

Date:

Wednesday 23 July 2025 at 6.00 pm

Venue:

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

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 30)
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 May 2025.
5. **Minute's Silence Honorary Alderman Jeremy Atkinson**
6. **Public Question Time** (Pages 31 - 44)
7. **Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies 2025/27** (Pages 45 - 52)
8. **Appointment of Acting Section 151 Officer (Chief Financial Officer)**(Pages 53 - 56)
9. **Treasury Management Practices Update** (Pages 57 - 64)
10. **Motions to Council** (Pages 65 - 70)
11. **Members' Question Time** (Pages 71 - 78)
12. **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

Contact: Democratic Services Manager, Judy Trainer on email judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Key – Declarable interests are :-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other Registrable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

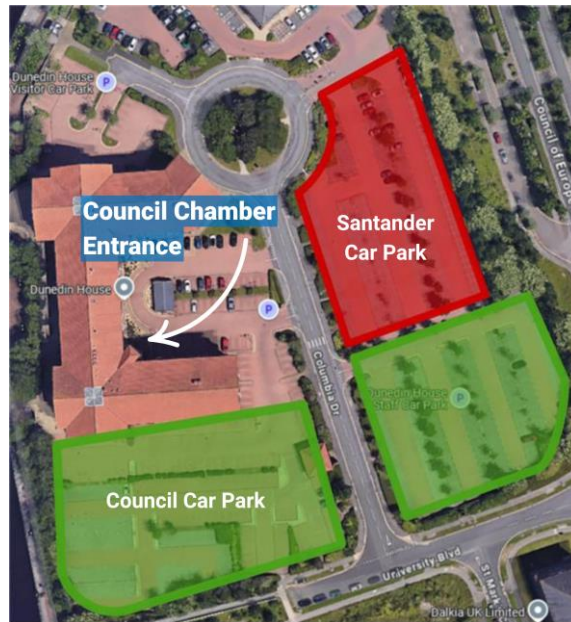
(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

This page is intentionally left blank

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.

This page is intentionally left blank

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday 21st May 2025.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Stephen Richardson)
Cllr Stefan Barnes, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Nathan Gale, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mohammed Mazi, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Vanessa Sewell, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Jim Taylor, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Katie Weston and Cllr Paul Weston

Officers: Mike Greene, Garry Cummings, Reuben Kench, Majella McCarthy, Graham Lyons, Ged Morton, Julie Butcher, Laura Kelsey, Judy Trainer, Peter Bell and John Devine

Also in attendance: Members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

COU/26/25 Welcome and Evacuation Procedure

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone and outlined arrangements for the meeting.

COU/27/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

COU/28/25 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 19 March 2025 and 2 April 2025 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

COU/29/25 Public Question Time

Public Question submitted by Sarah Moreland for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):

“How many additional staff have SBC employed over the last 8 years and what percentage are working from home?”

On behalf of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:

“Thank you for the question.

From 2017 to 2025, the Council's workforce—excluding maintained schools—increased by 111 people, from 3,183 to 3,294. That's a rise of around 3.5%.

However, this modest increase follows a more significant reduction earlier in the decade. In 2011, the Council employed over 4,260 people. That number fell sharply in the years following austerity, and while we've seen gradual stabilisation since around 2018, the overall workforce remains nearly 1,000 people smaller than it was in 2011.

This is part of a wider national picture. According to the Local Government Association, more than 90% of councils are now facing recruitment and retention difficulties, and that includes us—particularly in areas such as social care.

On homeworking, we don't hold live, centralised data on how many staff are working remotely at any one time, as working patterns are managed at service level to suit operational needs. That said, approximately 50% of roles are eligible for some form of flexible or remote working. Among those, most staff do work flexibly to some degree.

These arrangements are supported by our Smarter Working Policy, which is a key part of our Colleagues Powering Our Future mission. That mission is about empowering our workforce to do the best they can for our communities, using their skills and knowledge to meet the changing needs of the Borough.

Smarter working also allows us to be more efficient—it has enabled us to rationalise our office estate, reducing costs for residents and helping us modernise the way we work. It also makes the Council more inclusive, giving opportunities to people with different availability, such as those with caring or parental responsibilities, who want to stay active in the workforce.

We are committed to being an employer of choice, with a diverse, talented and empowered workforce that's fit to meet the future demands of the Borough and deliver our ambitious plans for our residents.

We are passionate about ensuring we have a passionate and productive workforce. Our working policies enable us to appeal to a wide range of potential employees and provide flexibility within reason for our existing workforce. The labour market is constantly adapting, particularly post covid, and we must ensure that we continue to be an attractive employer against strong private and public sector competition.”

Sarah Moreland asked the following supplementary question:

“With regard to those staff who work from home, is there a limit on the number of days they may do so?”

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:

“There is no specific limit, instead working patterns are decided on a team-by-team basis under a hybrid model with officers attending the office when required.”

Public Question submitted by Sarah Moreland for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“Can SBC confirm if the Stockton Hilton Hotel is or ever has been used to house asylum seekers? If it has how much did this cost the council?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“Despite lots of misinformation and rumours, the Hilton Hotel has never been used to house asylum seekers”

Public Question submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“With the recent increase in employer National Insurance Contributions from 13.8% to 15% and the reduction of the earnings threshold to £5,000, businesses in Stockton-on-Tees face significant financial challenges. Given that sectors like retail and hospitality are already vulnerable and may experience further strain, what specific measures is the Council implementing to support local businesses and prevent potential job losses in our community?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“In Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, we have an excellent business support team that offers tailored services whether to a startup or an established business. The team offer a direct link to the wider business support landscape across the Tees Valley across the Tees Valley working with partners to connect local businesses with funding, training, innovation, export and growth opportunities.

We have tailored support on workforce development and apprenticeship schemes through our excellent employment and training hub. The hub also offers hands on recruitment support from job vacancy promotion and candidate matching to bespoke pre-employment training to help business save time and money. All of these services are free and we have excellent relationships with our local businesses to help and support when needed.”

Mo Waqas asked the following supplementary question:

“To prevent money draining out of the local economy, can the Council guarantee that procurement policies will prioritise local suppliers?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“We have lots of policies in place to support local business and independents and want to see out local businesses thriving.”

Public Question submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“With Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council facing a projected funding gap of £7.78 million for the 2025/26 financial year, representing 3.18% of its revenue budget, and the recent approval of a 4.95% Council Tax increase to address these financial pressures, what specific measures is the Council implementing to ensure essential public services are maintained without placing an undue financial burden on residents?”

On behalf of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport of the Council responded with:

“Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, like many local authorities nationwide, continues to experience significant financial challenges. Between 2010 and 2024 the council’s budget was cut by over £1 billion in real terms. The government has given a commitment to review local authority funding through the fair funding review and we have seen this year an increase in government funding. The projected overspend of £7.7 million for the 2024/25 financial year is largely due to increased demand for services. The pressures on adult social care and children’s services are well documented around the country. The shortfall for this financial year was addressed in the budget approved by the Council in February. As a reminder, there was no proposal presented at that meeting by any political group that would have reduced council tax for this financial year.

We are dedicated as an organisation to constantly reviewing what we do and finding new and innovative ways to work to ensure that every penny of taxpayers money is spent as effectively as possible. The Council is embarking on a transformation programme to deliver savings and improve service delivery. This initiative aims to deliver £9m, and to date, £5.8 million in savings have already been identified, with further options currently under exploration.”

A public question was submitted by Hadia Malik for response by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Lisa Evans. However, as Ms Malik was not present at the meeting, it was advised that a written reply would be sent to her.

A further public question was submitted by Hadia Malik for response by the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Cllr Pauline Beall. However, as Ms Malik was not present at the meeting, it was advised that a written reply would be sent to her.

Public Question submitted by Luke Frost for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-

“The impact of fly tipping within our communities are costing the council dearly, what is being done to prevent fly tipping within our urban areas?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:

“Firstly, there are now tougher penalties – Councils are cracking down on offenders with fines and even seizing vehicles used for dumping waste. Resent proposals from Central Government will make enforcement action faster to tackle this blight on communities.

Secondly, we’re making good use of surveillance technology – CCTV and mobile cameras are being used in areas where fly-tipping happens often.

Thirdly, public education remains an essential tool– Waste awareness campaigns are helping people understand the impact of fly tipping and how to dispose of waste properly. Engagement with schools and other community groups also regularly occur as we look to take a preventative approach by educating people on the right way to reduce and dispose of waste.

Fourthly, we will continue to targeting illegal waste collectors – We are encouraging people to use licensed waste carriers and are taking action against unregistered and unlicensed carriers operating in our community alongside partners such as the Environment Agency and Cleveland Police.

These efforts aim to keep our communities cleaner and reduce the cost of dealing with illegal dumping.”

Public Question submitted by Luke Frost for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety (Cllr Norma Stephenson):-

“Councillors across the Borough are using ward budgets to pay for CCTV, can the council breakdown the costs per ward and how many CCTV cameras are currently being paid for in this way within each ward?”

On behalf of the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, the Leader of the Council responded with:

“Community Safety is a key priority for this Council and this is why we have invested heavily in our frontline services including CCTV and enforcement officers.

Our Control Room Operatives undertake a vital and often unseen role, protecting us 24 hours per day, 365 days per week. In the last 12 months, this brilliant team responded to nearly 8000 incidents across the borough which resulted in 947 arrests. We currently have over 600 cameras monitored in our state-of-the-art control room. These cameras are located in key strategic areas which data and intelligence tells us crime is occurring. We also recognise that some Councillors also have priority areas in their own ward based on resident's concerns. There are currently 15 CCTV cameras which have been funded in this way, in the last financial year.

WARD	COST PER ANNUM
Billingham North	£3,900.00
Bishopsgarth and Elmtree	£8,200.00
Hartburn	£7,800.00
Mandale and Victoria	£3,900.00
Newton	£11,700.00
Norton South	£3,900.00
Village	£11,700.00
Yarm	£8,574.00

Public Question submitted by Jacob Jervis for response by the relevant Cabinet Member:-

“Speaking to a close resident, he encountered an unfortunate situation where his car was set on fire by youths. Later on it was confirmed these youths were housed within residential care. He later found this attack was mistaken identity but was drug related. How do you plan on getting social workers to take measures to protecting children from the ever increasing dangers of drugs and crime?”

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:

“I want to begin by acknowledging the deeply troubling incident that has been raised here tonight. This is completely unacceptable. No resident should have to live in fear, and no child should ever end up in a situation where they’re involved in crime or drug-related violence.

We take this incredibly seriously. But I also know that we need to look beyond the immediate headlines to understand the why. Why are some of our most vulnerable young people ending up in these situations? And what are we doing to stop it?

The answer lies not just in reacting to crime—but in tackling its root causes. That’s why this Council has committed to the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework. Because the uncomfortable truth is this: poverty, inequality, and exclusion are feeding a cycle that puts vulnerable children at risk of exploitation.

It is a sad fact that some young people in Stockton grow up facing limited opportunities. Some are living in poverty, others are excluded from school, or struggling with mental health without the support they need. These aren’t excuses—these are warning signs. And if we don’t act early, criminal gangs and drug networks will step in where public services have been stretched too thin.

That’s why we are:

- Investing in early help and youth support, especially in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Creating a dynamic space with the No Limits Hub in the heart of the town centre to engage children and young people creatively.
- Utilising innovative resources for training and awareness raising for example the use of immersive VR headsets to raise awareness of exploitation and criminal exploitation and how quickly things can spiral out of control so that our young people are more aware of the risks and how to spot the signs of exploitation.
- Assigning key workers to consistently respond to the same children who go missing from home, fostering strong relationships and identifying necessary interventions.
- Accepting referrals for children aged 10-17 involved in repeated anti-social behaviour, aiming to provide support and intervention with our Turnaround programme
- And crucially, pushing for long-term solutions—more jobs, better education, and secure housing—to give every young person a chance at a better future.

But let’s be honest. We can’t do this alone. Years of government cuts have left our services under immense pressure. If we’re serious about protecting children and keeping our communities safe, we must confront the causes, not just respond to the symptoms.”

Public Question submitted by Jacob Jervis for response by the relevant Cabinet Member:-

“How do you plan on tackling youth and drug related gangs in Billingham?”

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:

“Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in all our communities is a top priority for this Labour-led Council. Unlike others who talk tough but deliver little, we are taking real action—and it’s making a difference. Across Stockton-on-Tees, we’ve seen significant reductions in recorded crime and disorder, but we know the job isn’t done. That’s why in Billingham, we’re leading from the front to confront youth crime and drug-related issues.

Our approach is clear: a Labour solution built on prevention, partnership, and enforcement. Working through the Safer Stockton Partnership and in close collaboration with Cleveland Police, teams are in schools, youth services, and on the streets—identifying young people at risk of exploitation before gangs get to them.

Through CURV (Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence), we’re using a public health approach that tackles the root causes of violence, not just the symptoms. This is real early intervention—officers visiting schools, engaging with teachers, and supporting parents to divert young people from harm before it’s too late.

We’ve increased visible patrols, backed by intelligence-led operations that are disrupting drug networks and gang activity. We’re also investing in our Community Safety teams and reviewing our youth services, creating safer spaces where young people can find support, take part in positive activities, and build brighter futures. That’s the Labour difference—we don’t just police problems, we prevent them.

And let’s be clear: this is only possible because of our firm commitment to partnership working and our push for increased police numbers in Stockton. We’ve fought for—and secured—more officers on the ground, because our communities deserve to feel safe and be safe.

While others cut services and chase headlines, Labour is delivering results: safer streets, stronger communities, and real hope for our young people. There’s more to do, and we’re not slowing down. Labour will keep leading the fight against crime—with our communities, not just for them.”

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Richard Eglington):-

“Has a date been fixed to start the demolition of the West Precinct at Billingham Town Centre & how long is the whole regeneration set to take?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“At this stage it is anticipated that demolition of West Precinct will begin in Spring 2026. This date is not fixed, with a start to any demolition works dependent upon finalising arrangements between the Council and the town centre owners as well as the relocation of tenants from West Precinct.”

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Richard Eglington):-

“Is SBC paying for the relocation of the current West Precinct occupants & will their new premise refurbishments be paid for? or is this coming out of the £20M Government funding?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“Any eligible costs associated with the relocation of occupants of West Precinct will be met through Levelling Up Fund. The cost and works to enable vacant possession of West Precinct will be assessed on a case by case basis.”

Public Question submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“Regarding the move to Dunedin House, are the new council offices leased or purchased and what is the cost and how is that paid for? What are the plans for the old unused SBC buildings?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“Dunedin House is owned by the Council. We previously had a plan to purpose build new council offices on the riverside. However, Dunedin House became available offering us a significant saving. Previously staff were housed over many separate buildings which required significant investment to maintain. Dunedin House was purchased in 2021 costing £3.2m including stamp duty and other fees. The purchase costs were funded by prudential borrowing as part of the wider office accommodation rationalisation strategy. The future use of the remaining corporate administration buildings are considered as part of the Council’s Strategic Asset Management Plan which is ongoing.”

Julie Dolan asked the following supplementary question:

“What savings will there be from the move?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“Savings are significant and can be provided after the meeting. The move has allowed us to bring Council staff under one roof, saving on repairs of the different buildings which can now be re-purposed and put up for sale.”

Public Question submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“The Stagecoach Depot on Portrack has been fitted with new transformers and about 30 charging points - did the council contribute to this and if so by how much, what was the funding strategy and how does this benefit the taxpayer?”

On behalf of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:

“Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council did not contribute to the installation of new charging points and electrical infrastructure at Stagecoach’s Depot. This was a jointly funded scheme by Stagecoach, the Tees Valley Combined Authority and the Department for Transport to enable the roll out of Zero Emission Buses.”

Julie Dolan asked the following supplementary question:

“Is there a likelihood that bus fares will be increased to cover the investment?”

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:

“That is a matter out of our control and you should raise this with the Tees Valley Mayor.”

COU/30/25 Yarm High Street One Hour Free Parking Petition

Consideration was given to a report presenting a petition calling for the reinstatement of one hour’s free parking on Yarm High Street. The petition had been confirmed to contain 3,400 valid signatures and read:

“Stockton Council to keep free parking on Yarm High Street.

Free Parking is crucial for supporting local businesses, encouraging footfall, and helping Yarm’s economy thrive. The Council’s changes to eliminate 1 hour free parking risks harming small businesses and deterring shoppers.”

The petition met the threshold for debate under the Council’s Petition Scheme and the report outlined the various options available to the Council in responding to the petition.

A local businessman, Paddy Morton, presented the petition on behalf of the Lead Petitioner, Matt Vickers MP citing what he believed had been the detrimental impact on business of the charge and lack of consultation.

It was moved by Councillor Niall Innes and seconded by Councillor Jack Miller:

“Council notes that:

There is vast public and business support for scrapping the new parking charges imposed by this Council and a return to the first 1-hour free model.

Council resolves:

That given the strength of feeling and lack of support for these new parking charges, that the matter is referred to Cabinet to reconsider this matter. Cabinet is requested to consult fully with local businesses on the parking charges to understand the full implication of the parking charge policy on our high street.

Following this engagement, the recommendation to Cabinet is to reverse the new policy and revert back to the original first 1-hour free model.”

Councillor Paul Rowling moved, seconded by Councillor Jim Beall, that the motion be amended to read as follows:

“Council notes that:

There is vast public and business support for scrapping the new parking charges imposed by the Council and a return to the first 1-hour free model.

Council resolves:

That given the strength of feeling for these new parking charges, that the matter is referred to Cabinet to reconsider this matter. Cabinet is requested to consult fully with local businesses on the parking charges to understand the full implication of the parking charge policy on our high street.”

The amendment was put to the vote and not carried (21 for the amendment; 27 against the amendment).

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.65, it was requested that a recorded vote be taken on the substantive motion, which was supported by at least a quarter of the Members present.

Members in favour of the motion: Cllr Stefan Barnes, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Nathan Gale, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mohammed Mazi, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Vanessa Sewell, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Jim Taylor, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Katie Weston and Cllr Paul Weston (51).

Members against the motion: None.

The motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED

Council notes that:

There is vast public and business support for scrapping the new parking charges imposed by this Council and a return to the first 1-hour free model.

Council resolves:

That given the strength of feeling and lack of support for these new parking charges, that the matter is referred to Cabinet to reconsider this matter. Cabinet is requested to consult fully with local businesses on the parking charges to understand the full implication of the parking charge policy on our high street.

Following this engagement, the recommendation to Cabinet is to reverse the new policy and revert back to the original first 1-hour free model.

COU/31/25 Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees and Outside Bodies 2025/27

Consideration was given to a report presenting nominations to vacant seats on committees and panels, outside bodies and Chairs' positions.

RESOLVED that the following amendments/ appointments be made for the Municipal Years 2025 – 27:

Appointments Panel

Add: Cllr Jim Beall and Cllr Bob Cook

Corporate Parenting Board:

Remove: Cllr Pauline Beall – Add: Cllr Clare Besford

Cleveland Fire Authority

Remove: Cllr Sufi Mubeen – Add: Cllr John Gardner

Tees Active Board

Remove: Cllr Ray Godwin – Add: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Remove: Cllr Steve Nelson and Cllr Pauline Beall (substitute) – Add: Cllr Jim Beall and Cllr Marc Besford (substitute)

Procurement Collaborative Committee (aka NEPO)

Remove: Leader – Add: Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

Local Government Association General Assembly

Remove: Cllr Bob Cook – Add: Cllr Paul Rowling

Community Safety Select Committee

Appoint: Cllr Ann McCoy as Chair

Place Select Committee

Appoint: Cllr Jim Beall as Chair

COU/32/25 Motion to Council

A motion had been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.40, moved by Cllr Ted Strike and seconded by Cllr Stephen Richardson.

In moving motion, Cllr Ted Stike agreed to incorporate some changes to the wording of the motion included within the agenda for the meeting.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried and it was:

RESOLVED

Council notes that while it may grant a dispensation to a councillor under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 where they are unable to attend meetings due to illness or other valid reason, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council does not currently have a formal policy setting out the process or duration for such dispensations.

Council further notes that many other local authorities operate policies which require councillors to reapply for a further dispensation if their absence continues beyond six months.

Council therefore resolves:

1. To introduce a formal policy governing the process for granting dispensations under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. That the policy shall include the following key provisions:
 - A councillor must apply for a dispensation before reaching six months of non-attendance at meetings.
 - The initial dispensation, if granted by Council, will last for a maximum of six months.
 - Should the councillor remain unable to resume attendance at Council meetings at the end of that period, they may submit a further application for consideration by Council.

COU/33/25 Members' Question Time

Member Question submitted by Cllr Niall Innes for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-

“To ask the Cabinet member for an update on the recent changes to Bin Collections and the introduction of Garden Waste Collections. Specifically:

- Out of the total number of households in the borough, how many have signed up?
- What was the reasons for the delays in people getting their bins?
- What is the total amount raised so far through the introduction of the new £40 a year Bin and how has that impacted the amount it was hoped to raise?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:

“As of 16th May 2025, there has been a total of 19,400 subscriptions and 20,500 bins have been ordered since going live in January 2025.

We don't believe there were any delays in residents receiving their new brown bin, if they ordered them before the cut-off date. Due to the logistics in delivering a large number of bins throughout the borough, it was regularly communicated to residents to 'Make sure you sign up to the new garden waste collection service by 14 February to ensure you receive your bin for the first collection date in April'. Residents who signed up after this date would still receive their new brown bin but it would not be guaranteed for the first collection of the new service as the next phase of deliveries did not start until 24th March 2025.

From the subscriptions referenced above, the Council has received income of Circa £800,000. This compares to the £600,000 forecast for 25-26 that was referenced in the October Powering Our Futures Cabinet report. This income will be monitored through the ongoing budget monitoring processes and reported to members in line with this. I feel this is good value for money.”

Cllr Niall Innes asked the following supplementary question:

“Despite residents paying £40 per annum for a brown bin, we have been told that it is fine for people to put garden waste in their ordinary bin. If they asked for a refund would they get one?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:

“No, this is not the message we are trying to communicate. We would prefer that residents who have regular green waste to dispose of, by using a brown bin.

For residents like myself with small gardens, who don’t generate a lot of garden waste, I would prefer that they either book a slot at the Haverton Hill Recycling Centre as I did last Sunday, or that they dispose of the waste in an environmentally friendly manner.”

Member Question submitted by Cllr Katie Weston for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“As the leader is aware, for the first time in over a decade the Clarences finally have a direct bus to Billingham, although limited and on a trial basis. This bus service is getting cancelled next week, as a private bus company cannot make a profit from a customer base of a village, especially off-peak. Does the leader agree that bus services shouldn’t be ran purely on a profit motive, and instead, like Teesside Airport, should be ran as a public service?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“I totally agree that every area across the Borough deserves access to a regular bus service. Unfortunately, this has proved problematic over many years for vulnerable communities like the Clarences. I firmly believe that transport cannot purely be run on a profit motive and the needs of communities must be taken into consideration.”

Councillor Katie Weston asked the following supplementary question:

“Will the Leader ask the Tees Valley Mayor to subsidise the Clarences bus service to Billingham?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“I will undertake to contact the Tees Valley Mayor to seek his support in securing bus subsidies for all vulnerable areas.”

Member Question submitted by Cllr Paul Weston for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“At the January council meeting, this council passed a motion to write to the Tees Valley Mayor asking that buses be taken back under public control, in the same way that is happening across the North of England. Have we had an answer yet?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“I have checked with the previous Leader and we have received no response from the Tees Valley Mayor. However, receipt of the letter was acknowledged by staff on behalf of the Tees Valley Mayor.”

Councillor Paul Weston asked the following supplementary question:

“This is very disappointing. Can the Leader write again to demand an answer?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“I am more than happy to write again to the Tees Valley Mayor to seek a response.”

Member Question submitted by Cllr Ted Strike for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport (Cllr Paul Rowling):-

“Could the Cabinet Member please provide information on the Council’s current working from home arrangements, specifically:

- a) What percentage of the workforce, who are eligible to work from home, currently do so?
- b) What is the general policy on the number of days per week staff are permitted to work from home (e.g. two or three days)?
- c) Are there any controls in place to manage how many staff work from home on the same days?
- d) What percentage of eligible staff work from home on each day of the week – Monday through to Friday?
- e) What percentage of staff work from home on both Mondays and Fridays?”

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:

“Thank you, Councillor Strike.

The Council’s approach to flexible and remote working is shaped by our Smarter Working Policy, which forms part of the Council’s Workforce Strategy and supports our wider Colleagues Powering Our Future mission. This mission is about ensuring we have a committed, empowered and skilled workforce to deliver the Council’s priorities in a challenging financial climate.

Smarter working is not just about location—it’s about making the best use of our people, processes, technology and workspaces to deliver for our residents. It’s also key to supporting one of the seven priority areas in our Workforce Strategy: ensuring we are an inclusive, healthy, well-supported organisation with the right skills in place for the future.

Turning to your specific questions:

(a) While we don't hold live corporate data on how many staff are currently working from home, around 50% of roles are suitable for flexible or remote working. Among those, most employees do work flexibly in some form.

(b) There is no set corporate rule on the number of days per week permitted for homeworking. Arrangements are agreed between staff and managers depending on the needs of the service. In many cases, two or three days per week is common, but the pattern is not prescribed.

(c) There is no need for a corporate dictat in this area. Working patterns are best managed at team and service level to ensure appropriate coverage, continuity of service, and opportunities for in-person collaboration.

(d and e) The Council does not currently record which specific days staff work remotely, so we cannot provide data on day-by-day patterns or on staff working from home on both Mondays and Fridays.

Our approach has also supported wider benefits. We've been able to rationalise our office space, making savings for residents. And flexible working supports our ambition to be an inclusive employer—making space for colleagues with different life circumstances, such as carers or part-time workers, who might otherwise be excluded from traditional working models.

We're building a workplace that is adaptable, resilient and focused on wellbeing. Through smarter working, we continue to aim to be an employer of choice, aligned with our communities and capable of delivering for the Borough, both now and in the future.

We are committed to being an employer of choice, with a diverse, talented and empowered workforce that's fit to meet the future demands of the Borough and deliver our ambitious plans for our residents.

We are passionate about ensuring we have a passionate and productive workforce. Our working policies enable us to appeal to a wide range of potential employees and provide flexibility within reason for our existing workforce. The labour market is constantly adapting, particularly post covid, and we must ensure that we continue to be an attractive employer against strong private and public sector competition."

Cllr Ted Strike asked the following supplementary question:

"When the last Chief Executive was in post, staff could work from home two days a week and then this was increased to three days. Clearly this is not the approach anymore. However, no policy on this has been taken through Council. Does the Cabinet Member agree that there should be a clear policy on this matter as staff can't be supervised if they are not in the office."

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:

"There is no need for a prescriptive approach or changes to staff contracts. Our staff have different roles and it is best that working arrangements are agreed between staff and managers. The hybrid model of working also means that we can be efficient about

our Council accommodation and workspaces. What we are doing works. There are no concerns about supervision or performance, and we commend our staff for their dedication to their roles.”

Member Question submitted by Cllr Marcus Vickers for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture (Cllr Nigel Cooke):-

“We have seen the crisis in Labour ran Birmingham City Council, with well over 21,000 tonnes of rubbish piling up in the streets and rats bigger than cats, causing misery and health risks for residents.

Can you provide reassurances and detail what resilience or emergency planning measures are in place in relation to waste collections, to ensure that no such crisis will happen here within Stockton Borough Council?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:

“Whilst we are not fully aware of the specific issues in Birmingham, here in Stockton-on-Tees we have a long-standing record of maintaining excellent working relationship with our waste collection staff, with mutual respect and regular engagement between frontline colleagues and managers within the service, to ensure that we continue to deliver high performing services. This is a critical service to our residents and to ensure a continuation of the excellent service that we have all become accustomed to, a rigorous and robust business continuity plan is in place which ensure effective continuation.”

Councillor Marcus Vickers did not have a supplementary question but placed on record his thanks to the Council’s waste collection staff.

Member Question submitted by Cllr Niall Innes for response by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Lisa Evans):-

“At Full Council on 22nd January 2025, I put forward a Motion that sought the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to outline the Council’s desire for the Government to enact a full public inquiry in to Grooming Gangs.

The motion also asked 'That the Leader of the Council engages with local stakeholders and meets with them alongside other Group Leaders to discuss what this Council can do to robustly support and protect young people of this borough most at risk'.

Despite my motion successfully passing, I understand that the second part has not been undertaken and no meeting has yet been arranged. Can I ask why this is?”

The Leader of the Council responded with:

“Thank you for your question, Councillor Innes, I do appreciate it.

The motion passed by Council in January 2025 included a request that the then Leader of the Council engage with local stakeholders and meet with them alongside other Group Leaders to consider what further steps could be taken to support and protect young people at risk.

Since that time, I have taken on the role of Leader. I have not received any proposals from the originating group as to how such a meeting would be structured, what it would aim to achieve, or how it would align with the Council's existing arrangements.

As Leader, and previously in my role as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, I have always engaged regularly with partners and stakeholders on issues relating to the protection of children and young people in our borough and have always had an open door policy to discuss anything with Councillors.

More broadly, the Council engages routinely with relevant partners through formal governance and partnership structures, particularly in the areas of safeguarding and community safety. These include, for example, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership, and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Having taken advice, it is also important to note that, under the Council's Constitution, the Leader holds executive responsibilities in relation to external engagement. Other Group Leaders do not have an equivalent role and are not able to exercise executive functions or represent the Council in external forums in the same way.

As the motion did not define a format, structure or specific objective for the proposed meeting, and as the approach suggested falls outside the Council's formal governance framework, no further steps have been taken at this stage in relation to that aspect of the resolution.

However, I am more than happy to meet with Group Leaders to explore this. If you have any ideas about how we can take that forward, then I remain open to considering any constructive proposals that you may have."

Councillor Niall Innes asked the following supplementary question:

"I appreciate that there has been a change in Leader, however, the response is unsatisfactory as the Council motion has not been actioned. The Leader should have reached out first, not waited for a Council question."

The Leader of the Council responded with:

"My response had already addressed this question. Due to recent surgery, I have not yet had the opportunity to meet with Group Leaders, but I look forward to doing so."

Member Question submitted by Cllr Ray Godwin for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Richard Eglington):-

"Recently it was announced that global online retailer Amazon will be opening a new site on land near to Queen Elizabeth Way. Although I welcome such investment. Sites such as this can attract hundreds of truck and van movements each day, working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What is the current provision for truck parking and driver facilities, toilets, showers etc within SBC? and what additional facilities and parking are planned to support this new facility?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“The Council is aware of recent press articles concerning this land and Amazon. The site is subject to a live planning application and, as such, it would be inappropriate to provide direct comment on the details of those proposals, however, parking for HGVs and any associated facilities deemed to be required as an integral part of the proposed development would be considered as part of the application and required to be provided where necessary.

In terms of current provision, as these tend to be on a site-by-site basis it is not information that the Council currently holds, however, both officers and I look forward to working with councillor Godwin about the issue.

I feel it's important to keep talking to businesses. Businesses need to feel they are part of the community alongside residents, I would like them to feel they are investing in communities and not just sites. I want them to feel and understand the social benefits of investing in our great communities.”

Councillor Ray Godwin asked the following supplementary question:

“It is a legal requirement for drivers to take proper breaks or they could lose their licences. Adequate parking and facilities need to be available. When companies do not meet their responsibilities, this pushes vehicles into residential communities. What lessons can we learn from going forward?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“Businesses need to understand the social benefits of investing in the community and I look forward to working with Councillor Godwin on this issue.”

Member Question submitted by Cllr Sylvia Walmsley for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Cllr Richard Eglington):-

“Will the Cabinet Member join with me in praising the progress and partnership working carried out to date by the Thornaby Town Deal Board? Will he also give a comprehensive update regarding the programme of works, especially with regard to demolition of the Golden Eagle and construction of the new swimming baths? This is to counteract deliberately mendacious and misleading information which is fed into the public domain by people who know better which causes widespread concern amongst the Thornaby people.”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“After a protracted and complicated period of negotiation The leasehold interests in the Golden Eagle were secured, giving the Council the unencumbered freehold of the building in October 2024.

Since that point a number of checks, surveys and inspections of the building have taken place allowing us to better inform a specification of tender documents to enable the demolition of the property. The tender process has now closed, with tenders being assessed with a view to appointment and start on site as early as possible, this is aimed to be done for the end June 2025. Timescales remain an estimate until the tender and appointment process is concluded and a contract programme agreed with

the successful demolition contractor. Full details on programme and milestones will be shared once agreed.

With regards to the pool, a contractor (Galliford Try) was appointed to undertake a two-stage design and build contract for the works to the pavilion leisure centre and construction of new pool and gym. The first phase involves carrying out the final stages of detailed design throughout the summer with a view to concluding design in August 2025 and starting on site in September 2025. It is anticipated that the construction phase will take circa 12 months.”

Councillor Sylvia Walmsley asked the following supplementary question:

“Would the Cabinet Member and Deputy Leader agree that we must communicate better in future and keep the public informed of any delays to counteract negative publicity?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“Rumour and speculation are fed by online comments, mainly from people looking to be online influencers rather than actually delivering something great for the town. They have enjoyed talking down the hard work of the town deal board.

I will take some of the criticisms on the chin; at times the Council, the Board and the members have not communicated what was happening well enough. There has been a vacuum of information, and all vacuums get filled. We must get better at shouting about our successes

I would like to say something about the town deal board. Since I joined it, I have been encouraged in the way that the members (most of the members) have worked together, I feel that under the great chairmanship of Mark White, members have worked with a common goal to improve the lives of our residents and the great town of Thornaby. And I would like to thank all members and the Chair, Mark White.”

COU/34/25 Forward Plan and Leader’s Statement

The Leader of the Council gave her Forward Plan and Leader’s Statement:

“Thank you for attending a very productive full Council meeting. We do welcome your questions and motions.

Since our last meeting on 2 April, Cabinet has met twice on 17 April and again on 15 May, to discuss key areas that matter to our residents.

We have endorsed important scrutiny reviews, including:

- Affordable Housing: We have backed a hybrid delivery model to build more quality homes
- Holidays are Fun: We are strengthening our much loved programme of holiday clubs and meals for children
- We have progressed our major regeneration plans for Billingham Town Centre and its new Sports Hub and look forward to seeing this progress

Cabinet will meet again on 12 June, with a strong focus on children's services. We will be looking at:

- A full Fostering Review to help us recruit, retain and support more local foster carers
- A new approach to the Children's Front Door, as we move towards a dedicated safeguarding hub for Stockton-on-Tees
- Updates on Bright Minds Big Futures and the Powering our Future programme

Looking ahead, I would encourage everyone to support two upcoming events in the Borough.

We have our brilliant Environment Fair on 14 June and we then have the much loved Armed Forces Day on 21 June. A chance for us all to thank those who serve and have served and after the success of our VE day celebrations which sadly I could not attend as the new Armed Forces Champion due to surgery. I asked the Deputy Leader to attend in my absence.

The next meeting of Council is on 23 July and I look forward to seeing you then."

COUNCIL – 23 JULY 2025
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1
<p>Public Question submitted by Janet Clancy for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.</p> <p>“What is the council doing to free up derelict properties? For example, two houses in Norton, 66 Norton Avenue and 68 Norton Avenue. They were converted into Council offices over 25 years ago and have been left empty.”</p> <p>Received 13 May 2025 17:47</p>

QUESTION 2

Public Question submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety.

“What is happening with the derelict Newtown Social Club on Durham Road? The building is falling into further disrepair and stone cladding is now starting to fall off the building into the public footpath and road below. It needs demolished. Also a source of constant anti-social behaviours.”

9 June 2025 15:24

QUESTION 3

Public Question submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety.

“What is gonna be done about all these HMO properties that are popping up all over Stockton? They are destroying the town and causing massive issues with anti-social behaviours etc, we need a cap on them.”

12 June 2025 11:43

QUESTION 4

Public Question submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety.

“Will the leader of the council come to Newtown for a walk around and see the mess of the area? We are being ignored by the council and we need investment in this area as we are seeing a big decline around here.”

12 June 2025 11:43

QUESTION 5

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“Will the Leader of the Council commit to formally writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner to request increased resources in Billingham, in response to growing public concern about balaclava-clad youths on off-road bikes and individuals prowling the streets in the early hours trying car doors? These issues have persisted for some time, yet residents feel little has been done to protect them or deter this criminal behaviour.”

1 July 2025 14:09

QUESTION 6

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“It has now been almost a year since 87 households were forced to leave Dawson House in Billingham. Residents were originally told they would be displaced for just 2 to 3 days — yet many remain in limbo, facing prolonged disruption and distress. This is simply unacceptable. Will Stockton Borough Council commit to writing to Thirteen Group to demand a clear update on the current situation — specifically, when, or even if, residents will be allowed to return to their homes?”

1 July 2025 14:09

QUESTION 7

Public Question submitted by Terry Chapman for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport.

“How long must the residents of Yarm be inconvenienced, and business viability undermined, until Stockton Council accepts that the abolition of the free hour parking on Yarm High Street was a big mistake?”

1 July 2025 14:19

QUESTION 8

Public Question submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Stockton's Q2 2024/25 report shows a £6.6 m overspend covered by ‘Powering Our Future’ reserves. What is your Minimum Working Balance if grants fall 20 % and adult-care costs rise 10 %, per CIPFA resilience index, and what reserve trigger (<3 % of net spend?) forces you to issue a Section 114? Outline stage-gate scrutiny, external audit steps and how you’ll alert residents if a £5–10 m gap emerges mid-year?”

5 July 2025 7:32

QUESTION 9

Public Question submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Draft accounts reveal IFRS 16 lease debt and a capital plan reliant on PWLB borrowing plus £20 m capital-receipt flex. If the 2026/27 Fair Funding reset cuts retained business-rates 15 %, PWLB rates spike 100 bps, and IFRS 16 pushes usable reserves below CIPFA’s red-flag, what quantified threshold freezes all new capital, who authorises it, and how is the S25 robustness statement escalated to full Council within statutory deadlines?”

5 July 2025 7:32

QUESTION 10

Public Question submitted by Paul Dolan for response by the Leader of the Council.

“We heard at the last meeting that the purchase of Dunedin House was in excess of £3m can you advise how much was paid for the refurbishment, how it was funded and who the contractors were?”

9 July 2025 22:18

QUESTION 11

Public Question submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“In April 2026 the Council are to change the way our waste is collected with the introduction of kitchen waste food caddy and bags, outdoor waste food caddy, white recycling bags and blue recycling bags to be delivered to 90,000 households. In addition new bin wagons are required to accommodate the separated waste. What is the total cost of this change and how is it funded?”

9 July 2025 22:40

QUESTION 12

Public Question submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“At the last meeting we heard that brown bins had brought in revenue of £800,000 across the Borough but what was the cost of the bins themselves, the additional bin wagons and staff to operate the wagons? Essentially how do the costs compare against the £800k received?”

9 July 2025 22:40

QUESTION 13

Public Question submitted by Stephen Fryer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“Stockton Globe is the quietest ATG operated venue in the UK. Was the decision for ATG to operate Stockton Globe as a "music focused arena" a barrier from bringing more performances to our town, or are the current performance levels acceptable?”

13 July 2025 20:01

QUESTION 14

Public Question submitted by Stephen Fryer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

"Why have Stockton Borough Council not been open and transparent with residents, hiding the fact that we CAN put garden waste in the green bin? The SBC Website still states "From Tuesday 01 April 2025, if you need your garden waste to be collected you will need to pay a £40 subscription fee". "If you don't sign up to our new service you can either home compost your garden waste or take it for free to Haverton Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre"

13 July 2025 20:01

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 JULY 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2025/27

SUMMARY

This report presents the following, for consideration:

- amendments to committees (**Appendix 1**)
- vacancies on outside bodies (**Appendix 2**)
- vacancies on vice chairs' positions (**Appendix 3**)

Appendix 1 provides details of political groups' wishes, in line with their allocations under political proportionality regulations.

Appendices 2 and 3 provide details of nominations received, to date, for outside bodies and vice chairs' positions.

RECOMMENDED that Council

1. Note the amendments to the committee, at **Appendix 1**
2. Considers the vacancies and nominations to outside bodies, at **Appendix 2**
3. Considers the vacancies and nominations, to vice chairs' positions, at **Appendix 3**

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Seats must be allocated to political groups as prescribed by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Consultation has taken place with political group leaders.

Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk
Tel number 01642 526312

Background Papers	None
Education Related Item	No
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors	All
Property Implications	None

Committees

Committee	Change
Place Select Committee	Remove: Cllr Bob Cook Add: Cllr Steve Nelson
Children and Young People Select Committee	Remove: Cllr Stephen Richardson Add: Cllr Jack Miller

This page is intentionally left blank

Outside Bodies

Outside Body	Number of Vacancies	Nominations
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)	2	Cllr Clare Besford

This page is intentionally left blank

Committees Vice Chair positions etc

Committee	Nominations for Vice Chair
Community Safety Select Committee	Cllr Katie Weston
Place Select Committee	Cllr Steve Nelson

This page is intentionally left blank

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE 23 JULY 2025

REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL DECISION

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SECTION 151 OFFICER (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)

SUMMARY

To seek Council's endorsement and confirmation of the interim arrangements for the statutory role of Section 151 Officer, following the recent retirement of the previous postholder. The decision is necessary to ensure compliance with legislation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council resolves to:

1. Note the retirement of Garry Cummings, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance and express appreciation for his service.
2. Endorse and confirm the appointment of Clare Harper, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer, as Acting Section 151 Officer, effective from the date of Mr. Cummings' retirement.
3. Agree that, for the purposes of the Council's Constitution and associated schemes of delegation:
 - a. The Acting Section 151 Officer shall be granted the standing and authority equivalent to that of a Director in respect of all decision-making responsibilities;
 - b. The Acting Section 151 Officer shall be deemed to hold a Chief Officer position for the duration of the interim arrangement;
 - c. The Acting Section 151 Officer shall have delegated authority to appoint a Deputy Section 151 Officer, in accordance with statutory requirements and the Council's internal governance framework.
4. Note that the interim role will be styled Chief Financial Officer for the purposes of internal reporting, organisational communication and external engagement.
5. Note that the Council's Appointments Panel will consider and bring forward a recommendation to Full Council in due course regarding the permanent appointment to the Section 151 Officer role.

BACKGROUND

1. Under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs
2. The appointment of a Section 151 Officer is a statutory requirement and a non-executive function reserved to Full Council, as set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.
3. Following the retirement of Garry Cummings, Clare Harper, previously appointed as Deputy Section 151 Officer has continued to discharge the statutory responsibilities of the role in accordance within the established internal delegations. While this continuity fits with the expectations of the Deputy role, it is considered appropriate for Full Council to formally endorse the interim arrangement.
4. To reflect the significance of the role and ensure consistency with the Council's management structure, the interim post will be styled Chief Financial Officer. The Acting Section 151 Officer will also hold delegated authority to appoint a Deputy Section 151 Officer, in line with statutory provisions and internal governance arrangements.
5. The Council's Appointments Panel will be requested to consider options for the permanent appointment and bring forward a recommendation to Full Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2

6. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report. The interim arrangements are being delivered within existing staffing budgets.

LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

7. The Council is under a statutory duty to appoint an appropriately qualified officer to be responsible for the proper administration of its financial affairs, as required by Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. This appointment is a non-executive function and must be approved by Full Council.
8. Clare Harper is a qualified accountant and is the current Deputy Section 151 Officer, providing her with the necessary experience and qualifications to undertake the role on an interim basis.
9. For the purposes of the Council's Constitution, including the scheme of delegation and decision-making protocols, the Acting Section 151 Officer will be accorded the same standing and authority as a Director / Chief Officer.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. Failure to maintain a valid appointment to the Section 151 Officer role would place the Council in breach of statutory obligations and could undermine the integrity of its financial governance framework. The proposed acting arrangements ensure continuity and compliance with the statutory requirements.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS and CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

11. None, this report relates solely to an internal statutory appointment and does not give rise to any direct implications in respect of equality, diversity, environmental sustainability or corporate parenting issues

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Constitution
- Local Government Act 1972
- Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000

Name of Contact Officer: Mike Greene
Post Title: Chief Executive
Telephone No: 01642 527000 |
Email Address: Mike.Greene@stockton.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 JULY 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Treasury Management Practices Update

SUMMARY

This report provides an update to the delegations for treasury management activities included within the Treasury Management Practices.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

Following the recent retirement of the Council's Section 151 Officer, the delegations for treasury management activities require updating.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Council approve the updated TMP5 included at Appendix A, including the updated officer delegations relating to treasury management activities.

DETAIL

1. In accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services the Council has regard to the key recommendations when determining the current Treasury Management Strategy.
2. Accordingly, the Council creates and maintains, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:-
 - A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities.
 - Suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.
3. The Council (i.e. full Council) will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year.
4. The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Audit and Governance Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the nominated Section 151 Officer (the officer with Responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

5. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy was last approved by Council in February 2025 as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy Report.
6. The Treasury Management Practices were last approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy Report in February 2023 and cover the following topics

TMP 1	Risk management
TMP 2	Performance measurement
TMP 3	Decision-making and analysis
TMP 4	Approved instruments, methods and techniques
TMP 5	Authority, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements
TMP 6	Reporting requirements and management information arrangements
TMP 7	Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements
TMP 8	Cash and cash flow management
TMP 9	Anti Money laundering
TMP 10	Staff training and qualifications
TMP 11	Use of external service providers
TMP 12	Corporate governance

7. TMP 5; Authority, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements, delegates responsibility for day to day treasury management activities to nominated officers within the finance service. Following the retirement of the Council's existing Section 151 Officer (the officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972), the delegations have been updated. The updated TMP5 is attached to this report at appendix A.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

8. 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

9. None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The report is in line with the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Management Practices form part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy report to Council 22nd February 2023
2. Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy report to Council 19th February 2025

Name of Contact Officer: Clare Harper

Post Title: Assistant Director, Finance

Telephone No. 01642 528377

Email Address: Clare.Harper@Stockton.Gov.UK

TMP5 AUTHORITY, CLARITY AND SEGREGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

INDEX OF SCHEDULES

- 5.1 Limits to responsibilities/discretion at committee/executive levels**
- 5.2 Principles and practices concerning segregation of duties**
- 5.3 Treasury Management Authority chart**
- 5.4 Statement of duties/responsibilities of each treasury post**
- 5.5 Absence cover arrangements**
- 5.6 Dealing limits**
- 5.7 List of approved brokers**
- 5.8 Policy on brokers' services**
- 5.9 Policy on taping of conversations**
- 5.10 Direct dealing practices**
- 5.11 Settlement transmission procedures**
- 5.12 Documentation requirements**
- 5.13 Arrangements concerning the management of third-party funds**

5.1 LIMITS TO RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1.1 Full Council

- Receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities.
- Approval of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy and Investment Strategy

5.1.2 Audit and Governance Committee

- Approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices.
- Budget consideration and approval
- Receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations
- Receiving and reviewing material borrowing and investment decisions.

5.2 PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES CONCERNING SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 will ensure there is always adequate segregation of duties in all transactions, with specific separation of duties between organising the deal and releasing funds for the deal.

5.3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY CHART

The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 The deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

Strategic Finance Managers

Chief Accountant / Finance Manager - Corporate (Deputy)

Senior Finance Technicians

5.4 STATEMENT OF DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH TREASURY POST

The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 / The deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

1. The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972/ The deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 will:
 - a) Recommend clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly and monitor compliance
 - b) Submit reports as and when required by Council
 - c) Authorise and maintain TMPs and Schedules
 - d) Set submit and monitor budgets
 - e) Review the performance of the treasury management function.
 - f) Ensure the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function

- g) Ensure the adequacy of internal audit and liaise with external audit
 - h) Recommend the appointment of external service providers where appropriate.
 - i) Approve and authorise investment and borrowing deals (within dealing limits – see 5.6)
2. The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 have delegated powers to take the most appropriate form of borrowing from the approved sources and to take the most appropriate form of investments in approved instruments.
3. Prior to entering into any capital financing, lending or investment transaction, it is the responsibility of the officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to be satisfied, by reference to legal and external advisors as appropriate, that the proposed transaction does not breach any statute, external regulation or the Council's Financial Regulations.
4. The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 may delegate power to borrow and invest to members of staff to conduct all dealing transactions (within limits set at section 5.6). All transactions must be authorised by at least two specified named officers and the Chaps payment released by a third as per the responsibilities set out in 5.4.2 to 5.4.4. Alternatively staff can be authorised to act as temporary cover for leave/sickness.

5.4.1 The Deputy Officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 / Strategic Finance Managers.

1. Approve and authorise investment deals (within dealing limits – see 5.6)
2. Release Chaps payments
3. Determine and approve short term borrowing (within borrowing limits – see 5.6).

5.4.2 Chief Accountant / Finance Manager - Corporate (Deputy)

The treasury responsibilities of this post will be:-

- To assist the officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 in the formation of the Treasury Strategy.
- Identify and recommend opportunities for improved practices
- Maintaining relationships with counterparties and external service providers.
- Supervise Treasury Management staff
- Monitor performance
- Review the performance of treasury management functions
- Implement Treasury Management Strategy
- Approve and authorise investment deals (within dealing limits – see 5.6)
- Release Chaps payments
- Check interest calculations
- Arrange rescheduling or premature repayment of existing borrowings.

5.4.3 Senior Finance Technician

Responsibilities:-

- Calculate daily cash balances
- Enter transmission of monies via Nat West Web Banking system
- Select Brokers from approved list
- Adhere to agreed policies and practices on a day to day basis
- Submit management information reports
- Maintain cash flow projections
- Third party loan confirmation
- Ensure counter party limits are not exceeded
- Ensure there is a clear segregation between officers for negotiating / approving and closing deals.

5.5 **ABSENCE COVER ARRANGEMENTS**

The authority will ensure that there is adequate cover for all absences.

5.6 **DEALING LIMITS**

Dealings can be carried out providing that transactions are within limits determined by the council and the officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 / The deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 as detailed in the table below;

Investment Dealing Limits	
The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972	As per limits set within the treasury management strategy
The deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972/ Strategic Finance Managers	Monetary Limits set within TMS / 365 days and under investment horizon
Chief Accountant / Finance Manager - Corporate (Deputy)	Up to £5m / 6 months and under investment horizon.

Borrowing Dealing Limits	
The officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972	As per limits set within the treasury management strategy
The deputy officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972/ Strategic Finance Managers	Short term Borrowing up to £5m per transactions and 365 days and under borrowing horizon

5.7 **LIST OF APPROVED BROKERS/ONLINE BROKER**

Tullet Prebon Brokers (UK) plc
 BGC International Brokers Ltd
 ICAP Brokers Ltd
 Tradition Brokers
 Martin Brokers
 I Deal Trade (Arlingclose Trading Platform)
 Munix

5.8 POLICY ON BROKERS' SERVICES

The authority will use brokers for its temp transactions. The Chief Accountant will evaluate the services provided by Brokers.

5.9 POLICY ON TAPING OF CONVERSATIONS

The authority will not tape telephone conversations

5.10 DIRECT DEALING PRACTICES

All deals are carried out with brokers with the exception of Bank of England, Money Market Funds, Nat West overnight deposit account or direct with a local authority.

5.11 SETTLEMENT TRANSMISSION PROCEDURES

All payments and repayments resulting from the treasury management function will be made via the authority's bank account using the electronic payment facility (with Nat West Web Banking system). Only authorised officers can transmit, approve or release payments, protected by appropriate passwords and card operated pin number. A manual back up facility will be in place to cover system failure.

5.12 DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Cash dealing sheet
Cash flow summary
Loan Record
Dealing sheet
Brokers confirmation
Counter party confirmation
Invoice signed/coded to budget
Nat West Bankline confirmation sheet
Email approvals covering all of the above if processed electronically

5.13 ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF THIRD-PARTY FUNDS

The authority manages funds under delegated powers for Tees Valley Combined Authority.

COUNCIL – 23 JULY 2025

MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

MOTION 1

Motion submitted by Cllr Ross Patterson, to be seconded by Cllr Kevin Faulks:-

“The UK Government website states: ‘The historic counties are an important element of English traditions which support the identity and cultures of many of our local communities, giving people a sense of belonging, pride and community spirit. They continue to play an important part in the country’s sporting and cultural life as well as providing a reference point for local tourism and heritage. We should all seek to strengthen the role that they can play.’ Government has inserted a hologram of the historic counties inside the back cover of the blue coloured British Passport.

Paragraph 3.47 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 issued by the Department for Transport allows the signing of historic county boundaries on the highway network. However the requirement to install these has been placed on local authorities, but it is only optional.

The Borough of Stockton on Tees incorporates 6 towns, 3 north of the River Tees in the historic county of Durham and 3 south of the River Tees in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Each of these towns are seeing exciting developments to enhance and improve them. The Council has also taken a keen interest in the last decade to ensure that the Historic County boundary at the River Tees is marked on its highway network, as well as kindly offering guidance and advice to other local councils wishing to do the same. However, progress elsewhere is frustratingly slow, and we risk losing our heritage if nothing is done.

Therefore, please would the Leader of the Council write to the Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and request:

1. The Traffic Sign Regulations are amended to make it compulsory that Historic County boundary signs must be installed on all the following categories of roads on the Highway Network: motorways; dual carriageways / trunk roads; Category A, B and C roads, by the relevant highway’s authority, whether it is a local authority, Highways England, or the Department for Transport.

2. She visits the Borough of Stockton on Tees, to see the exciting developments which are enhancing and improving our 6 towns, and the work the Council has done in the last decade to mark the Historic County Boundary at the River Tees on its highway network, demonstrating why Stockton Borough Council is an outstanding forward thinking authority which also respects and preserves the heritage of our country.”

9 July 2025 17:22

MOTION 2

“Motion submitted by Cllr Niall Innes, to be seconded by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

“Council notes that:

Off Road Bikes are causing Havoc on the streets of Stockton.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local areas. These tools, which replaced and streamlined a number of previous measures, were brought in as part of a government commitment to put victims at the centre of approaches to tackling ASB, focussing on the impact behaviour can have on both communities and individuals, particularly on the most vulnerable.

For the sake of this motion, Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (MPV's)” includes, but is not limited to:

Motorbikes (road going and off road) including mini “pee-wee” bikes Electrically propelled motor bikes

Scooters

Quad Bikes and mini quad bikes

Vehicles for use by a person with a mobility impairment and being used by someone with a mobility impairment would be exempt under the proposed motion.

Council believes that:

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are vital tools available to local authorities that seek to tackle anti-social behaviour in public spaces, aiming to ensure everyone can use and enjoy these areas without experiencing nuisance or harm.

Residents in our borough deserve to know that their local council, which they pay handsomely towards, are doing everything they can to tackle the scourge of Off-Road Vehicles in our Borough.

PSPOs, used as part of a wider strategy and by working with key external stakeholders, allow local areas to counter unreasonable and persistent behaviour that affects the quality of life of its residents. They can send a clear message that certain behaviours will not be tolerated and help reassure residents that unreasonable conduct is being addressed.

The use of PSPOs have been successfully rolled out in Rochdale and Rossendale councils, using them to tackle Motorbikes (road going and off road) including mini “pee-wee” bikes Electrically propelled motor bikes Scooters, Quad Bikes and mini quad bikes.

PSPOs can have a powerful impact. Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence subject to, up to a level three fine on prosecution (up to £1,000).

Council resolves:

Council requests that the Cabinet consider the introduction of a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) enforcing that MPV's are prohibited from being used on any publicly owned land in the borough, or on any other land without express or implied permission.

A person is prohibited from having a MPV in their possession but not being ridden when in a public space or on a highway or pavement, unless they can produce appropriate insurance for use of the MPV on a public highway. The only exception will be granted for persons wheeling a MPV to a clearly identified van or trailer for onwards transportation."

13 July 2025 10:32

This page is intentionally left blank

My Ref: LE/AB/480
Your Ref:

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

Tel: 01642 526243
Email: lisa.evans@stockton.gov.uk
Date: 20 August 2025

Dear Angela Rayner

Council Motion – Historic County Boundary Signs

At the Council meeting on 23 July, Council considered a motion regarding Historic County Boundary Signs. Council resolved:

That the Leader of the Council write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and request:

1. The Traffic Sign Regulations are amended to make it compulsory that Historic County boundary signs must be installed on all the following categories of roads on the Highway Network: motorways; dual carriageways / trunk roads; Category A, B and C roads, by the relevant highway's authority, whether it is a local authority, Highways England, or the Department for Transport.
2. She visits the Borough of Stockton on Tees, to see the exciting developments which are enhancing and improving our 6 towns, and the work the Council has done in the last decade to mark the Historic County Boundary at the River Tees on its highway network, demonstrating why Stockton Borough Council is an outstanding forward thinking authority which also respects and preserves the heritage of our country."

I have already written to you separately inviting you to visit our lovely Borough to witness the fantastic regeneration projects that we are currently working on and to discuss our future plans but thank you in anticipation for your consideration of the above.

Please note that any response you send to this letter will be shared with all Members of the Council and made available to view with the relevant minutes from the meeting of Council held on 23 July 2025 on the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website.

Yours sincerely



CLlr Lisa Evans
Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Angela Rayner
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government.
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sent via email angela.rayner.mp@parliament.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL – 23 JULY 2025
MEMBER QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1
<p>Member Question submitted by Cllr Niall Innes for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.</p> <p>“To ask the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing for a progress update on the investment works to Billingham following a recent press statement stating works have been further delayed.”</p> <p>23 June 2025 20:14</p>

QUESTION 2

Member Question submitted Councillor Jason French for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“At full Council on the 21st of May 2025 the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, following a question by a member seeking a comprehensive update regarding the programme of works, about demolition of the Golden Eagle, provided an update on the Golden Eagle at Thornaby, detailing that the demolition work would begin in June. On the 29th of June it was reported in the local media that the demolition process had been delayed until August.

Does the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing think it appropriate for members to discover the further delay for the start of the demolition works to the Golden Eagle via the local media”

13 July 2025 10:32

QUESTION 3

Member Question submitted Councillor Tony Riordan for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Stockton Borough Council is in receipt of the Asylum Dispersal Grant from Central Government. Can the Leader detail,

- How many Asylum Seekers are presently housed in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees?
- How many of the Asylum Seekers are male, and how many are female?
- What were the numbers of Asylum Seekers housed in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees for the years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024?
- What was the amount of Government grant made payable to Stockton Borough Council, for the years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- Does Stockton Borough Council financially contribute to the support of Asylum Seekers in the Borough, and if so, what is the value, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?”

13 July 2025 10:32

QUESTION 4

Member Question submitted Councillor Niall Innes for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Stockton Borough Council has recently sought to recruit 2 x Support and Integration (Migration Support) Officers on a salary range of £31,067 - £32,654 per annum, and 1 x Service Development (Migration Support) Officer on a salary of £37,035 - £39,513 per annum. A Freedom of Information Request, and response, showed that the 3 roles are new.

Why does the Leader of the Council deem it necessary to recruit these roles?”

13 July 2025 10:32

QUESTION 5

Member Question submitted Councillor Jack Miller for response by the Leader of the Council.

“At full Council on the 21st May the Council Leader responded to a question regarding a previously resolved motion (That the Leader of the Council engages with local stakeholders and meets with them alongside other Group Leaders to discuss what this Council can do to robustly support and protect young people of this borough most at risk).

Following the publication of the Casey Report, and the humiliating U turn of the Labour Government to now undertake a National Inquiry into Grooming Gangs, will the leader reflect on her previous response and accept that dismissing concerns by members in the manner she did has eroded all confidence she may have had on leading on this most important of matters.”

13 July 2025 10:32

QUESTION 6

Member Question submitted Councillor Lynn Hall for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Recruiting and retaining social workers is a significant financial challenge for this Labour Led Council. Difficulties in recruitment, coupled with the high costs associated with agency social workers.

Can the leader provide an update on the work undertaken with the academy to reduce the number of agency workers employed by Stockton Borough Council and what financial savings have been made because of this work.”

13 July 2025 10:32

QUESTION 7

Member Question submitted Councillor Jason French for response by the Leader of the Council.

“On the 4th June 2025 Stockton Borough Council’s Planning Committee refused planning permission to demolish a lodge at the entrance to Preston Park and replace it with a steel/alloy sculpture.

Can the Leader provide an update as to the cost of bringing the application forward to the Planning Committee, and what costs were incurred for the design, and fabrication if undertaken, for the steel/alloy sculpture.”

13 July 2025 10:32

This page is intentionally left blank