strategic Risk Register. The current approved MTFP identifies a large budget reduction required, with Transformation Plans in place via the Council's Powering our Futures Programme. Constant and frequent monitoring of the financial position will be ongoing to measure delivery of the plan and the risk level revised in line with this.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

72. N/A

Background Papers

73. Medium Term Financial Plan Update & Strategy Report to Council 18 February 2026

74. Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Outturn March 2026 16 July 2026

Name of Contact Officer: Clare Harper

Post Title: Chief Financial Officer

Telephone number: 01642 528377

Email Address: clare.harper@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix A

Directorate	Annual Budget	Projected Outturn	June Q1 Variance Over/(Under)	Comment
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	
Directorate Wide - Adults, Health & Wellbeing	931	888	(43)	Staffing vacancies
Adult Services	11,234	10,985	(249)	Staffing vacancies
Direct Payments	11,912	11,943	31	Lower clients than budget receiving Learning Disability Direct Payment
Residential & Nursing Placements	38,458	38,368	(90)	Lower clients than budget in a Learning Disability residential placement
Commissioned Homecare	21,703	21,643	(60)	Lower clients than budget receiving MH homecare. Saving offset in part due to two new high-cost packages for young people transitioning from Children's services.
Social Care Management	9,030	8,585	(445)	DoLs assessments reduced following UK Supreme Court judgement
Public Health	16,053	16,053	0	
Community Safety & Regulated Services	4,177	4,177	0	
Housing & Fairer Stockton	4,811	4,784	(27)	Staffing vacancies
TOTAL - Adults, Health & Wellbeing	**118,309**	**117,426**	**(883)**	

Directorate Wide - Children's Services	(928)	(1,219)	(291)	Ongoing review of grants and availability of one-off resources has identified one-off funds to mitigate the Children's Services position.
CIOC & Care Leavers	8,842	8,962	120	Staffing pressures in the Family Placement Teams
SBC Childrens Homes	6,278	6,345	67	Staffing overspends
Special Guardianship	2,525	2,305	(220)	Lower SGO placements than budget.
Connected Persons	2,870	3,390	520	Significantly more placements than budge.
External Residential	19,150	22,110	2,960	Continued increases in the cost of external residential placements as well as escalating needs, requiring greater levels of care.
SBC Fostering	2,965	2,635	(330)	Several children have been moved from an external Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) into a mainstream fostering arrangement, which generates a financial saving for the Council
External Fostering	5,400	5,220	(180)	
SBC Adoption Costs	850	750	(100)	There is anticipated to be a savings against allowances paid to adopters in the financial year
Safeguarding	8,708	8,556	(152)	Staffing vacancies
Early Help, Youth Justice & Youth Support	4,729	4,609	(120)	Staffing vacancies and additional grant Income for Family finding, befriending and mentoring programme awarded
Education, Inclusion & Achievement	7,114	7,259	145	Recruitment to Education Psychologists is a major issue alongside several other local authorities. External professionals used to deliver assessments
Children's Strategy & Commissioning	637	637	0	
Practice Development	1,304	1,224	(80)	Staffing vacancies

Quality & Improvement	1,043	1,103	60	Staffing overspends
TOTAL - Children's Services	**71,487**	**73,886**	**2,399**	
Directorate Wide – Neighbourhood Services	127	127	0	
Community Services & Transport	16,405	16,146	(259)	Staffing vacancies and additional highways income
Waste	10,772	11,714	942	Staffing overspends due to higher participation levels than originally anticipated following implementation of new waste collection service
Bereavement Registrars Crematorium	(849)	(749)	100	Shortfall in income, predominantly in relation to the crematorium.
Community Transport	8,610	9,238	628	Growth in young people requiring passenger assistants and increased costs of external buses and taxis
Vehicle Services	5,055	6,155	1,100	The vehicles budget is forecast to overspend due to increased vehicle hire requirements to meet growing recycling and food waste demand, together with higher fuel costs.
Catering	(112)	114	226	The catering service continues to face cost pressures from higher food prices
Transport	3,742	4,103	361	Higher concessionary fares costs, resulting from increased scheme charges set by TVCA.
Culture, Libraries & Events	4,748	4,772	24	Minor variances
Environment & Leisure	2,942	2,942	0	

Customer Services	1,167	1,173	6	Minor variances
Digital Services	2,421	2,421	0	
TOTAL - Neighbourhood Services	**55,028**	**58,156**	**3,128**	
Directorate Wide - Finance, Revenue, Benefits & Welfare	(628)	(628)	0	
Finance Services	1,774	1,705	(69)	Staffing vacancies
Revenues, Benefits, Welfare & Admin	9,112	8,929	(183)	Staffing vacancies
TOTAL - Finance, Revenue, Benefits & Welfare	**10,258**	**10,006**	**(252)**	
Directorate Wide - Corporate Services	186	193	7	Minor Variances
Legal Services	2,243	2,490	247	Increased use of external barristers and associated court costs. higher volume of cases and increased complexity relating to Children's Services cases. Offset in part by staffing vacancies
Communications	1,345	1,304	(41)	Staffing Vacancies
Procurement & Governance	4,452	4,312	(140)	Staffing Vacancies
People & OD Service	1,614	1,631	17	Minor Variances
Democratic Services	1,781	1,781	0	

Strategic Planning & Performance	1,855	1,855	0	
Stockton ICT & Xentrall	6,009	6,009	0	
TOTAL - Corporate Services	**19,485**	**19,575**	**90**	
Directorate Wide - Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	56	77	21	Minor variances
Inclusive Growth & Development	2,262	1,943	(319)	Additional income from efficient charging into grants offset by income shortfalls and additional costs associated with held assets
Town Centre Investment	31	44	13	Small shortfall in markets income
Planned Maintenance	1,409	1,409	0	
TOTAL - Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	**3,758**	**3,473**	**(285)**	
Corporate Items	15,508	15,198	(310)	The Council has retained a higher level of cash balances than anticipated and is benefiting from investment interest earned. Other minor savings anticipated.
Pay Offer	0	400	400	Pay Award Expected at 3.3% (Provision 3%)
DSG 10% High Needs Stability Grant Shortfall	0	1,520	1,520	Forecast overspend £15.2m in-year; assuming 90% Government SEND Stability Grant contribution, the remaining 10%, £1.52m would need to be funded by the Council.
TOTAL - Corporate Items	**15,508**	**17,118**	**1,610**	
TOTAL	**293,833**	**299,640**	**5,807**	

Appendix B

Earmarked Reserves	Opening Balance 26/27	Forecast Movement 26/27	Forecast Closing Bal 26/27	Forecast Movement 27/28	Forecast Closing Bal 27/28	Forecast Movement 28/29	Forecast Closing Bal 28/29	Forecast Movement 29/30	Forecast Closing Bal 29/30
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Scheme Reserves	(5,297)	4,337	(959)	800	(159)	0	(159)	158	(1)
Insurance Fund	(4,517)	274	(4,243)	0	(4,243)	0	(4,243)	0	(4,243)
Service Development & Improvement	(2,019)	1,610	(409)	111	(298)	111	(186)	86	(100)
Partnership / Statutory Reserves	(2,142)	587	(1,555)	1,228	(327)	280	(47)	47	(1)
Transformation & Implementation	(4,759)	720	(4,039)	445	(3,594)	31	(3,563)	(92)	(3,655)
MTFP Support Reserve	(1,063)	(3,000)	(4,063)	(3,000)	(7,063)	(3,000)	(10,063)	(3,000)	(13,063)
DSG Deficit Support Reserve	(1,700)	0	(1,700)	1,700	0	0	0	0	0
Pooled Funds and Interest Rate Risk	(1,000)	0	(1,000)	0	(1,000)	1,000	0	0	0
PFI Scheme Liability	(1,420)	161	(1,259)	292	(967)	146	(821)	521	(300)
Public Health Reserve	(756)	627	(129)	71	(58)	58	(0)	0	(0)
Schools Related Reserves	(2,795)	0	(2,795)	500	(2,295)	500	(1,795)	500	(1,295)
Total	**(27,469)**	**5,316**	**(22,153)**	**2,147**	**(20,006)**	**(874)**	**(20,879)**	**(1,780)**	**(22,660)**

General Fund	(8,000)	(1,000)	(9,000)	(1,000)	(10,000)	(1,000)	(11,000)	(1,000)	(12,000)

Appendix C

Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Financial Year 26/27: Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Financial Year 26/27: Slippage/ Acceleration	Financial Year 26/27: Virement	Financial Year 26/27: Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Financial Year 26/27: Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026: External (Grants and Contributions)	Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026: Internal (Borrowing)	Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026: Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	**£'s**	
ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING																
Independent Living - Adults with Learning Disabilities	202,000	45,459	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156,551	202,010	45,459	(202,010)	-	-	
Affordable Housing	910,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	910,000	910,000	-	-	-	(910,000)	
Victoria Estate Regeneration	540,514	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	540,514	540,514	-	-	-	(540,514)	
Homeowner Improvement Loan	267,984	20,196	247,788	(199,164)	-	1,376	50,000	199,164	-	-	269,360	20,196	(92,324)	-	(177,036)	£199,164 has been slipped to 27/28 based on current loan requirements.
Disabled Adaptations	2,890,486	1,725,115	1,165,371	(828,749)	-	2,476,854	2,813,476	828,749	-	-	5,367,340	1,890,260	(5,367,340)	-	-	Grant funding for Disabled Facilities has been included in the programme, £2,319,668 for 26/27 and £149,280 relating to the additional grant allocated at the end of 25/26. £828,749 has been slipped to 27/28 based on current information. This will be updated at Q2 26/27.
Accelerated Affordable Housing Delivery - SBC site redevelopment	150,000	22,514	127,486	-	-	-	127,486	-	-	-	150,000	67,406	(150,000)	-	-	
Accelerated Affordable Housing Delivery - Property Acquisition	1,378,905	-	531,006	158,446	-	-	689,452	689,453	-	-	1,378,905	-	(1,378,905)	-	-	Slipped £158,446 from 27/28 to 26/27; this will cover the set up costs and initial purchase of properties for the scheme.
Local Authority Housing Fund 4	-	-	-	(264,402)	-	545,304	280,902	-	264,402	-	545,304	-	(545,304)	-	-	Local Authority Housing Fund Round 4 has been awarded to the authority, £545,304 grant funding has been added to the programme. The funding will be used to support the purchase of 6 properties to deliver affordable housing with a delivery partner. This is a multi year scheme that ends in 29/30.
Local Authority Housing Fund 3	468,490	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
TOTAL ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING	**6,808,379**	**1,813,284**	**2,071,651**	**(1,133,869)**	-	**3,023,534**	**3,961,316**	**1,717,366**	**264,402**	**1,607,065**	**9,363,433**	**2,023,321**	**(7,735,883)**	-	**(1,627,550)**	

			Financial Year 26/27										Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026			
Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Slippage/ Acceleration	Virement	Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	External (Grants and Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	
CHILDRENS SERVICES																
School Planned Maintenance	2,252,127	-	1,196,337	(704,984)	-	704,984	1,196,337	704,984	-	-	1,901,321	13,682	(1,901,321)	-	-	Grant funding for Schools Capital Maintenance for 26/27 has been added to the programme, £704,984, this funding will be used for additional works in year or the 27/28 programme.
Oxbridge Primary	8,238,000	7,033,990	1,204,010	-	-	-	1,204,010	-	-	-	8,238,000	7,406,889	(8,238,000)	-	-	
St John the Baptist Primary School	5,555,058	757,344	4,650,920	-	-	-	4,650,920	-	-	-	5,408,264	1,096,751	(5,408,264)	-	-	
Mill Lane Primary School	1,700,000	82,559	1,617,441	-	-	-	1,617,441	-	-	-	1,700,000	164,945	(1,700,000)	-	-	
Northfield School & Sports College	1,250,000	25,535	1,224,465	-	-	-	1,224,465	-	-	-	1,250,000	31,985	(1,250,000)	-	-	
Bishopton Pru	-	8,327	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,327	8,327	(8,327)	-	-	
Secondary School Adaptations - St Michael's	-	2,801	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,801	2,801	(2,801)	-	-	
SEND Higher Needs Capital Provision	-	-	2,334,644	(2,325,000)	-	-	9,644	2,325,000	2,325,000	-	4,659,644	-	(4,659,644)	-	-	Programme to be refined and presented to Cabinet later this year, linked to local area reform plan priorities
Assistive Technology Lending Libraries	31,525	18,818	12,707	-	-	-	12,707	-	0	-	31,525	23,112	(31,525)	-	-	
Schools Unallocated Programme Contingency	592,827	0	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	-	-	-	600,000	-	(600,000)	-	-	
Basic Need Grant Capital Provision	114,609	-	3,001,268	(3,001,268)	-	-	-	3,001,268	-	-	3,001,268	-	(3,001,268)	-	-	Programme to be refined and presented to Cabinet later this year, linked to local area reform plan priorities
Preston Primary School	385,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Ash Trees Satellite at Billingham South	5,177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Durham Lane SEN Toilets	14,469	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Childcare Expansion Fund	406,788	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Children's Homes - Edge of Care	655,641	335,524	320,117	-	-	-	320,117	-	-	-	655,641	350,224	(201,412)	-	(454,229)	
Children's Carer extensions/ adaptation works	153,521	112,688	123,355	-	-	-	123,355	-	-	-	236,043	127,927	-	-	(236,043)	
Children's Homes - Complex Dual	-	-	733,570	-	-	-	733,570	-	-	-	733,570	-	(366,785)	(366,785)	-	

Childrens Homes - Complex Solo	-	-	733,570	-	-	-	733,570	-	-	-	733,570	-	(366,785)	(366,785)	-	
TOTAL CHILDRENS SERVICES	**21,354,742**	**8,377,586**	**17,752,404**	**(6,031,252)**	**-**	**704,984**	**12,426,136**	**6,031,252**	**2,325,000**	**-**	**29,159,974**	**9,226,642**	**(27,736,132)**	**(733,570)**	**(690,272)**	

This document was classified as: OFFICIAL

			Financial Year 26/27										Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026			
Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Slippage/ Acceleration	Virement	Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	External (Grants and Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES																
Integrated Transport	852,967	-	1,292,088	-	(60,000)	5,241	1,237,329	-	-	-	1,237,329	41,421	(1,237,329)	-	-	
Carriageways	2,374,747	-	1,824,334	-	(21,849)	2,395	1,804,880	-	-	-	1,804,880	489,198	(1,804,880)	-	-	
Bridges	523,251	-	880,000	-	60,600	-	940,600	-	-	-	940,600	42,175	(940,600)	-	-	
Structural Maintenance	567,941	-	559,551	-	21,249	-	580,800	-	-	-	580,800	133,451	(580,800)	-	-	
Other	3,666,632	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Eaglescliffe Station New Car park & Access	3,065,508	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Newport Bridge	2,171,152	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
A689 Hanzard Drive Feasibility	460,640	460,640	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460,640	460,640	(460,640)	-	-	
Strategic Urban Expansion - West Stockton	3,655,105	128,586	3,389,311	-	-	-	3,389,311	-	-	-	3,517,897	139,372	(3,468,051)	-	(49,846)	
Cycleway feasibility and design - Norton Road	450,000	433,776	16,224	-	-	-	16,224	-	-	-	450,000	433,776	(450,000)	-	-	
A19/A689 Interchange Improvements (feasibility)	660,000	660,758	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	660,758	660,758	(660,758)	-	-	
A19/A689 Interchange Improvements (construction)	4,500,000	-	4,500,000	(3,500,000)	-	-	1,000,000	3,500,000	-	-	4,500,000	-	(4,500,000)	-	-	The main construction is due to start later in the year therefore £3,500,000 has been slipped to 27/28.
Cycleway feasibility and design - Preston Park to Bowesfield	40,000	-	40,000	-	-	(40,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cycleway feasibility and design - Yarm to Stockton	70,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Cycleway feasibility and design - Stockton Town Centre	400,000	599,206	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	599,206	599,206	(599,206)	-	-	
Cycleway feasibility and design - Cowpen Bewley WP to Wolviston	280,000	158,741	121,259	-	-	-	121,259	-	-	-	280,000	158,741	(280,000)	-	-	
Cycleway feasibility and design - Thornaby to Stockton Town Centre	450,000	278,290	171,710	-	-	-	171,710	-	-	-	450,000	281,080	(450,000)	-	-	
Bus route - Ingleby Way / Thornaby	181,500	103,994	47,805	-	-	-	47,806	-	-	-	151,800	107,035	(151,800)	-	-	
S278 - Craythorne Interchange	138,213	138,838	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138,838	138,870	(138,838)	-	-	
S278 - Widening leg of Green Lane Roundabout	5,396	5,396	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,396	5,396	(5,396)	-	-	
S278 - Yarm Back Lane (2 x PRT)	40,000	38,586	1,414	-	-	-	1,414	-	-	-	40,000	38,586	(40,000)	-	-	
S278 - LILO at Ingleby Manor	37,334	37,334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,334	37,334	(37,334)	-	-	
S278 - Yarm back Lane Shared PRT	69,547	49,276	20,271	-	-	-	20,271	-	-	-	69,547	49,276	(69,547)	-	-	
S278 - Signalised Junction Development on Harrowgate Lane	60,690	65,085	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,085	65,085	(65,085)	-	-	
S278 - 2 x PRT Signalised Junction on Harrowgate Lane	85,731	40,741	44,990	-	-	-	44,990	-	-	-	85,731	45,733	(85,731)	-	-	

S278 - Pedestrian crossing on Green Lane & amends to Bus Stop Locations	121,000	27,272	93,728	-	-	-	93,728	-	-	-	121,000	33,528	(121,000)	-	-	
S278 - Green Lane Yarm Housing Development - PRT and site access	128,560	75,339	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,339	75,339	(75,339)	-	-	
S278 - Green Lane Yarm Housing Development - works to crossroad/roundabout	180,000	31,217	148,783	(145,788)	-	-	2,995	145,788	-	-	180,000	37,207	(180,000)	-	-	Works not expected to commence until next year therefore £145,788 has been slipped to 27/28.
S278 - Widening Works of the A67/Tesco Roundabout	100,000	11,366	88,634	-	-	-	88,634	-	-	-	100,000	11,366	(100,000)	-	-	
S278 - FUJI Borealis	58,989	105,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,030	105,030	(105,030)	-	-	
S106 - Wynyard Footbridge	561,908	561,908	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	561,908	561,908	(561,908)	-	-	
S106 - Horse & Jockey Roundabout	13,589	27,345	130,889	-	-	-	130,889	-	-	-	158,234	32,345	(158,234)	-	-	
S278 - Signalised Junction Development on Harrowgate Lane (Vistry)	50,690	59,852	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59,852	59,852	(59,852)	-	-	
S278 - Low Grange Shopping Parade	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-	
S278 - Norton Shopping Parade	15,000	-	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-	
S278 - Queen Elizabeth Way	-	40,122	-	-	-	2,890	2,890	-	-	-	43,012	43,012	(43,012)	-	-	
S106 - West Street Car Park Yarm	-	(1,226)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,226)	(1,226)	-	-	1,226	
Billingham Forum Solar Panels	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Fairfield Primary School Solar Panels	77,636	72,147	14,697	-	-	-	14,697	-	-	-	86,844	72,147	(86,844)	-	-	
MRF Solar Panels	260,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Trees For Stockton	820,691	546,292	318,951	-	-	-	318,951	-	-	-	865,243	546,292	(865,243)	-	-	
Childrens Outdoor Play Spaces	169,335	92,365	76,970	-	-	-	76,970	-	-	-	169,335	92,365	(36,446)	-	(132,889)	
Stillington Play Area	209,366	157,315	74,579	-	-	-	74,578	-	-	-	231,893	157,315	(231,893)	-	-	
Wynyard Woodland Park	249,507	-	-	-	-	443	443	-	-	-	443	443	-	-	(443)	
Childrens Outdoor Play Spaces (Hardwick Enhanced)	67,165	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Circular Trail	34,857	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Ropner Park Play Area	46,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Redbrook Park	92,677	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Preston Park Play Area	158,468	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park	54,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Littleboy Park	(5,790)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Billingham Beck Habitat Restoration	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Flood Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme - Tees Tidelands	7,077,710	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Greens Beck Culvert	717,360	-	717,360	(317,360)	-	-	400,000	317,360	-	-	717,360	-	(717,360)	-	-	Project is in the design stage therefore

																£317,360 has been slipped to 27/28.
Culvert Screen Access	20,804	-	20,804	-	-	-	20,804	-	-	-	20,804	-	(20,804)	-	-	
Queens Green Canopy	-	32,097	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,097	32,097	(32,097)	-	-	
Worsall Road Culvert	-	-	130,000	(211,112)	-	281,112	200,000	211,112	-	-	411,112	-	(411,112)	-	-	Worsall Road Culvert funding has been increased on the programme to reflect the Environment Agency grant agreement. Project is in the design stage therefore £211,112 has been slipped to 27/28.
Billingham Forum Gym Expansion	650,000	620,020	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	625,020	620,020	-	(625,020)	-	
Fairfield Play Area	69,450	-	69,450	-	-	-	69,450	-	-	-	69,450	-	(13,494)	-	(55,956)	
Waste Management Procurement Project	1,384,729	1,813,632	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,813,632	1,813,632	-	(1,813,632)	-	
Household Waste Recycling Centre	2,000,000	60,020	1,939,980	(1,366,980)	-	-	573,000	1,366,980	-	-	2,000,000	510,020	-	-	(2,000,000)	Land has been purchased and the work on site will commence next year therefore £1,366,980 has been slipped to 27/28.
Waste Transfer Station	2,541,210	2,188,264	352,946	-	-	-	352,946	-	-	-	2,541,210	2,257,400	(1,459,898)	(1,081,312)	-	
Waste Receptacles	2,200,000	1,750,514	449,486	(185,000)	-	-	264,486	185,000	-	-	2,200,000	1,925,630	-	(2,200,000)	-	Replacements are scheduled based on need/demand therefore £185,000 has been slipped to 27/28.
Travellers Site	140,000	78,503	61,497	-	-	-	61,497	-	-	-	140,000	78,503	-	-	(140,000)	
White Water Course	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cemeteries	48,611	9,235	194,376	-	-	-	194,376	-	-	-	203,611	85,971	-	-	(203,611)	
Depot provision	-	-	1,096,682	-	-	-	1,096,682	-	-	-	1,096,682	-	(1,096,682)	-	-	
Vehicle Replacement Programme	7,948,278	945,617	3,715,661	(528,000)	-	(502,661)	2,685,000	1,896,000	1,919,000	-	7,445,617	1,350,197	-	(6,500,000)	(945,617)	Vehicle replacement fund has been reduced by £502,661 in line with the approved budget. Based on current replacement programme £528,000 has been slipped to 27/28.
TOTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES	**53,593,417**	**12,503,492**	**22,629,430**	**(6,254,240)**	**-**	**(250,580)**	**16,124,610**	**7,622,240**	**1,919,000**	**-**	**38,169,342**	**14,427,525**	**(22,422,243)**	**(12,219,964)**	**(3,527,136)**	

			Financial Year 26/27										Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026			
Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Slippage/ Acceleration	Virement	Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	External (Grants and Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	
CORPORATE SERVICES																
Xentrall ICT Network	900,000	657,915	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	657,915	657,915	-	-	(657,915)	
TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES	**900,000**	**657,915**	**0**	**0**	-	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	-	**657,915**	**657,915**	**0**	**0**	**(657,915)**	

			Financial Year 26/27										Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026			
Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Slippage/ Acceleration	Virement	Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	External (Grants and Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	
REGENERATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH																
Acquisition & Investment	1,044,394	1,044,394	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,044,394	1,044,394	(1,044,394)	-	-	
Investment Site Infrastructure Durham Lane Industrial Estate	3,613,564	1,714,636	1,944,716	(350,000)	-	-	1,594,716	350,000	-	-	3,659,352	1,827,289	(3,659,352)	-	-	£350,000 has been slipped to 27/28 to enable additional infrastructure works required to open up development plots, following completion of the main Teeslink works.
Inward Investment Strategy	455,606	311,067	144,539	-	-	-	144,539	-	-	-	455,606	331,686	(455,606)	-	-	
Business Growth Fund	1,000,000	888,826	111,174	-	-	-	111,174	-	-	-	1,000,000	906,581	(1,000,000)	-	-	
Regeneration Investment	131,000	76,148	9,064	-	-	-	9,064	-	-	-	85,212	82,127	(85,212)	-	-	
Additional Accommodation	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	(1,500,000)	
Billingham Sports Hub	800,000	789,185	10,815	-	-	-	10,815	-	-	-	800,000	800,000	(800,000)	-	-	
Building Control System	-	-	-	-	-	63,000	63,000	-	-	-	63,000	-	(63,000)	-	-	
Democratic Space/Council Chamber	1,250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Stockton Town Centre - Infrastructure Projects	29,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Townscape Heritage	2,756,032	1,736,861	1,049,024	-	-	-	1,049,024	-	-	-	2,785,885	1,736,861	(2,181,906)	-	(603,979)	
Town Hall / Debenhams / small units split	6,500,000	24,750	3,000,000	(2,000,000)	-	-	1,000,000	5,475,250	-	-	6,500,000	24,750	-	(6,500,000)	-	£2,000,000 slipped to 27/28 as scheme is currently in feasibility/design stage.
Splash Redevelopment	8,500,000	66,868	509,890	-	-	-	509,890	7,923,242	-	-	8,500,000	66,868	-	(8,500,000)	-	
Wellington Square Car Park Resurfacing	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	(1,000,000)	-	
Town Centre Developments - unused borrowing approvals	7,662,960	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,662,960	7,662,960	-	-	(7,662,960)	-	

Billingham Town Centre	30,000,000	303,281	11,277,675	-	-	-	11,277,675	18,419,044	-	-	30,000,000	337,112	(20,000,000)	(10,000,000)	-	
Ingleby Barwick	514,515	446,921	62,579	-	-	-	62,579	-	-	-	509,500	446,921	-	(410,620)	(98,880)	
Norton	77,800	74,988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,988	74,988	(60,000)	-	(14,988)	
Yarm	-	2,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,800	2,800	-	-	(2,800)	
Thornaby TF - Cycleways	5,850,000	1,282,976	4,587,024	-	-	-	4,587,024	-	-	-	5,870,000	1,544,166	(5,870,000)	-	-	
Thornaby TF - Regeneration of Town Centre - Swimming Pool	16,250,000	3,878,143	12,171,857	-	-	-	12,171,857	1,000,000	500,000	-	17,550,000	5,191,804	(12,550,000)	(5,000,000)	-	
Thornaby TF - Regeneration of Town Centre - Golden Eagle	3,525,000	1,985,490	1,601,780	-	-	-	1,601,780	-	-	-	3,587,270	2,420,553	(3,587,270)	-	-	
Thornaby TF - Regeneration of Town Centre	900,440	900,440	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	900,440	900,440	(750,000)	-	(150,440)	
Thornaby TF - North Thornaby	2,985,483	2,688,174	293,895	-	-	-	293,895	-	-	-	2,982,069	2,722,924	(2,982,069)	-	-	
Thornaby TF - Project Management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Thornaby TF - Skills Development	4,700,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Yarm LUF - Cycleways	5,889,840	1,733,035	4,158,685	-	-	-	4,158,685	-	-	-	5,891,720	2,053,139	(5,891,720)	-	-	
Yarm LUF - Public Realm	3,623,904	1,184,428	2,439,476	-	-	(950,792)	1,488,684	-	-	-	2,673,112	1,193,075	(1,723,112)	(950,000)	-	Yarm Public Realm scheme has been reduced by the SBC co-funding and has been returned to support the Councils MTFP and financial position, in line with decision made by Cabinet 14th May 2026.
Yarm LUF - Preston Park	13,520,000	13,192,298	327,702	-	-	-	327,702	-	-	-	13,520,000	13,197,305	(13,070,792)	-	(449,208)	
Yarm LUF - Town Hall and Toilets	876,096	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scheme closed out 25/26
Urban Park	29,131,638	26,372,816	2,964,231	-	-	-	2,964,231	-	-	-	29,337,047	27,849,540	(24,167,332)	(4,995,250)	(174,465)	
Community Diagnostic Centre Car Park	1,750,000	1,668,219	81,781	-	-	-	81,781	-	-	-	1,750,000	1,668,358	-	(1,750,000)	-	
Unallocated Town Centre Wayfinding	291,717	-	291,717	-	-	-	291,717	-	-	-	291,717	-	-	-	(291,717)	
Building Maintenance Programme	2,316,284	-	1,286,835	-	-	-	1,286,835	-	-	-	1,286,835	175,808	-	-	(1,286,835)	
Vehicle Ramp Replacement - Cowpen Depot	300,000	-	300,000	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	-	(300,000)	
Allotments	100,000	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	(100,000)	
TOTAL REGENERATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH	158,845,273	62,366,744	51,224,459	(2,350,000)	-	(887,792)	47,986,667	33,167,536	500,000	7,662,960	151,683,907	66,599,489	(99,941,765)	(46,768,830)	(4,973,312)	

			Financial Year 26/27										Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026			
Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Slippage/ Acceleration	Virement	Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	External (Grants and Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	
CORPORATE ITEMS																
Invest to save	19,350,000	-	1,266,430	(650,000)	-	-	616,430	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	18,616,430	-	-	(18,616,430)	-	Schemes subject to individual business case approval, £650,000 slipped to 27/28
TOTAL CORPORATE ITEMS	19,350,000	-	1,266,430	(650,000)	-	-	616,430	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	18,616,430	-	-	(18,616,430)	-	

			Financial Year 26/27										Funding of Total Budget as at 30/06/2026			
Per Scheme	Approved Budget as of Feb 2026	Prior Years Spend	Capital Programme @ 25/26 Outturn	Slippage/ Acceleration	Virement	Cost Variation, Addition or Reduction	Revised Budget @ 30/06/26	27/28 Budget	28/29 Budget	29/30 Budget	Total Budget as at 30/06/26	Total Spend as at 30/06/26	External (Grants and Contributions)	Internal (Borrowing)	Internal (Other)	Narrative
At 30/06/26	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	£'s	
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	**260,851,811**	**85,719,021**	**94,944,374**	**(16,419,361)**	**-**	**2,590,146**	**81,115,159**	**54,538,394**	**11,008,402**	**15,270,025**	**247,651,001**	**92,934,892**	**(157,836,023)**	**(78,338,794)**	**(11,476,185)**	

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

22 SEPTEMBER 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2025/26

Summary

The report provides details of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGSCO) annual review letter for 2025/26. The annual review letter details that there were 69 enquiries submitted to the Ombudsman during 2025/26, with the Ombudsman responding to 51 complaints (an increase from 30 the previous year), 7 met the threshold for a detailed investigation by the Ombudsman (this is a similar number to the 8 investigated in 2024/2025). All 7 of the investigations were upheld. All recommendations made by the Ombudsman, following their investigations, have been accepted and implemented by the Council. The Ombudsman was satisfied that the Council had remedied 3 of the 7 complaints prior to their investigation.

Recommendations

1. Executive Scrutiny to note the report.

Detail

1. Each year the Ombudsman publishes its annual letter and summary of statistics on the complaints and enquiries it has received about Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the decisions made. The Council has received the latest report for the financial year ending 31 March 2026.

2. Of the 51 complaints and enquiries responded to by the Ombudsman in 2025/26, 7 were progressed to investigation, with all 7 of the complaints being upheld. The number of complaints responded to by the Ombudsman has increased since the previous year (30 in 2024/25), however the number of complaints investigated by the Ombudsman has remained steady, suggesting that while more complainants are taking their complaints to the Ombudsman, a high number of complaints are being appropriately addressed locally without the need for investigation by the Ombudsman. The Council received 333 complaints in 2025/26, 2% were investigated by the Ombudsman.

3. Of the 7 upheld Ombudsman complaint investigations, 2 related to Adults Services, 2 related to SEND and Inclusion, 2 related to Children's Social Care and 1 was regarding Community School Transport. The Ombudsman issued its findings in relation to 1 complaint as a public report. The complaint related to alternative education provision for

a young person who has an Educational Health Care (EHC) Plan and was considered by Cabinet on 16 October 2025.

The table below provides a high-level summary of the complaints which were investigated (and all upheld) including the service area that they relate to.

Summary	Service area
Faults by care homes and Council in relation to an elderly residents care	Adults, Health & Wellbeing
Failure to consult appropriate persons when appointing a Relevant Persons Representative (RPR)	Adults, Health & Wellbeing
The Council failed to secure special educational provision in the EHCP and also failed to carry out the annual review of the plan, despite sending letters saying we had done so. 99 others also received annual review completion letters when no meeting or consultation had taken place.	Children's Services
Failure to progress a complaint to Stage 3 under the Children's Statutory process	Children's Services
Failure to provide equipment specified in Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	Children's Services
Related to issues at a neighbouring children's home	Children's Services
Fault in application and appeals processes for free school transport	Children's Services & Community Services

4. The annual report details that the Ombudsman was satisfied with the remedy offered by the Council (such as an apology, financial redress) in advance of the complainant raising the complaint with the Ombudsman, in 3 out of the 7 cases. Remedy guidance for officers undertaking complaint investigations, has been strengthened in the complaints training programme delivered by the Information Governance Team and was also included in the annual Complaints Officer Forum that was held on 13 May 2026.

5. A copy of the 2025/26 performance tables received from the Ombudsman is attached at ***Appendix I*** of this report. A useful guide to interpretation of the Ombudsman's statistics is available on the LGSCO website.

Financial Implications

6. None as a direct result of this report. The financial implications of individual complaints would be dealt with separately as part of the responses to those complaints.

Legal Implications

7. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. They may, however, arise on a case-by-case basis, depending on the particular circumstances of the complaint and related decision and Legal Service input is called upon in these cases. The Corporate Governance Group also has a Legal Service representative.

Risk Assessment

8. The Ombudsman complaint investigations and associated decision notices create public relations risks to the Council and can undermine resident confidence. The 3 Complaints Policies developed by the Council (Corporate, Children's Statutory and Adult Services

Statutory) and associated procedures are designed to minimise these risks, and the oversight provided by the Complaints Team and Corporate Governance Group provide assurance to senior management and Members that complaints are taken seriously, corrective action is implemented and learning maximised. Councillor Paul Rowling is the Council's member responsible for complaints considered within the corporate process, and receives periodic updates on complaint handing, including decisions the Ombudsman has upheld.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/ Councillors

9. The Ombudsman complaints information does not indicate any significant ward specific information or trends.

Background Papers

10. The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's annual review of Local Government complaints for 2025/26 has been published and relevant extracts have been included in this report. A copy of the complete report can be viewed on the LGSCO website.

Name of Contact Officer: Martin Skipsey

Post Title: Assistant Director of Procurement and Governance

Telephone No: 01642 526364

E-mail Address: martin.skipsey@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix I - Stockton data from the annual report 2025/26

Complaints upheld	
100% of complaints investigated were upheld.	National average of **85%** in similar organisations
7 upheld decisions	**1** public report
3.4 upheld decisions per 100,000 residents	Average for authorities of Stockton's type is **5.6** upheld decisions per 100, 000
Statistics are based on a total of **7** investigations for the period between 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026	

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations	
In **100%** of cases the Ombudsman were satisfied with the actions taken by Stockton in response to their recommendations.	National average of **77%** in similar organisations

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation
In 43**%** of upheld cases the Ombudsman found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman
3 satisfactory remedy decisions
Statistics are based on a total of 7 upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Statutory Forward Plan

Key Decisions

1 September 2026 - 31 December 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 represent-ations**	**Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consider-ation**	**Notes / Comments**
Catering Review Review of Catering Key Para No	Director of Community Services, Environment and Culture	Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture	Cabinet	15 Oct 2026		Meetings and emails	neil.mitchell@stockton.gov.uk		

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 represent-ations**	**Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consider-ation**	**Notes / Comments**
SEND Reform Programme - Education White Paper and Local Area Reform Plan Update Create a new 50 place SEMH provision using the former Skills Academy Building. Expansion of Ash Trees School. Expansion of Early Years Support Nursery. There is growing SEND demand across the Borough. Key Para No	Director of Children's Services	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Cabinet	17 Sep 2026	Cabinet	Meetings	edwin.squire@stockton.gov.uk		

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 represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consider-ation	Notes / Comments

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 represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consider-ation	Notes / Comments
Procurement Plan / Higher Value Contracts The report seeks approval from Cabinet for the procurement of higher value contracts where commitments are made in 2026/27. The report includes contracts not approved in the March 2026 Annual Procurement Plan because they were not known or did not have sufficient detail at that point in time. Key Para No	Director of Corporate Services	Deputy Leader of Council	Cabinet	17 Sep 2026	Cabinet	Meetings and email.	martin.skipsey@stockton.gov.uk martin.skipsey@stockton.gov.uk		EPIA not required.

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 represent-ations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consider-ation	Notes / Comments

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2026

Scrutiny Review – Protection of Property	
Achieved since last meeting	A draft scope and plan was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee at the last meeting in July 2026. The main aims of the review would be to determine whether: • Existing Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) arrangements for fulfilling the Care Act duty to protect properties were fit for purpose. • SBC Adult Social Care Financial Services (ASCFS) had the capacity, procedures and resources to manage increasing numbers of properties (including clarity around what was defined as 'property'). • SBC was recovering reasonable expenses (as allowed by legislation). • Risk, accountability and decision-making processes (including those involving Mental Capacity Act decisions) were clear, consistent and auditable. A number of contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including SBC departments (Adult Social Care, Community Safety, and Housing Services), local NHS Trusts, local housing associations, and Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) – an understanding of how other Local Authorities viewed / conducted work around this duty would also be sought. It was anticipated that the Committee's final report would be presented to the SBC Cabinet in January 2027.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The first evidence-gathering session would be held at the Committee meeting in September 2026 and was scheduled to feature an initial presentation from SBC Adult Social Care.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	**Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report 2025-2026**: This was presented to the Committee in July 2026 – subsequent discussions covered work undertaken in relation to drugs and alcohol, end-of-life and palliative care, and ongoing system change by University Hospitals Tees (UHT). **Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone (TVCHIZ)**: Further to late-2025 requests by the Committee for more frequent information in relation to this initiative, a simplified version of the minutes from the TVCHIZ Strategic Programme Board's meeting in October 2025 was subsequently provided (it was envisaged that further updates would be made available each quarter, aligned to the meetings of the Board). In March 2026, senior SBC officers proposed that more frequent reports were presented to formal Committee meetings (rather than simplified versions of the minutes from TVCHIZ Strategic Programme Board meetings being shared).

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

	The latest formal update was provided at the Committee meeting in July 2026 which highlighted developments in relation to the three workstreams (Research and Innovation; Skills and Workforce Development; Place and Regeneration) – a further update at the meeting in September 2026 was also anticipated which would focus on the role and achievements (thus far) of the SBC Care and Health Recruitment and Training Co-ordinator. **SBC Adult Services Complaints Report 2025-2026**: The first SBC Adult Services Complaints Report covering the 2025-2026 period was scheduled to be considered by the Committee in September 2026. **Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing (Public Health)**: An Overview and Performance Report in relation to the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate (with specific focus on the Public Health department) was scheduled to be considered by the Committee in October 2026.

NHS Updates / Consultations	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	**University Hospitals Tees (UHT)**: Significant strategic developments had seen UHT develop a 'Case for Change' (a requirement for NHS organisations undertaking major service changes). Following input and advice from relevant Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHS England, as well as engagement with local communities over their priorities and feedback on its services (see https://www.nth.nhs.uk/news/tell-us-what-we-do-well-and-what-we-need-to-do-better-nhs-trusts-call-on-community-for-views/), UHT had begun the development of the 'Pre-Consultation Business Case' (PCBC) which sets out the specific proposals and options for how it may develop and transform services for patients to address the challenges outlined in its 'Case for Change'. From a scrutiny perspective, updates on this process (and any anticipated proposed changes) continued to be primarily overseen by the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. **Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW)**: In September 2026, CNTW announced a programme of listening and engagement that was commencing across the North East and North Cumbria in relation to specialist mental health services for children and young people. Working collaboratively with its partner organisations, CNTW was reviewing how specialist services could best meet the needs of children, young people and families in the future – this included understanding people's experiences of current services, what was working well, where improvements may be needed, and what good mental health support should look like for future generations (see https://www.cntw.nhs.uk/about-us/news/help-shape-future-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-services). This review may be further explored by the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee at a forthcoming meeting.

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

Regional Health Committees	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	**Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**: Middlesbrough Council was hosting the Committee in 2026-2027. The last meeting was held on 23 July 2026 and covered access to Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health Services, and a UHT 'Case for Change and Strategy' presentation (see PowerPoint Presentation). The next meeting was scheduled for 1 October 2026 (agenda to be confirmed). **Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**: No meetings are currently scheduled. **North East Regional Health Committee**: No meetings are currently scheduled.

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No updates have been considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting. Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: • Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (TBC – late-2026) • Reablement Service (September 2026) • Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service (TBC – early-2027)
Requests for more information	None

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews
• Protection of Property

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Tuesday 22 September 2026 Tuesday 20 October 2026 Tuesday 17 November 2026 Tuesday 15 December 2026	Tuesday 19 January 2027 Tuesday 16 February 2027 Tuesday 23 March 2027

This page is intentionally left blank

Children and Young People Select Committee
Chair's Update September 2026

Scrutiny Review – Additionally Resourced SEND Provision
The purpose of the scrutiny was to receive an update on the implementation of the transfer from September 2025 and engage with the secondary schools to encourage additional applications from the secondary sector. The Select Committee wanted to fully understand the barriers to schools becoming ARPs and identify ways that that these could be overcome to secure the provision required for children and young people in the Borough. However, early in the scrutiny review, the Government announced that it would be publishing a White Paper outlining the intended approach to SEND reform. The announcement came amid increasing calls for action regarding the rising number of registered SEND pupils and the associated challenges faced by councils. Following the announcement, the Select Committee decided to pause the review to await the detail of the White Paper. In May 2026 the Select Committee received a presentation on the White Paper and considered the implications for their work. The Select Committee agreed to summarise the evidence collected and key findings and advise Cabinet that they would be concluding their work given that the Government was now making plans to direct all schools to have Inclusion Hubs. The September Cabinet meeting received a report from the Select Committee summarising the evidence collected and key findings and noted the report.

Scrutiny Review – Children Not in School
The final report was considered by Cabinet in June and all recommendations were approved. An Action Plan was considered by the Select Committee in September.

Scrutiny Review – Alternative Provision
A tri-partite meeting was held on 25 June and the July meeting of the Select Committee received an introductory presentation and considering the scope and project plan for the review. This scrutiny review will examine the Council's approach to Alternative Provision (AP), assessing whether current arrangements meet need and improve outcomes. The following key lines of enquiry have been identified: • What are the reasons that children are placed in alternative provision? • How has demand changed over time? What does the data tell us? • Are particular groups more likely to access alternative provision? • What proportion of children return to mainstream education? How is this managed? • What is the AP Framework? How is quality measured? • What are the outcomes for children accessing alternative provision? How is progress monitored? How is attendance tracked? • How is alternative provision commissioned and monitored? What is the average cost per placement? Is there sufficient local provision? How is provision regulated? • How do we ensure robust safeguarding in all AP settings?

Children and Young People Select Committee
Chair's Update September 2026

- What do children and young people say about their experience of AP? How are their voices heard? How are mental health and emotional wellbeing supported?
- How do we engage with parents/ carers?
- What preventative strategies are in place in mainstream schools?
- How well to partners work together? Is there a shared AP strategy?
- What are the rules around OFSTED registration?

Evidence gathering will commence from October 2026. The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet in February 2026.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	The September meeting received overview and performance reports on Children's Social Care and Education, Inclusion and Achievement
Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or concerns	Outstanding monitoring: • Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - A further progress update to be scheduled for the October meeting of the Committee • Holidays are Fun – A further progress update is scheduled for the October meeting of the Committee • Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Progress updates have considered by the Select Committee over the past few months. In November a summary report will be presented to capture outcomes and impact

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)
16 September 2026 14 October 2026 11 November 2026 16 December 2026 13 January 2027 10 February 2027 17 March 2027

Community Safety Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

Scrutiny Review – Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget	
Achieved since last meeting	The evidence-gathering phase concluded in early-July 2026 following contributions from the SBC Neighbourhoods (formerly SBC Community Safety, Environment and Culture) directorate, the SBC Digital Service and Systems department, and feedback from three Committee surveys issued to SBC Ward Councillors, the Borough's Town and Parish Councils, and local residents (circulated via established community engagement mechanisms). The Committee considered a summary of the evidence received in late-July 2026 and then formulated draft recommendations. The end-of-review tri-partite meeting was held in early-September 2026.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	A draft final report will be presented to the Committee in early-October 2026 – if approved, it will be presented to Cabinet in mid-October 2026.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Alley Gates	
Achieved since last meeting	A draft scope and plan was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee in late-July 2026. The main aims for the review would be to assess whether existing arrangements continued to meet local needs, provide value for money and support wider community safety and environmental protection objectives, and to inform future policy on the use of current and future alley gates in Stockton-on-Tees. Several contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) departments (Community Safety, Care For Your Area, and Housing Services), SBC Ward Councillors, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire Brigade, local housing associations, and the Borough's Town and Parish Councils. A resident view would also be sought via relevant resident associations / community groups. It was anticipated that the Committee's final report would be presented to the SBC Cabinet in February 2027.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The first evidence session in September 2026 will involve submissions from the SBC Community Safety and SBC Care For Your Area departments.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Community Safety Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No updates had been considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting. Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: • Fly-Grazed Horses (22 October 2026) • Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (TBC – early-2027) • Children affected by Domestic Abuse (TBC – early-2027)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	**Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP)**: Minutes of previous SSP meetings were periodically included on Committee agendas so Members were sighted on developments within that forum. **Overview and Performance Report: Neighbourhoods (Trading Standards, Community Safety & Emergency Planning)**: An Overview and Performance Report in relation to the SBC Neighbourhoods directorate (with specific focus on Trading Standards, Community Safety, and Emergency Planning) was scheduled to be considered by the Committee in October 2026.
Requests for more information	None

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews
• Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget • Alley Gates

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Thursday 1 October 2026 Thursday 22 October 2026 Thursday 26 November 2026 Thursday 17 December 2026	Thursday 28 January 2027 Thursday 25 February 2027 Thursday 25 March 2027

People Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

Scrutiny Review – Procurement and Tendering	
Achieved since last meeting	The first evidence session took place in September, with members receiving information regarding the Councils own procurement processes. This included the hybrid procurement model of procurement for Construction, ICT, and general goods and services. Spending thresholds, framework agreements, and contract management arrangements were also explained. It was noted that spending thresholds and officer delegated decision limited were locally set and included in the constitution.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The North East Procurement Organisation have been invited to the October meeting
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	A progress update was received for Partnership Working in Early Help was presented at the September meeting, with all recommendations assessed as on track. The Family Help Front Door was launched in April, along with a self-navigation online triage tool for partners and families, supported through external briefing sessions on referral processes and communications and engagement sessions to raise awareness and promote consistent use. Members were informed that emerging data demonstrates a shift towards earlier intervention and partnership-led support, with requests for Early help increased by 29%, referrals to partner agencies increased by 94% and contacts progressing to statutory assessment reduced by 61%. An Action Plan outlining how the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Education will be implemented will be scheduled following these being accepted by Cabinet in September The next progress updates will be received by the Committee as follows: • Disabled Facilities Grant – November 2026 • Partnership Working in Early Help – March 2026
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

People Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report was presented to the Committee in September, which highlighted its performance in 202/26 along with key achievements. It was noted all but two of the service's key performance indicators were at or above target, and achieved green assessment in 97% of the Xentrall control checks undertaken by Internal Audit. It had also maintained certification in ISO Standards 27001 (Information Security Management and 9001 (Quality Management), and the BACS Accredited Bureau status. It also was re-certified for continued access to the Government's Public Services Network (PSN). The Committee also received a report regarding the Catering Transformation Review for comment before this is considered by Cabinet in October.
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review
TBC

2026-2027 Meetings (all 2.00pm unless stated)
Monday 5 October 2026 Monday 2 November 2026 Monday 7 December 2026 Monday 4 January 2027 Monday 8 February 2027 Monday 8 March 2027

Place Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

Scrutiny Review – Animal Welfare	
Achieved since last meeting	Cleveland Police attended the July meeting to present evidence, noting that they were responsible for investigating incidents under Sections 1 and 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, which covered prohibited types of dogs and dangerously out of control dogs that could or had caused injuries. The Committee heard the Police were increasingly using civil powers given under the Dogs Act 1871 to obtain control orders and apply for disqualification of dogs ownership and requests for destruction. It was also noted that there was a cross over between the Police and Local Authorities responsibilities regarding dog-on-dog, neighbourhood disputes, and anti-social behaviour therefore they worked together to make decisions on which authority would lead on a case or whether it would be jointly led. Following the meeting members received further information requested regarding the number of offences, prosecutions, and the type of dogs being seized by the Police, with mainly XL Bully type dogs seized for Section 1 offences (prohibited type of dogs), and for Section 1 and 3 combined offences being a mix of Pitbull-type, XL Bully, and other breeds. In August members attended site visits to the kennels used by Animal Welfare Services to hold dogs for 24/48 hours, as well as the partner kennels used to keep dogs picked up/handed in until a decision is made on whether they can be rehomed and the kennels used by Adult Social Care under their protection of property duties. The site visits gave members an understanding of the type of facilities dogs are being kept in and issues that have to be considered by the kennel operators.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The PDSA have been invited to the September meeting to give their views from a veterinary perspective along with the support they give to pet vulnerable pet owners.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	A progress update on Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling, and Green Waste was received in July, with all but one recommendation fully achieved, due to the implementation of the changes to collection. The outstanding recommendation, regarding the communications and community engagement plan, remained on track due to the engagement continuing until October 2026. Member also received a presentation as part of the update outlining the reduction of general waste tonnage collected from the kerbside (35%) and increase in dry recycling tonnage collected (55%). It highlighted the challenges this had posed due to being a higher

Place Select Committee
Chair's Update – September 2026

	participation rate than expected, and therefore additional vehicles were needed. Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: • Muslim and Faith Burial (October 2026) • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (December 2026) • Burial Provision (December 2026) • Affordable Housing (December 2026) • Governance of Capital Projects (January 2027)
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
• TBC
Remaining 2026 - 27 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)
Monday 14 September 2026 Monday 12 October 2026 Monday 9 November 2026 Monday 14 December 2026 Monday 11 January 2026 Monday 15 February 2027 Monday 15 March 2027

Executive Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2026-2027

In addition to the Standing Items:

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

Date	Item	Attending
19 May	Scrutiny Review of Capital Projects – Report of Place Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information) Scrutiny Review of Children Affected by Domestic Abuse – Report of Community Safety Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information) Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School – Report of Children and Young People Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information) ASC Front Door Business Case/Options Appraisal	Michelle Gunn Gary Woods Judy Trainer Callum Titley
21 July	MTFP Outturn Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Education – Report of People Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information) Scrutiny Review of Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Report of Children and Young People Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information)	Clare Harper Michelle Gunn Judy Trainer
22 September	MTFP Quarter 1 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Complaints Report and SBC Complaints Report	Clare Harper Ged Morton Gemma Jackson
17 November	Stockton on Tees Plan and Performance Update Scrutiny Review of Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget – Report of Community Safety Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information)	Geraldine Brown Gary Woods
15 December (Additional Meeting)	MTFP Quarter 2	Clare Harper

19 January	Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling, and Protection of Pets – Report of Place Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information) Scrutiny Review of Protection of Property – Report of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information)	Michelle Gunn Gary Woods
23 March	Scrutiny Review of Alley Gates – Report of Community Safety Select Committee (Executive Summary for Information)	Gary Woods

Regular Reports

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