

Date:

Monday 2 March 2026 at 4.00 pm

Venue:

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

Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair)

Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Hugo Stratton and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Agenda

1. **Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 February 2026.

5. **Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision** (Pages 15 - 46)

To receive evidence in respect of the Post 16 Partnership Communication and Marketing Working Group Strand

6. **Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme** (Pages 47 - 50)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

Contact: Scrutiny Officer Michelle Gunn on email michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk

Key – Declarable interests are :-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

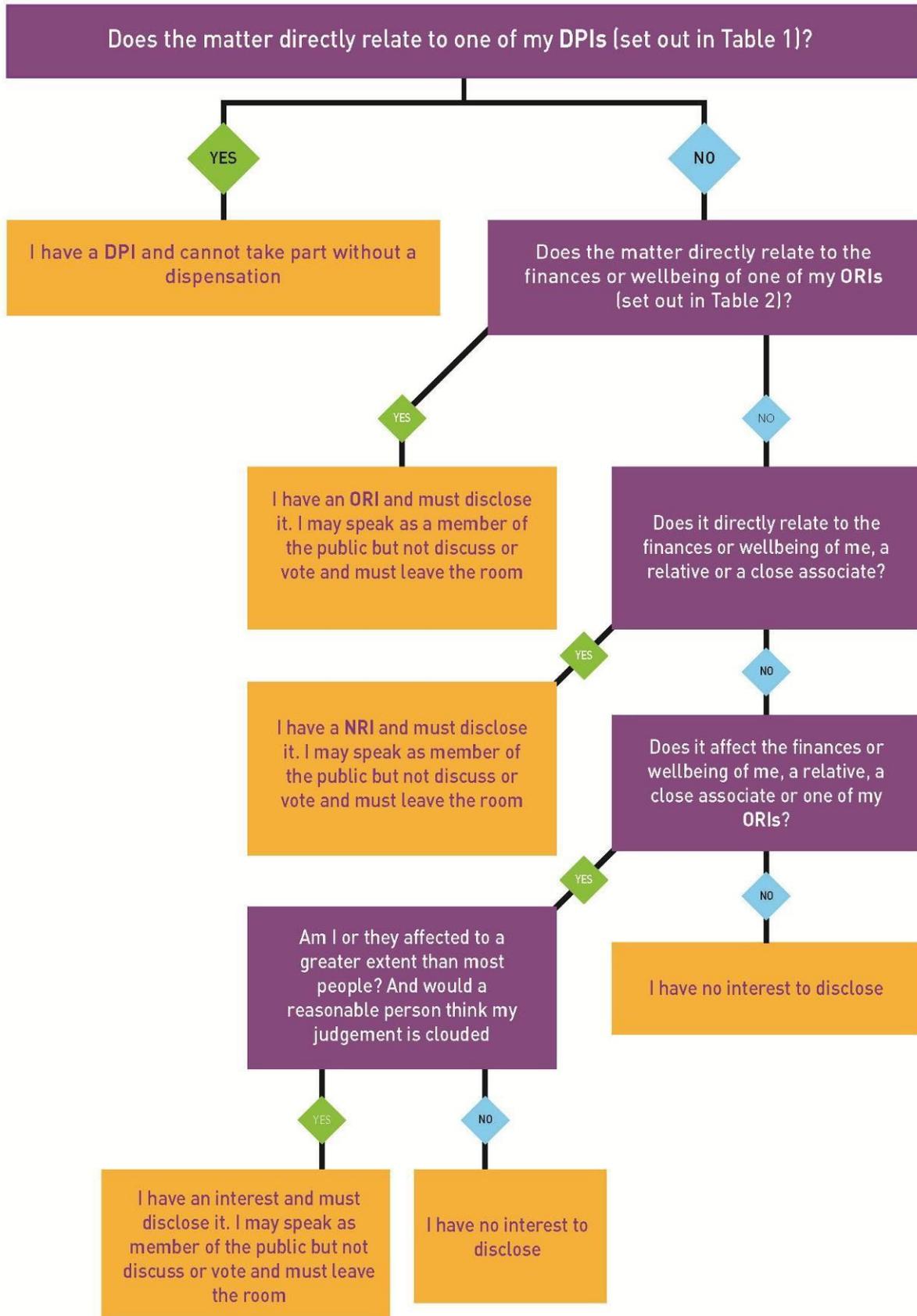


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

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Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

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



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

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

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

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

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

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



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

When the Alarm sounds:

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

5. await further instructions.

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

Toilets

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

Water Cooler

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

Microphones

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

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People Select Committee

A meeting of People Select Committee was held on Monday 2nd February 2026.

Present: Cllr Marilyn Surtees (Chair), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mohammed Mazi (sub Cllr Niall Innes), Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Marcus Vickers (sub Cllr Hugo Stratton), and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Neil Gittins (Egglescliffe School and Sixth Form), Kellie Wigley, Vanessa Housley (Children's Services), Aishah Waite, Junita Agyapong, Michelle Gunn (Corporate Services)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Hugo Stratton, and Cllr Paul Weston (Vice-Chair)

PEO/48/25 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

PEO/49/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PEO/50/25 Minutes

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PEO/51/25 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Partnership Working in Early Help

The Head of Service – Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support presented an action plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help would be implemented and target dates for completion. The recommendations aimed to build a more integrated and responsive Early Help system, and it was noted that progress had been made on the actions for implementation, including co-producing a Family First Strategy with partners, co-producing an assessment with partners, and discussions regarding effective data sharing systems.

It was further noted that the re-designed Integrated Front Door would include early help along with safeguarding and would use a triage tool to give links and information to those accessing the service. Training, information, and support would be made available for partners to ensure understanding of the roles in early help, as well as build confidence, consistency and capacity to support families early. It was envisaged that the online offer would include video testimonials from families that had accessed early help to give assurances to those looking for support.

Members raised online triage systems, questioning if there would be anything in place for those who could not or did not want to access online services. Officers informed that information and advice would also be available via telephone and face to face in the Family Hubs.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved and a progress update be presented to the Committee in September.

PEO/52/25 Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of School at Eggescliffe School and Sixth Form regarding the work of the Post 16 Partnership Excellence for All working strand. The presentation included:

- Eggescliffe School GCSE successes and A level results, with 100% A level pass rate in 21 subjects, 52% of Grades A*-B and over 25% of grades A*-A. It was noted that data and statistics should be considered along with the background and personal stories of the students to reflect the real achievements made, and the school was proud of the results achieved by their students.
- Recruitment to post 16 provision, which was historically very stable at Eggescliffe with a cohort of 160 – 170. Challenges for recruitment to post 16 provision included the curriculum offer, the curriculum success, and incentives offered by other providers.
- Collaboration between in borough post 16 providers to improve recruitment, ensuring that there was a strong offer with good outcomes across the borough that encouraged students to enrol at in borough providers. There was an ongoing trial with two strands to address the outcomes:
 - Business mentor support, led by the Employment and Training Hub to bring business and students together. The strand targeted students who were not academically achieving in Bede and Eggescliffe colleges providing a series of interventions to improve their confidence, study skills, leadership, employability and knowledge of sectors. To date masterclasses had been held regarding communication skills, interviewing the mentor, and understanding business sectors. Information from the sectors had been shared with colleges and schools previously, however the information was more powerful coming direct from businesses and the feedback from the masterclasses had been very positive.
 - Teach meet, held in November 2025 when staff across eight subjects areas came together to discuss, plan, and implement a series of interventions to approve outcomes. The feedback from staff was positive and another session was planned in February 2026. Members questioned whether Teach Meets would be used for more subjects and informed that they had been targeted at subjects which were underperforming or only had one class in the college which limited discussion with colleagues, e.g. sociology and economics.

The number of students coming out of borough to Stockton-on-Tees providers was noted. While Eggescliffe Sixth Forms intake was usually from the school itself, they did enrol a small number of students from other schools, including private schools. However, Stockton Riverside College and Bede College had 695 students from out of borough enrolled on their courses.

The Committee discussed recruitment, with members questioning whether the range of courses for in-borough providers differed from those outside the borough, and whether students were being signposting to vocational courses available in-borough. It was acknowledged that Egglecliffe Sixth Forms offer was A level courses however they invited local colleges into the school to promote vocational courses to those students who wished to choose that route. It was believed that there was a perception by students' the incentives and vocational offer from other colleges were better. A survey had been carried out to understand further why students were choosing out of borough providers and this would be presented to the Committee during the review.

It was noted Communication and Marketing working strand had developed a leaflet to promote the Post 16 offer in borough to Year 10 and 11 students. As a result, applications to all in borough providers was spectacularly high for this time of the year, with applications for Egglecliffe already at 170, this was 50 more applications than at the same point last academic year, while Stockton Riverside College had increased by 20% and Stockton Sixth Form College increased by 50%. The work of the Communication and Marketing working strand would be presented at the next Committee meeting.

AGREED that the information provided be noted.

PEO/53/25 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme.

AGREED the work programme be noted.

Chair:

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People Select Committee

2 March 2026

Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision

Summary

The second evidence gathering session for the Committee's review of Post 16 Provision will consider evidence from the Post 16 Partnership Communications and Marketing Working Group Strand.

Detail

1. As part of the scoping process for the Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision, the Committee identified representatives from the Post 16 Partnership Working Group Strands as key contributors. Representative from the Communications and Marketing strand, the Business Development Director at Atomix Educational Trust (Stockton Sixth Form) and the Marketing & Business Engagement Director at Education Training Collective, will therefore be attending the March meeting.
2. The representatives have been asked to provide the following information:
 - Joint messaging to strengthen communication of Stockton's collective Post 16 offer
 - When and how providers market their courses to school leavers
 - The relationships between Post 16 providers and local schools
 - Any other aspects of the review's aims or key lines of enquiry you wished to comment on that are listed in the attached scope.
3. Their presentation is attached along with a copy of the agreed scope and project plan for the review.

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Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

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Noel Dennis
Business Development Director
Atomix Educational Trust



education
training
collective

Erika Marshall
Marketing & Business Engagement Director
Education Training Collective

People Select Committee
2 March 2026



education
training
collective

Bede Sixth Form College, NETA & Stockton Riverside College

2 March 2026



Our Stockton Sites



Stockton Riverside College

- Opened in 2003
- Thornaby-based
- £3m capital investment since 2022 – aviation fuselage due in 2026
- General FE college supporting 14-15, 16-19 and 19+ learners.
- College of Sanctuary
- Strong outreach and youth engagement - King's Trust TEAM programme supporting over 4,000 young people



NETA Training

- Opened in 1975
- Portrack-based
- Moving to Thornaby in 2026 - £14.7m investment (Town Deal) £3m capital investment since 2022 – aviation fuselage due in 2026
- Supports 6000 learners annually
- Engineering focus



Bede Sixth Form

- Opened in 1972
- Billingham-based
- £2.4m annexe opened in 2023 for additional classrooms and wellbeing spaces
- Bede Institute of Sporting and Education (ISE) Academies in Football, Basketball, Rugby, Netball – coming soon...Cricket
- 100% pass rate in 17 subjects, 98% overall.

School Engagement – Schools

Stockton Borough:

- Abbey Hill (ALL)
- All Saints (Y9,10,11)
- Egglescliffe (ALL)
- Grangefield Academy (ALL)
- Ian Ramsey (Y9,10,11)
- Ingleby Manor (Y9,10,11)
- Northfield (Y9,10,11)
- Northshore Academy (ALL)
- Our Lady & St Bede (ALL)
- Outwood Bishopsgarth (ALL)
- St Michaels Catholic Academy (ALL)
- St Patricks (ALL)
- Thornaby Academy (ALL)
- Westlands Academy (ALL)

Out of Borough

- Acklam Grange (ALL)
- Carmel College (ALL)
- Catcote Academy (ALL)
- Dyke House (ALL)
- Education Village (ALL)
- High Tunstall (ALL)
- HHTS (ALL)
- Hummersknott Academy (ALL)
- Hurworth House School (ALL)
- Invested Education (ALL)
- King Edwin School (ALL)
- Longfield Academy (Y9,10,11)
- Macmillan Academy (Y9,10,11)
- Manor Community Academy (ALL)
- Outwood Riverside (Y9,10,11)
- Outwood Acklam (ALL)
- Outwood Eston (Y9,10,11)



School Engagement – Core Activities

Core Activities – Start Each September

- Presentations (Bede / SRC / NETA / Etc. cross-college)
- Lunch Drops / Careers Corner
- Parents' Evenings & Advice Evenings
- Campus Tours (1-1 + group)
- Careers Fairs (in-school + large events)
- Mock Interviews
- Explorer Days (full-day immersive experiences)
- Careers In... days
- Application Workshops / Y10–Y11 Transition Support

Every stage of the student decision-making journey is supported — awareness, guidance, experience and transition.



School Engagement – Numbers (2025)

11,213 Students across all year groups in the Stockton Borough

3000 Accessed dedicated Y10 / Y11 assemblies in the Stockton Borough

1964 Y10 students access our SRC and Bede Explorer Days (could be duplicated)

Every year, all school contacts are manually updated.

Every term the school dedicated Student Recruitment Officer makes contact to offer Information, Advice & Guidance to school students.

Every month, a newsletter shared with Careers contacts to pass on to pupils.

School Engagement – Key Themes

Academic & Technical Pathways

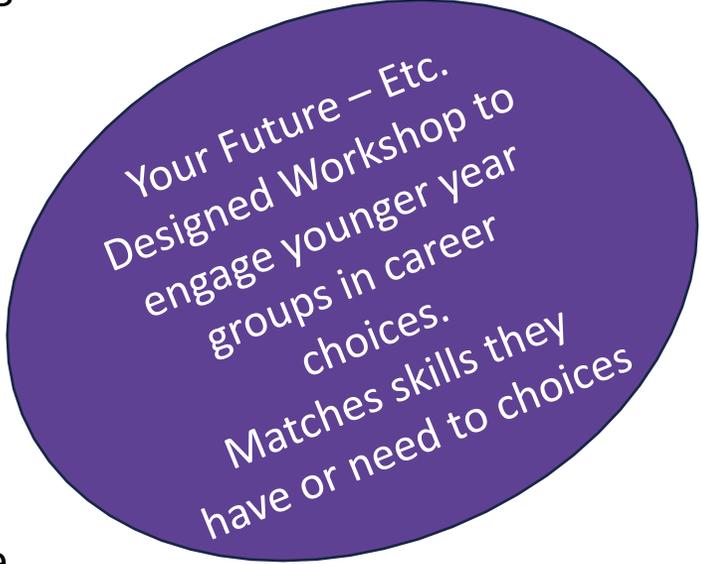
- A-Level pathways
- Vocational and T Level routes
- Apprenticeships
- NETA engineering pathways
- Construction, Health & Early Years, STEM, Esports, Policing, Performing Arts

Careers Education & Guidance

- Post-16 choices
- Preparing for work
- Application sessions
- Apprenticeship workshops
- Revision support (“Revision Fest”)

Parental Engagement

- High-volume attendance during autumn term
- Multi-college representation at some schools
- Provided clarity on pathways, application windows & support available

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Your Future – Etc.
Designed Workshop to
engage younger year
groups in career
choices.
Matches skills they
have or need to choices

School Engagement – Feedback

What students loved

- Interactive and fun sessions that made subjects “come alive.”
- Friendly, supportive staff who made them feel welcome and confident.
- Real insight into courses & careers, helping them picture their future.
- Mixing with other schools — built confidence and excitement.

Impact on choices

- “This made me want to apply.”
- “Gave me a new perspective on post-16 options.”
- “Very helpful for choosing my future career.”

Standout moments

- Esports gaming, hands-on construction tasks, health & early years experiences.
- Sensory rooms, tech demonstrations, uniformed services tasters.



Open Events YTD Comparison

October, November, February (May is still to take place):

	Student Attendance 2022/23	Student Attendance 2023/24	Student Attendance 2024/25	Student Attendance 2025/26
Bede Sixth Form College	484	523	508	761
Stockton Riverside College	378	445	429	537
NETA	172	146	127	170
Total	1034	1114	1064	1468

42% increase in student attendance at open events from 2022/23 – Year to Date



Active Applications YTD Comparison

	Active Applications YTD 2023/24	Active Applications YTD 2024/25	Active Applications YTD 2025/26	Active Applications YTD 2026/27
Bede Sixth Form College	595	828	804	992
Stockton Riverside College	574	681	786	900
NETA	248	150	197	332
Total	1417	1659	1787	2224

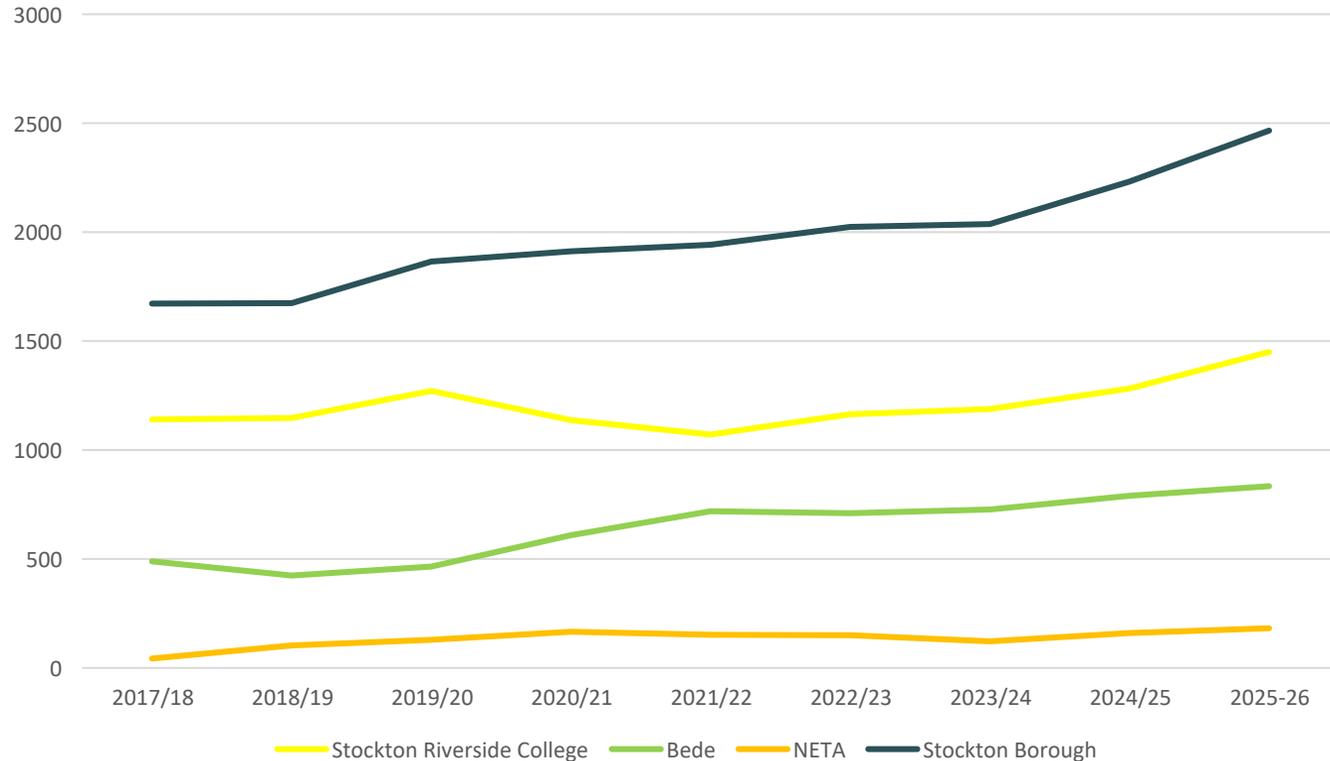
24.4% increase in active applications
 6.64% increase in Stockton school leavers in 2026 (Vector)

57% increase in active applications
 10% School leavers between July 2023 (2299) and July 2026 (2535)



Enrolment Data – Forecast to July 2026

Stockton Borough Student Recruitment - Government Funded



Funded learners

- 14-15
- 16-19
- 19+EHCP

For Stockton, **10.5%** growth from the previous year **despite -0.8%** demographic decline in school leavers in 2025 (Vector)

6.64% increase in Stockton school leavers in 2026 (Vector)

Etc. enrolments include include 695 students from ‘out of borough’ representing inward investment of **c£4.5m**

We have worked as part of FE+ to map provision across Tees Valley

We provide impartial advice and guidance so the **‘Right Learner is on the Right Course, with the Right Provider’**.



Challenges

Current space pressures:

Bede: Managed capacity – Mark White Annexe - and flexed in year

NETA: New facility at Teesdale to manage demand and build capacity

SRC: At capacity in some areas, flexed in year and moved support service staff outside better utilise space

No external space for temporary external classrooms

- Etc. operates the only Further Education college in Stockton providing only Technical Education
- Employer demand is driving the balance between academic and vocational training
- Workshop space at SRC is a premium and we are having to build further capacity over the summer

Future Need:

- Strategic planning to create sustainable, yet flexible, post-16 vocational choices for Stockton learners
- Flexible and sustainable – place marketing for demand, without restricting choices



Stockton Sixth Form College

Post-16 Education Partnership

2 March 2026

School Engagement & Recruitment Activity

2025-26 Academic Year

150+ scheduled school
engagement events

89.4% year-on-year increase
in active applications

Engagement Activities

- Year 11 & Year 10 assemblies
- Lunchtime drop-in sessions
- Parents' evenings & careers fairs
- Mock interview programmes
- Revision support events
- Year 9 & 10 careers guidance
- Campus tours & taster sessions

Marketing Activities & Associated Metrics

Key Metrics

89.4%
YoY Application Growth

86%
Open Evening Attendance Growth

48.26%
Website Traffic Growth (2024-25)

Marketing Activities

- School Liaison Programme**
150+ scheduled events including assemblies, drop-ins, careers fairs, and parents' evenings
- Open Evening Series**
Three high-impact events with improved student experience and conversion
- Alumni Engagement**
Regular sessions with successful graduates (e.g., Imran Anwar - entrepreneurship)
- Industry Partnerships**
AvGen (aviation), NHS placements (T-Level Health), engineering employers (T-Level Engineering)
- Digital Marketing**
Enhanced website performance, social media, and digital campaigns
- LSIP Alignment**
Provision aligned with Tees Valley Local Skills Improvement Plan priorities

Industry Partnerships & Skills Development

AvGen Partnership

Aviation operations pathway working with industry partner AvGen to provide students with real-world experience in aviation engineering and operations.

T-Level Engineering

Industry placements with engineering employers providing hands-on technical skills development aligned with employer needs and sector requirements.

T-Level Health

NHS placements giving students clinical experience working in hospital wards and healthcare settings, preparing them for careers in the health sector.

Local Skills & Strategic Alignment

Local Skills Improvement Plan Alignment

SSFC provision directly supports Tees Valley LSIP priorities through curriculum design and employer partnerships in key growth sectors:

Health & Care

T-Levels, NHS placements

Advanced Manufacturing

T-Levels Engineering

Digital Sectors

Computing, IT pathways

Collaborative Co-Creation with Employers

Working with employers to co-create curriculum, ensuring our provision meets local labour market needs and provides students with the skills required for employment and progression.

Alumni Engagement & Careers Support

Alumni Inspiration

Regular alumni engagement connecting current students with successful graduates who have built careers locally and nationally.

Recent example:

Imran Anwar (Alt Labs) entrepreneurship talk inspiring students about business development and career pathways in enterprise.

Careers & Guidance

Comprehensive information, advice and guidance provision supporting students through:

- Raising awareness of sectors and companies in Stockton
- 1-to-1 careers guidance sessions
- Employer engagement events
- Industry speaker programmes
- Work experience placements
- Labour market information



POST-16 EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WORKING PARTY

Stockton-on-Tees Student Retention Initiative



PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Working Together to Keep Students Local

A communications and marketing initiative spanning the post-16 partnership workstreams including industry engagement, careers provision, transitions, and enrichment programmes.

- Promote equitable access to local post-16 education providers
- Develop compelling messaging about the benefits of studying locally
- Create a compelling case for school heads to support local providers
- Showcase career opportunities aligned with growth sectors in the borough



DATA COLLECTION

Student Insights & Feedback

Data collection from the transitions group from students who left the borough and returned to study at local colleges is currently underway. Results will provide valuable insights into retention factors and attraction points.

- Focus groups scheduled with returning students
- Mystery shopping comparison with competitor colleges. Middlesbrough College mystery shopping has taken place with QE lined up for 18th February.
- Analysis of messaging that attracted students back to the borough
- Full findings report expected March 2026



WHAT WE'VE DONE



Completed Initiatives

The working party has established key foundations for promoting local post-16 education and understanding student choice factors.

- Created framework mapping current engagement activity with parents and schools
- Identified growth sectors and businesses
- Developed place brand messaging showcasing Stockton's 'live, work, play' proposition. Suggested adding 'Study' to this.
- Staff toolkit in draft mode.



WHAT'S PLANNED

In Progress & Next Steps

Building on our foundations, we're developing resources and evidence to make a compelling case for keeping students in the borough for post-16 education.

- School engagement toolkit showing local education offer for all staff
- Alumni success stories profiling local people who built careers in Stockton
- Digital ambassadors advocating for Stockton
- Postcards directing prospecting student to the Post 16 Brochure
- Glossary of terms for Post 16 Brochure making understanding of key terms easier to understand
- Stockton Post Secondary Pre-Open Event planned in September giving young people and parents a chance to get ahead in one convenient location



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People Select Committee
Review of Post 16 Education
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Marilyn Surtees Paul Weston (vice chair)	Contact details: m.surtees@stockton.gov.uk paul.weston@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Michelle Gunn	Contact details: Michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk
Departmental Link Officer: Vanessa Housley	Contact details: Vanessa.housley@stockton.gov.uk
PMO Aishah Waithe	Contact details: Aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

The topic of Post 16 Education directly addresses Priority one: The best start in life to achieve big ambitions Key Move Giving children and young people the best possible start, in an inclusive community where everyone can thrive, as it includes the action to work with Schools and Post-16 providers to increase the number of children and young people in Education, Employment and Training at ages 16 – 18 years, helping to grow their ambitions and meeting the needs of local employers.

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

There is a strong Post 16 offer in Stockton-on-Tees, with five providers offering a range of courses and qualifications to fulfil a variety of different passions and career aspirations. Achievement for young people at the end of their Post 16 Education is growing rapidly with a higher than national average A Level pass rate across the Borough of 97.7%.

However, enrolment figures for in Borough providers have been impacted in recent years with more Stockton-on-Tees students choosing to attend out of Borough providers in Middlesborough and Darlington, who offer similar courses. Only one out of Borough provider beats In Borough A Level A*-B outcomes.

A survey of Young People approaching the end of Year 11 by the Careers team, asking about their readiness for leaving school, found that 13.1% of students had not had a careers discussion at all in advance of sitting their GCSEs. A further 18.1% of students surveyed said they had not made a clear decision about their next steps after school. These findings suggest that Stockton students are largely unaware of the current offer available to them and improvements are needed to the existing communications strategy to effectively reach the providers target audience.

While the number of students completing Post 16 Education is growing, with an increase of over 300 students over 5 years, statistics show that a small minority of 16-17 year olds in the Borough are at risk of or have become NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) since beginning

Key Stage 5. Economic inactivity significantly impacts upon an individual's economic growth potential and is often associated with an increased likelihood of involvement in antisocial behaviour and crime. During the 2022/23 academic year, 1.6% more students who attended a Post 16 provider IN BOROUGH (5.3%) dropped out in Year 12 than those OUT OF BOROUGH (3.7%) Overall, 7% of our Year 13 students, whether they attended a Post 16 provider in or out of Borough were NEET by the end of November 2024. These numbers are much too high.

A minority of students choose to dropout within the first three months of starting a Post 16 qualification, therefore a core focus of the Post 16 enrichment strategy is to improve transitional support. Post 16 education involves an increase in independence, greater difficulty of work and a new structure to the day. These factors are often responsible for dropouts, but it is also important to consider other external factors such as health and wellbeing, financial situation, and access to transport. Transition from secondary school to Post 16 education need to be as seamless as possible, helping Young People to overcome some of these factors and avoid becoming NEET.

Therefore, areas that would benefit from development include:

- Attraction & Retention rates
- Current NEET statistics
- Internal awareness of strategic funding opportunities
- Communication & Marketing of our offer

The review aims to consider the current position, challenges, and proposed solutions in the Stockton-on-Tees post 16 provision. This will inform the Post 16 enrichment strategy currently in development.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- How well are stakeholders collaborating to minimise any challenges?
- What careers advice do school leavers receive prior to applying for courses/apprenticeships?
- How do school leavers find out about post-16 providers and courses available?
- What extra-curriculum activities do post-16 providers provide and how are these marketed?
- Are there any extra benefits that can be offered to school leavers by post-16 providers?
- What pastoral arrangements are in place at post-16 provisions?
- What financial support is available for school leavers to apply for?
- Which courses/providers are young people dropping out from?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet, Council, local schools, colleges and training providers, and young people of the borough

<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>Eight months (reporting to Cabinet in September 2026)</p> <p>Approve scope and project plan – January 2026 Receive evidence – February 2026 – May 2026 Draft recommendations – June 2026 Final report – July 2026 Report to Cabinet – September 2026</p>
<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <p>Partnership Strategic Aims (Word and PowerPoint documents) Current strategy/draft strategy Current Post 16 brochure List of courses available Children and Young People Scrutiny Review of Careers Provision 2020</p> <p>New information: Views of Partnership members Views of school leavers / findings from consultations carried out by careers service and Partnership Comparisons with the offer of providers from other Local Authority areas</p>

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)	What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?
Council Officers	Introductory presentation
Post 16 Strategic Board Working Strand Lead – Excellence for All	Collaboration to drive further improvement in outcomes Engagement with local businesses Pastoral arrangements within providers Extra-curricular activities and opportunities provided Funding/benefit advice available from providers
Post 16 Strategic Board Working Strand Lead – Communications and Marketing	Joint messaging to strengthen communication of Stockton’s collective Post 16 offer When and how providers market their courses to school leavers The relationships between Bede, Stockton Riverside and Stockton Sixth Form colleges and local schools

<p>Post 16 Strategic Board Working Strand Lead – Careers</p>	<p>Collaboration with Stockton’s Careers Leaders Early intervention with students at risk of disengaging – Skills for Success Careers advice available both within schools and within post-16 provision Relationship with local businesses</p>
<p>Post 16 Strategic Board Working Strand Lead – Transitions</p>	<p>Measures in place to prepare for transition to post 16 education for all students Reasons why young people may become NEET</p>
<p>School leavers/students and their parents/carers</p>	<p>Their main priorities when choosing post 16 education The support they need to attend post 16 education Reasons why they may not continue with a course</p>
<p>How will this information be gathered? (e.g. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</p> <p>Committee meetings, attendance at partnership meeting, reports, desk-based research, focus group</p>	
<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions, focus group of service users</p>	
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics (including – but not limited to – age, gender, disability, ethnicity), and advance equality of opportunity for those with Protected Characteristics.</p> <p>Public bodies must have due regard for advancing equality which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics • taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people <p>The review will contribute towards meeting the Council’s requirements under this Duty by reviewing the provision, and barriers to education, for all.</p>	
<p>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p>The review will contribute to Focus Area 1 of the JSNA: All children and families have the best start in life as it will Post-16 Education will affect the Commitment of Transition: ensure there is a joined-up pathway that fully supports young people in their transition to adulthood. Ensuring that young people have access to good quality education and training after leaving school will give them the qualifications and skills that they need in the future to gain employment and begin their careers.</p>	

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

In considering the challenges and proposed solution to the current Post 16 offer the review will aim to assist in increasing attraction and retention of post-16 education, reduce the number of young people becoming NEET, and lead to better outcomes for the young people of the Borough.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	November/December	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	02.12.25	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	05.01.26	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed		Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Working Group Lead for: Excellence for all Communication and marketing Careers Transition Focus groups: students; parent/carers; stakeholders Attendance at Partnership meeting	02.02.26 02.03.26 13.04.26 11.05.26 TBC TBC	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	8.06.26	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	June 26	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	06.07.26	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	21.07.26 or 22.09.26	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	17.09.26	Cabinet / Approving Body

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2025- 2026

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 7 April 2025	Monitoring: Action Plan Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facilities Grant	Sam Dixon
Monday 12 May 2025	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan • Background Presentation 	Haleem Ghafoor Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
Monday 2 June 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Help & Family Hubs 	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Hazel Clark and John Lathaem
Monday 7 July 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care • School Support 	John Lathaem & Aishah Waite Louise Nixon Mandie Rowlands
Monday 8 September 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITSTOP • HDFT • Family Action 	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Cheryl Hall Sarah Massiter Emma Crawford
Monday 6 October 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalyst • Best practice from other Local Authorities • Family First Reforms 	Lucy Owens Hazel Clark, Aishah Waite & Jane Smith
Monday 3 November 2025	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response	Rebecca Saunders- Thompson TBC Sam Dixon

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
	Monitoring: Initial Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facility Grant	
Monday 3 November 2025 (informal)	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations 	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
Monday 8 December 2025	Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help – Final Report	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite
Monday 5 January 2026	Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Draft) Scope and Project Plan Background Presentation 	Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn
Monday 2 February 2026	Monitoring: Action Plan Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Strand Lead Excellence for All 	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waite Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn Neil Gittens
Monday 2 March 2026	Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Strand Lead Communications and Marketing 	Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn Noel Dennis, Erika Marshall

People Select Committee – Work Programme 2026- 2027

Date (2pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 13 April 2026	Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group Lead for Careers 	Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn Ian Caley and Fallon Duleavey
Monday 11 May 2026 (4pm)	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Disabled Facilities Grant	Sam Dixon

Date (2pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
	Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group Lead for Transitions Overview & Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Revenues, Benefits & Welfare • Corporate Services 	Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn Mike Mackin Cllr Paul Rowling, Clare Harper, Michelle Connolly, Ged Morton, Leanne Dudhill
Monday 8 June 2026 (Informal)	Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Evidence / Draft Recommendations 	Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn
Monday 6 July 2026	Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Provision - Final Report	Vanessa Housley & Luke McGurn
Monday 7 September 2026	Monitoring: Progress Update – Scrutiny Review of Partnership Working in Early Help	Kellie Wigley & Aishah Waithe
Monday 5 October 2026		
Monday 2 November 2026		
Monday 7 December 2026	Overview & Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy, Systems & Improvement • Customer Services & Digital • Culture, Leisure & Events 	Cllr Norma Stephenson, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Reuben Kench, Tara Connor
Monday 4 January 2027		
Monday 8 February 2027		
Monday 8 March 2027		

To Schedule: Xentrall Annual Report

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