

Date:

Monday 9 November 2026 at 4.00 pm

Venue:

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

Cllr Jim Beall (Chair)

Cllr Steve Nelson (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Stephen Dodds, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

Agenda

1. Livestreaming

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

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

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

2. Evacuation Procedure (Pages 7 - 10)

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Declarations of Interest

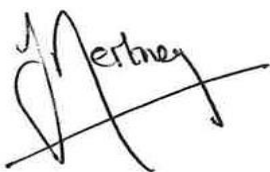
5. Minutes (Pages 11 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 October 2026

6. Progress Update for Previously Agreed Recommendations - Muslim and Faith Burials

Progress update to follow.

7. **Progress Update of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Affordable Housing** (Pages 15 - 18)
8. **Overview Report: Community Services and Transport and Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees** (Pages 19 - 64)
9. **Chair's Update and Work Programme 2026 - 2027** (Pages 65 - 68)



Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
Friday 30 October 2026

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

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

Key – Declarable interests are :-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

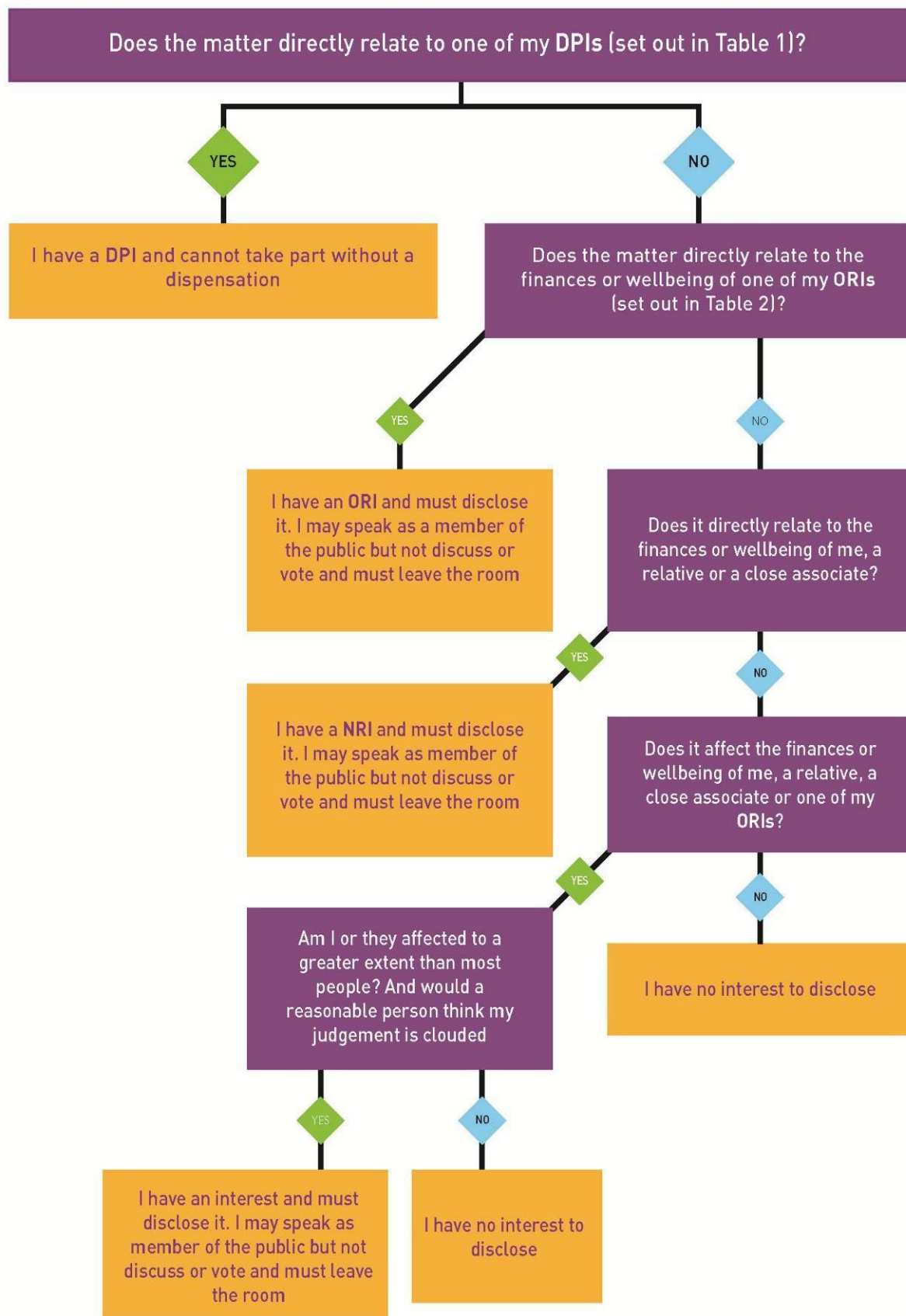


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other 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

Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

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



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

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

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

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

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

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



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

When the Alarm sounds:

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

5. await further instructions.

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

Toilets

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

Water Cooler

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

Microphones

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

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Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday 12th October 2026.

Present: Cllr Jim Beall (Chair), Cllr Steve Nelson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Stephen Dodds, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

Officers: Sharon Boulton, Katie Chapel (Dog's Trust), Stephen Donaghy (Neighbourhoods), and Michelle Gunn (Corporate Services)

Also in attendance: Cllr Norma Stephenson

Apologies:

PLA/33/26 Livestreaming

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

PLA/34/26 Evacuation Procedure

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

PLA/35/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

PLA/36/26 Minutes

AGREED the minutes of the meeting on 14 September be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PLA/37/26 Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling, and Protection of Pets

The Committee received a presentation from the Operations Manager and Rehoming Manager of the local Dog's Trust, and key points highlighted were:

- Dog's Trust is a welfare charity that aims to be at the forefront of dog welfare in the UK, operating 22 rehoming centres and caring for approximately 11,000 dogs annually.
- The average stay in a Dog's Trust centre was 59 days, although this varied depending on the dog's age, health, and behavioural needs, with some dogs staying at a centre less than a week. It cost approximately £3,000 to care for and rehome a dog, while adoption fees were £300.
- The Sadberge centre, the nearest to Stockton-on-Tees, rehomed 653 dogs in 2025 and was on track to increase rehoming numbers by 27% in 2026, having rehomed 519 dogs by September.
- The centre received approximately 15 calls per day requesting rehoming from individuals, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, and other local authorities. Around a fifth of dogs rehomed at Sadberge were referred from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Animal Welfare Service.

- Dog's Trust aimed to assess dogs for rehoming on the same day that Animal Welfare contacted them. They were then able to put plans in place to ensure there was space in the centre after the seven days they had been held by Animal Welfare, minimising kennelling costs for Animal Welfare and freeing up space for other stray dogs. Dogs from Animal Welfare were put into isolation for seven days and given a veterinary assessment and vaccinations.
- Assessment took approximately 10 minutes and included considerations of staff safety, how the dog would cope in kennels, and the dog's welfare, to ensure the dog could be safely rehomed.
- A matching process took place for rehoming, with those applying for a dog assessed to ensure dogs were placed with the most suitable owners for them. If there was no interest for a dog when they arrived at the centre, they would be advertised on the website.
- The centre had a fully equipped physio and hydrotherapy suite, which meant they could support dogs that had more specific health needs. They also had a veterinary suite on site to carry out minor operations such as neutering.
- The charity also offered:
 - A Home Stay service, supporting dogs to be rehomed directly from their existing homes, without entering kennels. This worked for straightforward cases where the dog was young, had no health needs, and therefore considered desirable.
 - A network of 1,700 foster carers who took dogs that had been assessed and were ready for rehoming but needed extra care that could not be provided in a kennel environment.
 - A post adoption support line.
 - Free online advice and behaviour support line which aimed to keep dogs in the home with their owners. The behaviour support line supported 9,000 dog owners in 2025.
 - A Canine Care Card scheme that dog owners could sign up to, whereby the dog would automatically go into the Dog's Trust care without going on the waiting list if the owner became unable to look after them.
 - Dog food banks for those who were struggling to feed their pet, whereby owners asked for "Rover" and were given access to the food they needed.
- Nationally, the Dog's Trust carried out research projects and campaigns to change dog laws, had pet friendly housing schemes, and supported domestic abuse survivors and people experiencing homelessness.
- Internationally, they had committed to help 3 million dogs globally each year, predominately by vaccinating against rabies and educating people about dogs.
- The charity did not receive government funding and therefore relied on donations, legacies, and fundraising such as community events and people participating in Great North Run etc. Only 2% of funding was from adoption fees. There was also a sponsor a dog scheme, whereby people paid a small amount each month for the care of a specific dog.

The Dog's Trust noted that they had an excellent working relationship with SBC's Animal Welfare Service, who they believed worked went above and beyond for the dogs in their care. They added if they were a stray dog they would like to be found in SBC area.

The centre's role in the community was discussed, and it was noted that they were open for members of the public to visit the centre, whether they were looking to adopt a dog or not. They never turned people away who needed food for their pet, and they

had partnerships with local supermarkets, Pets at Home and links with community groups to collect dog food.

Members questioned whether there were any trends in the breeds of dogs coming to the centre for rehoming. It was explained that they got a lot of lurchers and “staffies”, and these were the types of dogs that were being advertised on their website. Belgian Malinois were also a popular breed and therefore the centre was seeing more of these dogs which could be difficult to rehome. It was noted that not all dogs who needed rehoming were placed on the website as they may have already been matched and reserved by those wanting to adopt a dog. Therefore, the website was not a true reflection of the breed of dogs at the centre. It was further noted that the centre would take all dogs that they were able to rehome regardless of breed.

Breed advice was raised, and while advice was available, it was explained that Dog’s Trust encouraged those seeking a dog to come to the centre for assessment so they could be matched to a dog that suits their lifestyle. Once having the assessment, a person may realise a breed was not for them. Also, while there were some breed traits, each dog had its own individual needs.

Members further asked about the centre’s capacity and catchment area. There were 75 kennels, however some dogs could be placed in kennels together. At the time of the meeting they had 118 dogs in their care, 100 of those on site and the remaining in either foster care or Home Stay scheme. However, the number of dogs varies. Most dogs were from Darlington and Stockton area, but they also received requests from Newcastle and other parts of the country and accepted any dog that was able to travel to the centre. The next nearest Dog’s Trust centre was Leeds to the south and West Calder to the north.

Written evidence was circulated to the Committee for noting from the RSPCA who were unable to attend the meeting due to an urgent operational matter.

The Committee received a verbal report from the Environmental Health Manager regarding funding and potential models for operation, along with responsibilities for stray cats. This included:

- The Animal Welfare service received core Council funding to carry out its duties, which included statutory duties. They also received recovery costs when Animal Welfare carried out enforcement and/or legal action, however these were extremely limited. Licensing had income and recovery opportunities for the animal welfare services they carried out via licensing fees, which were regularly reviewed, while Adult Social Care sought to recover related costs for protection of pet duties from the owners.
- The Council sought external funding and grant opportunities where available, however these were also very limited for animal welfare activities.
- The funding received supported staffing and the specialist officers who undertook the work, investigations and enforcement, collection and kennelling, emergency animal accommodation, legal proceedings, training, equipment, and operation costs.
- The strong relationship the Council had with partner organisations, charities, kennel providers, and veterinary practices helped to minimise costs and officers were keen for these relationships to continue.
- There was a potential to explore joint procurement for kennelling, either with Animal Welfare and Adult Social Care, or in partnership with another local authority.

- Increased digitalisation of systems and efficiency measure aimed to make the service as effective as possible while keeping administrative costs low, and this included exploring updating online applications and self-service portals to increase capacity.
- Resources were focused on the highest priorities, whether that be premises for licensing activities or cases in animal welfare. Interventions where standards were consistently high were therefore reduced.
- Education, awareness, and early intervention were seen as keen to reduce demand for services.
- There was no statutory duty for local authorities to collect or accommodate stray cats. However, the Council had a cattery and historically helped to facilitate the rescue, neutering, and rehoming of cats, at a low cost and working with partner charities. They also offered advice and guidance to the public, referring people to Cats Protection, Blue Cross and RSPCA.
- In 2026 the Council had rehomed 61 cats: 39 through Blue Cross, 20 through the RSPCA hubs, and two kittens were rehomed directly through Council officers.
- Animal Welfare services were moving from their current site at 16 Church Road to the Security Centre, and there would no longer be space for a cattery at the new site. This facility would therefore be lost, unless alternative arrangements could be made.

Members questioned the contingency plans for stray cats if the cattery was lost and were informed that they would be working with charities, taking strays directly to them for rehoming.

AGREED the information be noted.

PLA/38/26 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme

Consideration was given to the work programme

AGREED the work programme be noted.

Chair:

Place Select Committee

9 November 2026

Progress Update for Agreed Recommendations – Review of Affordable Housing

Summary

Members are asked to consider the evidence and assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Update on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in relation to the review of Affordable Housing for access to the final report, please see [Final Report - Scrutiny Review of Affordable Housing.pdf](#).

Detail

1. Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
2. Two main types of report are used. Initially this is by means of Action Plans detailing how services will be taking forward agreed recommendations. This is then followed by a Progress Update report, when evidence is submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of '1' are then signed off as having been completed.
3. If any recommendations remain incomplete, or if the Select Committee does not agree with the view on progress, the Select Committee may ask for a further update.
4. The assessment of progress for each recommendation should be categorised as follows:

1	Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
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2	On Track (but not yet due for completion)	The evidence provided shows that implementation of the recommendation is on track but the timescale specified has not expired.
3	Slipped	<p>The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped.</p> <p>An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.</p>
4	Not Achieved	<p>The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved.</p> <p>An explanation for non-achievement of the recommendation would be provided.</p>

5. To further strengthen the monitoring process, from August 2020, the Progress Update report will also include references on the evidence of impact for each recommendation.
6. For progress update reports following the completion of a review, the relevant Link Officer will be in attendance.
7. **Appendix 1** (Review of Affordable Housing) sets out the outstanding recommendations for this Committee. Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessments of progress.

Name of Contact Officer: Michelle Gunn

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone number: 01642 524987

Email address: michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Affordable Housing

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Affordable Housing
Link Officer/s:	Jane Edmonds
Action Plan Agreed:	June 2025

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 1:	<p>The outcomes of the Affordable Housing Option Appraisal to date are supported, and officers be requested to carry out further investigation into a hybrid model to address the borough's affordable housing need, which should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling (which may include for example the Council seeking an increased requirement for the provision of affordable housing on sites the Council owns i.e. above our minimum planning requirement) • Partnerships with Registered Providers and Developers – partnerships may be a single partner or several partners and can come from a variety of sectors • Direct delivery (model to be determined)
Responsibility:	Assistant Director Housing and FSOT (Jane Edmonds) / Service Lead Strategic Housing (Alan Glew)
Date:	End June 2025 (report to Cabinet) Long term action – annual review
Agreed Action:	Report to Cabinet (June 2025) to detail the outcome of the option appraisal process and seek approval for next steps.
Agreed Measure: Success	Report approved by Cabinet The number of affordable housing units delivered in the borough is increased (to secure a positive delivery trajectory)
Evidence of Progress (December 2025):	<p>(a) SBC is part of the Governments Council Housebuilding Skills & Capacity Programme; we are 1 of 10 'vanguard' LA's being supported by the Local Government Association to explore skills and support requirements for local authorities exploring direct housing delivery.</p> <p>(b) Work is ongoing to make best use of S106 commuted sum monies (pre-market engagement planned for late November 2025)</p>

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Affordable Housing

	(c) Work is ongoing to identify best use of the small sites identified within the report to accelerate affordable housing delivery.
Assessment of Progress (December 2025): (include explanation if required)	2. On track – as noted above work is ongoing to explore a range of delivery mechanisms.
Evidence of Impact (December 2025):	Not directly at this stage
Evidence of Progress (May 2026):	(a) Cabinet approved (March 2026) the direct transfer of the first small site to North Star to develop affordable housing – use of the Councils <u>enabling function</u> . (b) Pre-market engagement exercise has been undertaken to inform the procurement of the remaining small sites.
Assessment of Progress (May 2026): (include explanation if required)	2. On track
Evidence of Impact (May 2026):	Not directly at this stage (evidence of impact will be long-term)
Evidence of Progress (November 2026):	Soft Market test completed for the Londonderry Road, Stirling House and Parkside House site. A procurement exercise is currently ongoing to appoint a Registered Provider to bring forward these sites (on a tenure type and mix to be determined by SBC). SBC is in active conversations with Thirteen Housing regarding the provision of housing on a Thirteen owned site.
Assessment of Progress (November 2026): (include explanation if required)	2. On track – as noted progress has been made to further progress development of SBC owned sites.
Evidence of Impact (November 2026):	Not directly at this stage (please note it will be 2/3 years before new build homes will be available for occupation)

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1	2	3	4
	Fully Achieved	On-Track	Slipped	Not Achieved

REPORT TO PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

9 NOVEMBER 2026

Overview Report: Community Services & Transport and Housing & A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees

Summary

The Committee will receive an overview report from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Neighbourhoods directorate which provides details of key achievements and challenges in 2025-2026 for the Community Services and Transport departments as well as any emerging issues within these areas of Council activity. An overview report will also be received from the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate providing key achievements and challenges in 2025-2026, along with any emerging issues, for the Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees department.

Detail

1. In 2025, to facilitate the important overview function of scrutiny committees and provide the opportunity to hold SBC Cabinet Members and services to account, a decision was made to resume overview and performance reporting to the Council's Select Committees. It was agreed that this should take place twice-yearly.
2. As part of the consideration of an overview-only report by Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in April 2026, it was stated that the reporting of performance measures would not commence until September / October 2026. Performance information is now available and forms a key part of these latest updates, covering Community Services and Transport and Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees.
3. Reports have been provided in advance and are included within these meeting papers. Relevant SBC Cabinet Members and Directors/Assistant Directors are scheduled to be in attendance to provide a summary and address any Member comments / questions.

Name of Contact Officer: Michelle Gunn

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone number: 01642 524987

Email address: michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk

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REPORT TO: PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: 9TH November 2026

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS HEALTH & WELLBEING

Housing and a Fairer Stockton Overview Report

Summary

This report gives an overview of the key achievements and challenges in **2025/26** for the Housing and a Fairer Stockton service.

Key Achievements

1. Housing:

- Secured Cabinet approval for the refreshed **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy** (September 2025), developed in partnership with key stakeholders and people with lived experience of homelessness.
- During the year, the Homelessness Service supported 2,563 households seeking advice due to the threat of homelessness and achieved positive prevention or relief outcomes for 1,355 households.
- Established a pilot **Repeat Homeless & Rough Sleeper Service (complex lives)** to provide targeted support for people experiencing rough sleeping the most severe forms of homelessness. The service brings together social workers with homelessness specialists to support individuals with multiple and complex needs i.e. substance misuse and mental health challenges to help reduce rough sleeping and repeat homelessness. To date it has significantly reduced the number of repeat homeless presentations, saving costs to both SBC and wider system partners (such as missed GP appointments / presentations to A&E for example).
- Following engagement with housing register applicants and partner organisations, implemented a revised **Common Allocation Policy** (August 2025) for Tees Valley HomeFinder. The updated policy strengthens the focus on prioritising those in the greatest housing need. During the year, 312 households secured accommodation through successful nominations.
- Continued delivery of the **Thornaby Town Deal Housing Programme**, supporting investment in housing regeneration and improvements across the North Thornaby area. £2,98m was invested in the following:
 - New play equipment installed in Victoria Park
 - Refurbishment of the Victoria Hall Community centre
 - Installation of 4 new CCTV camera
 - Refurbishment of 83 alley gates
 - Installation of over 9055 security measures to 937 properties in the locality
 - 18 empty properties returned to use
 - 456 energy efficiency measures installed to 192 properties which has provided an average saving of £671.40 per property per year
- Embedded **Selective Licensing Scheme** of private rented housing across North Thornaby, Central Stockton and Newtown to improve property standards within the private rented sector. This included; proactive engagement with landlords and tenants and the issuing 47 Property Improvement Plans to drive improvements in property condition and management standards.
- Continued to work with Registered Providers and private developers to increase the supply of affordable housing across the borough. During the year, 131 new

affordable homes were delivered, including affordable rented and home ownership properties.

- Used our **Disabled Facilities Grant** funding to enable residents to remain independent in their own homes through the provision of appropriate housing adaptations (211 property adaptations were completed in year).

2. Fairer Stockton-on-Tees:

- Worked alongside the Positive Living Forum (residents with lived experience of poverty) to co-develop the borough's **Anti-Poverty Strategy**.
- Continued to **support community-led initiatives** that help residents manage the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. This included the ongoing delivery of 5 weekly Bread and Butter Hubs, improving access to affordable food options (Community Pantries for example), and the Volunteer Driver Scheme, which helps vulnerable residents access healthcare appointments and participate in social, community and wellbeing activities. During 2025/26, the boroughs residents contributed more than 11,300 hours of volunteering.
- Delivered the **Free School Meals Auto-Enrolment Programme**, resulting in more than 400 pupils being automatically enrolled for free school meals during 2025 and securing almost £500,000 of additional Pupil Premium funding for schools across the borough.
- Delivered a range of **Here to Help** events, including the Going for Good Family Fun Day (20 July 2025), which:
 - Attracted over 1,500 residents.
 - Distributed 300 pre-loved and 150 new school uniform items.
 - Provided 50 games and toys for children.
 - Distributed 200 new and 300 pre-loved books.
 - Distributed 475 hygiene products.
 - Brought together more than 30 support agencies, each engaging with up to 500 residents.
 - Enabled over 100 families to participate in sporting activities delivered by Middlesbrough Football Club.

3. Community Engagement:

- Continued delivery of the **Test, Learn and Grow** programme in Ropner, Hardwick, North Thornaby and Port Clarence, working alongside residents to identify priorities, develop community action plans and deliver a range of locally led initiatives, examples included:
 - Hardwick - fly tipping and improvement to the environment was identified as a priority in the action plan for Hardwick. A community litter picking day saw 60 residents and organisations (Cleveland Fire Brigade, Housing Associations, Aspen Gardens care home and local primary and secondary schools) come together through a day of action to clean up Hardwick Dene.
 - Mandale - parents from the school community identified that there was a lack of support for those with SEND children who either had a diagnosis or were waiting to be diagnosed. By taking services to them, this has enabled these parents to form a strong support group and has helped to address their worries and concerns.
 - Clarences - funding has enabled children from High Clarence Primary School to take part in boxing sessions after school. Over 20 children took part weekly and this was following feedback from residents that diversionary activities were essential for young people in this area.

- Expanded the reach and impact of the award-winning **Bright Minds, Bright Futures** youth-led movement, empowering young people to influence local decision-making and deliver community-based projects. For example:
 - 900 young people from the borough influenced the priorities they want to focus on in 2026/27 through the Make Your Mark campaign.
 - Over 20 young people from across the borough also took part in an election process for the BMBF youth council, with 10 young people elected and 2 of these young people have been elected as Members of Youth Parliament to represent the youth voice of Stockton on a local and national stage.
- Delivered another successful **STAR Awards**, celebrating the outstanding contribution of residents, volunteers, community groups and organisations that make a positive difference across Stockton-on-Tees.
- Continued to expand the **Community Spaces and Warm Welcome Network**, providing safe, welcoming and inclusive places where residents can access support, build social connections and participate in community activities. 10 weekly Warm Welcome sessions take place attracting nearly 300 residents (per week) who come together in a safe and welcoming environment for a cuppa and free activities. Activities support building social connections and improving mental health. Participants also participated in cooking courses, slow cooker/air fryer courses (supporting cooking on a budget & cooking nutritious meals) which again support with positive health and wellbeing.

4. Pride in Place:

- Following the announcement of Central Stockton and Portrack as one of the Government's **Pride in Place** programme areas, commenced preparation for the extensive programme of community engagement (which took place in 2026/27) to understand local priorities and aspirations for the area.
- Worked collaboratively with **MHCLG** and **IPSOS** to deliver an engagement event with Mill Lane Primary School. The approach and learning from this activity have subsequently been included within MHCLG's national engagement guidance, which is being shared with Pride in Place programme areas across the country.

Challenges

1. Affordable housing supply:

- The limited supply of affordable housing across both the social and private rented sectors continues to present a significant challenge. To address local housing needs, the service continues to work proactively with a range of partners to bring forward new housing developments, including both general needs and specialist/supported accommodation.
- As Select Committee will be aware, this includes strengthening the Council's housing enabling function to secure the right type and tenure of homes on Council-owned sites. This work is focused on addressing homelessness pressures, supporting vulnerable adults to live independently, and providing suitable accommodation for care leavers who are ready to move into independent living.

2. New housing legislation and regulatory requirements:

- The Government is currently implementing the **Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023** and the **Renters' Rights Act**. Whilst both pieces of legislation are welcomed, they will place additional responsibilities on local authorities. For example:

- By 31 March 2027, the Council will be required to develop and publish a Supported Housing Strategy.
- The Renters' Rights Act has introduced new investigatory powers and tenancy reforms, requiring local authorities to take a more proactive approach to enforcement within the private rented sector. This represents a significant shift from discretionary to mandatory enforcement activity. To ensure the Council is appropriately prepared, existing policies have been reviewed to ensure compliance with emerging legislation and guidance. In addition, workforce development and training are being undertaken to equip staff with the knowledge and skills required to deliver these new responsibilities effectively.

3. Cost of living pressures:

- Cost of living pressures remain a significant challenge for many residents and communities. It is therefore essential that the Council continues to work alongside internal services and external statutory and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) partners to maximise household incomes and support financial resilience.
- This includes promoting benefit uptake campaigns, delivering a further year of Free School Meals Auto-Enrolment programme, increasing access to affordable food provision through local pantries and Bread and Butter Hubs, and continuing to promote Warm Welcome and Community Spaces as welcoming community venues. To be effective, our approach must combine crisis support, prevention and longer-term interventions that tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality, helping residents not only cope with immediate financial pressures but also improve their financial resilience over time.

4. Pride in Place

- In accordance with MHCLG guidance, the Council continues to work closely with the Pride in Place Board, which comprises of local residents, community organisations, businesses, ward councillors and partner agencies. As the Accountable Body, the Council is required to work with the Board to develop:
 - A **10-year Vision** setting out the community's long-term ambitions and priorities for the area, alongside a clear framework for delivery.
 - A **4-year Investment Plan** detailing how funding will be utilised to achieve the agreed outcomes.
 - The deadline for submission is the **27 November 2026**. The release of 2027/28 Pride in Place funding remains subject to MHCLG approval of this submission.

Emerging Issues

There are several emerging national policy developments that are likely to influence future service delivery and are currently being reviewed and assessed by the Housing & Fairer Stockton-on-Tees service.

1. National Plan to End Homelessness / committed to end rough sleeping

- The recently published National Plan to End Homelessness, alongside wider Government commitments to reduce rough sleeping will have implications for local authorities.
- Additional funding streams, including Routes Off the Streets and Settled Accommodation programmes, are being managed through combined authorities, addressing these challenges will require ongoing collaboration and coordinated action across local authority boundaries.

2. Social Housing Bill

- The Social Housing Bill, introduced on 14 May 2026, sets out the next phase of the Government's "decade of renewal" for social and affordable housing. The Bill seeks to:
 - Protect existing social housing stock;
 - Increase the delivery of social rented homes;
 - Strengthen protections for victims of domestic abuse; and
 - Remove regulatory barriers to investment in the sector.

As the legislation progresses through Parliament, it will be important for the Council that we understand the implications for residents and housing services.

3. Renters' Rights Act - Register Your Rental Property Service

- The next phase of the Renters' Rights Act includes the implementation of the **Register Your Rental Property Service** (previously the Private Rented Sector Database). The service will require landlords of assured and regulated tenancies to register themselves and each of their properties. Registration will cost £65 per property per year, with annual renewal required.
- Failure to register may result in enforcement action by local authorities, including financial penalties of up to £7,000 for initial breaches and up to £40,000 for repeated breaches, or prosecution in the most serious cases.
- The service will be implemented on a phased basis, with North East local authorities joining during Phase 7. Landlords in the region will be required to register between 15 June 2027 and 14 September 2027.
- Local authorities will play a key enforcement role and will also be able to utilise registration data to improve intelligence on landlords and properties within the private rented sector. Further guidance and information regarding new burdens funding for 2027/28 is expected in the coming months. Additional staffing implications are likely to arise because of these new responsibilities.

4. Local Plan Development

- The development of a new Local Plan presents a significant opportunity to address the borough's housing needs, including both general needs housing and specialist/supported accommodation requirements.
- Housing colleagues continue to work closely with Planning and Regeneration services to ensure that evidence on housing need informs the emerging plan.

5. Ongoing Cost of Living Pressures

- As noted previously, rising household costs, particularly for energy, fuel and food, continue to place significant pressure on residents. These impacts are most acute for those on lower incomes and those already experiencing financial hardship. Supporting residents through these challenges will remain a key priority across the Council and its partners.

6. Supported Housing Regulatory Housing Act (mandatory licensing regime of supported housing England)

- The Council is awaiting on additional Government guidance on the proposals and role of local authorities. We are anticipating a licensing scheme that will be linked to compliance with national standards covering for example; the quality and condition of accommodation, suitability of accommodation for resident's needs, support, care and supervision arrangements, resident wellbeing and safeguarding and provider governance and management arrangements will go live in 2027/28. Whilst licensing will provide local authorities with a greater oversight of supported housing providers

operating with the borough it will place new responsibilities and enforcement powers on councils.

Stockton-on-Tees Plan – Progress 2026

Housing and a Fairer Stockton

Summary

Following Council agreement of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan in 2024, it was agreed that Place Select Committee would receive annual performance updates of the Tier 2 outcomes.

The indicators attached (Appendix 1) provide Place Select Committee with an update on the Council's progress against the high-level outcomes identified in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan.

Recommendations

Place Select Committee is recommended to note and comment on the update attached at Appendix 1.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To Ensure Transparency and Accountability:

Regular reporting against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan enables Members to monitor progress, assess the effectiveness of service delivery, and ensure that the Council remains accountable to residents and partners.

2. To Support Evidence-Based Decision Making:

The report provides an overview of outcomes, highlighting both achievements and areas requiring improvement. This evidence base supports informed decision-making and prioritisation of resources.

3. To Drive Continuous Improvement:

Identifying areas for improvement allows for timely intervention and the implementation of corrective actions. This promotes a culture of continuous improvement across services and contributes to better outcomes for communities.

4. To Align with Strategic Priorities:

Monitoring progress against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan ensure that the organisation remains focused on delivering its strategic objectives and that progress is aligned with the Council's vision and long-term goals.

5. To Inform Future Planning and Budgeting:

Insights from the report can inform future service planning, policy development, and budget setting, ensuring that resources are targeted effectively to meet community needs.

6. To Highlight and Celebrate Success:

Recognising areas of strong progression helps to motivate staff, share best practice, and reinforce the Council's commitment to delivering high-quality services.

Detail

1. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan (2024) set a Vision for the future of the Borough, developed with communities, for communities:
 - a. Our Vision: Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity.

2. The wider plan was developed to reflect the drivers and priorities that can turn our Vision into reality, and included a picture of success, underpinned by key outcome measures (What success looks like – Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).
3. Outcomes centre around our priority areas of:
 - The Best Start in Life to Achieve Big Ambitions
 - Healthy and Resilient Communities
 - A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit
 - An Inclusive Economy
 - A Sustainable Council
4. **Appendix 1** provides the first year's progress report against key outcome measures, it includes:
 - a. The vision and priorities
 - b. Key indicators (current position and direction of travel)
 - c. Activity to date
 - d. Planned activity
 - e. Key metrics
5. This includes:
 - a. Areas where the Council performs above the national average, and demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions:

	Indicator	Previous year	Latest data	Trend
2	Number of people sleeping rough on a single night (MHCLG)	4	9	
3	Number of people sleeping rough over the month who are long term (MHCLG)	3	2	
4	Percentage of duties owed where homelessness was prevented (MHCLG)	61.75%	75.25%	
5	No. of households with children in temporary accommodation per (000s) households (MHCLG)	0.1	0.06	
8	Number of families in B&B over 6 weeks (MHCLG)	0	0	

- b. Areas where the Council shows strong performance relative to national averages, however there is a need to manage local trends to improve outcomes:

17	Number of households securing accommodation via Tees Valley Homefinder	270	63	

- c. Areas where the Council demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions:

	Indicator	Previous year	Latest data	Trend
6	Total number of temporary accommodation places made (with children) - (commissioned and emergency)	New Indicator	19	
7	Total number of temporary accommodation places made (single or couples) - (commissioned and emergency)	New Indicator	166	

- d. Known areas of challenge, which form the basis of targeted activity to improve outcomes:

	Indicator	Previous year	Latest data	Trend
9	Number of people supported to live independently via Disabled Facilities Grant Funding	211	49	
13	Net additional dwellings (MHCLG)	666	753	
14	Number of new affordable homes delivered (rented and home ownership)	131	105	
19	Number of households accessing food support initiatives	8225	4926	
20	Number of households supported to improve their housing situation through direct financial assistance	New Indicator	40	

e. Indicators that are specific to SBC with a positive trend:

	Indicator	Previous year	Latest data	Trend
1	Total number of verified rough sleepers	150	40	
10	Number of legal interventions made to improve private sector housing	New Indicator	6	
12	Number of Private Rental properties that have a Licence within the Selective Licensing Areas	New Indicator	1295	
17	Number of households securing accommodation via Tees Valley Homefinder	270	63	
18	Number of volunteer hours delivered by residents of the Borough	2826	3239	

Community Impaction and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

6. The Council Plan drew from a wide range of data and intelligence. But overall, it represents the voice of the Borough. It has been developed with communities, for communities. Intelligence has been gathered from:

- Our Residents Survey
- Conversations with Community Groups
- Face-to-face interviews
- Out Viewpoint Panel

7. Key themes from our conversation with communities, and which are reflected in the Council Plan are:

- Creating a Borough to be proud of that encourages more young people to stay here
- Creating employment opportunities and raising aspirations
- Creating safe communities and reducing anti-social behaviour in town centres
- Good Schools and Colleges
- Good transport links – including cycleways & pathways
- Joint working with communities and creating an inclusive Borough

8. Working closely with our communities and partners will help us meet the needs of our residents and make Stockton-on-Tees a place we can all be proud of. Some examples of how we will measure success include:

- The number of children in poverty
- Educational attainment
- Feelings of belonging in communities
- Crime rates & perceptions of crime

- **Satisfaction with employment & accommodation**
- Employment rates & productivity

Corporate Parenting Implications

9. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan's strategic priorities will support the Local Authority to deliver its statutory functions and enable it to be an effective Corporate Parent.

Financial Implications

10. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan is aligned with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report. Financial Implications will be considered through any proposed action to deliver and approval sought at that point.

Legal Implications

11. Any and all legal implications will be identified through careful action planning throughout the delivery of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan noting, in particular, that growing pressures on communities and public services will require effective management of all Council's resources, and that, any decisions made pursuant to the Council Plan are also made in accordance with the law to minimise any risk of legal challenge.

Risk Assessment

12. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan provides the vision or the future of the Borough. The greatest risk associated with the Stockton-on-Tees Plan is that the development has not been sufficiently robust and that the wrong priorities have been identified. This risk has been mitigated by a detailed development process including considerable consultation with our communities, partners and internally with Members and officers.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward Councillors

All Stockton-on-Tees Wards are affected.

Background Papers

Council Plan (Council Report, November 2024)

Name of Contact Officer: Angela Connor

Post Title: (Interim) Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing

Telephone number: 01642 526456

Email address: angela.connor@stockton.gov.uk

Name of Contact Officer: Jane Edmends

Post Title: Assistant Director - Housing & A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees

Telephone number: 01642 526682

Email address: jane.edmends@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Measuring Progress

a) The vision, priorities and key indicators



OUR VISION

Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity. We are Team Stockton-on-Tees.

Read the full plan



1

THE BEST START IN LIFE TO ACHIEVE BIG AMBITIONS

A safe and inclusive community where everyone can thrive. Working hard to prevent the impact of poverty, creating a bright and healthy future with a shared sense of belonging. Supporting children in our care and creating equality of opportunity

2

HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Building happy and healthy lives, supporting those who are experiencing poverty. Ensuring that our residents are resilient, independent

3

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

A vibrant and diverse place with an environment that is well looked after and outdoor spaces to enjoy that residents can be proud of

4

AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Growing the local economy and cementing our role as the well-connected, economic heart of Tees Valley. Ensuring that all residents can benefit from secure and sustainable jobs

5

SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL

A well-run financially sustainable Council that improves outcomes for communities

Progress Quadrant	PRIORITIES		INDICATORS	
	WHAT'S BEEN DONE			PLANNED ACTIVITY
EXAMPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">List of priorities that the specific service is currently working on:Priority 1Priority 2Etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">List of indicators (outcomes) that measures the progress of all the PRIORITIES:Indicator 1Indicator 2Etc.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">List of actions that have been undertaken to try and improve the INDICATORSAction 1Action 2Etc.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">List of actions that have been proposed to try and improve the INDICATORS. These will be moved into WHAT'S BEEN DONE once complete.Planned 1Planned 2Etc.	

Housing and a Fairer Stockton			Service Priorities			
			THE BEST START IN LIFE TO ACHIEVE BIG AMBITIONS	HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES	A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT	AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY
Unique Indicator Co	Priority	Comments / Changes	Linked to above priority			
SPHFS001	Prevent and relieve Homelessness and rough sleeping		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SPHFS002	Support residents to live independently in warm, safe, healthy homes and communities		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SPHFS003	Empower and support communities to become more resilient to address inequalities and poverty		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

b) Activity to date

1 / 2 / 3	Continue to respond to report of rough sleepers across the borough (received either directly or via Homeless Link). Established the Repeat Homeless & Rough Sleeper Team to provide bespoke to those who present as homelessness with multiply & complex issues.
4	Continue to focus on homelessness prevention activity (including identifying suitable alternative housing options if appropriate). Tenancy Relations Officer appointed to support those who may fear and/or experience illegal eviction.
5 / 6 / 7 / 8	Undertook a review of temporary accommodation requirements. Secured Cabinet approval (June 2026) to progress a new temporary and supported accommodation model.
9	Worked with Thirteen ensure that Thirteen adaptations funding and SBC DFG funding is maximised to address need.
10	Continue to respond to complaints of poor housing conditions in the private rented sector. Review of Enforcement and Regulatory Housing policies undertaken to ensure they are aligned to the Renters Rights Act. An active member of the national MHCLG funded Jigsaw network and wider regional networks.
12	Continued focus on accessing applications received from private landlords for a Selective License. Acted on intelligence to identify private rented properties that are required to apply for a Selective License
13	Engaged with developers to provide accommodation that meets the needs and aspirations of the boroughs residents in sustainable locations.
14	Continued to engage with Register Providers to identify potential sites for affordable housing provision. Identification of SBC owned sites to deliver affordable housing.
16	Continue to respond to empty property complaints. Used Town Deal monies (in North Thornaby) to return empty properties to use (Registered Provider direct purchase and private landlord grant incentive schemes).

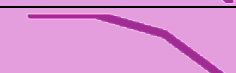
17	Reviewed the Common Allocation Policy to ensure it supports those in greatest housing need. Continued to engage with Registered Housing Providers to encourage them to work with SBC to sign-up to Nomination Agreements and advertise their properties on Tees Valley HomeFinder..
18	Continued to work with young people (via BMBF) to identify volunteering opportunities. Worked with Communication Colleagues to actively promote volunteering opportunities and the benefits of volunteering.
19	As an alternative to food banks, continued to promote the boroughs network of Community Pantries and the 5 Bread and Butter Hubs to reduce reliance of food banks.
20	Identified opportunities to support households through financial support (alignment back with indicators (4) as this may include Bond and Rent in Advance schemes and (9) as this may include DFG Loan support to enable households progress a DFG application (i.e. in instances where the cost of a DFG is above the £30k limit).

Planned activity [COMPLETED BY DIRECTOR/AD]

1 / 2 / 3	Further develop the Repeat Homeless & Rough Sleeper Team to act upon service user feedback and identify a broader range of VCSE and statutory partners (to maximise on multi-agency working). Develop a plan to ensure to offer all Rough Sleepers are offered accommodation off the streets. Work with TVCA and the TV LA's to identify opportunities to work collaboratively to address rough sleeping.
4	Prepare an Action Plan to ensure the Homelessness Service is aligned to the National Plan to End Homelessness.
5 / 6 / 7 / 8	Commence procurement of new temporary and supported accommodation contracts (aiming to commence from April 2027).
9	Undertake a review of how DFG funding can be effectively used to best address our resident's needs / explore discretionary funding options. Work with colleagues in the Lettings & Nominations Team to identify households with a medical need and whether appropriate accommodation exists and if not is a DFG a possible alternative.
10 / 12	Continue to prepare for the Renters Rights Act. Continue to be an active member of the Jigsaw and wider regional networks. Commence a programme of property inspections with the Selective Licensing areas. Identify properties requiring a Selective License by conduction walkabouts, interrogating databases and consulting with internal SBC colleagues and local communities.
13	Undertake a supported housing needs assessment and make available to potential development partners (both private and registered housing providers).
14	Procure a Register Provider partner to bring forward new affordable housing that meets the needs of the boroughs residents on SBC owned sites. Progress with the direct purchase of properties that meet the housing needs of care leavers who are ready for independent living and adults who can live independently with support. Prepare and publish a Supported Housing Needs Assessment.
18	Review and refresh the boroughs Volunteering Strategy ('People Power').
19	Work with internal and external partners to ensure that our communities are aware of the affordable housing offers that are available across the borough Work with colleagues across Public Health and our VCSE partners to develop the Stockton Food Power Network.

b) Key Metrics

	Indicator	Polarity	Previous 2 years		Previous year	Latest data	Latest data date	Trend
1	Total number of verified rough sleepers	Low is good	92	67	150	40	Q4 25/26	
2	Number of people sleeping rough on a single night (MHCLG)	Low is good	3	3	4	9	03.03.2026	
3	Number of people sleeping rough over the month who are long term (MHCLG)	Low is good	5	0	3	2	25.06.2026	
4	Percentage of duties owed where homelessness was prevented (MHCLG)	High is good	60.50%	67.50%	61.75%	75.25%	September	
5	No. of households with children in temporary accommodation per (000s) households (MHCLG)	Low is good	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.06	02.03.2026	
6	Total number of temporary accommodation places made (with children) - (commissioned and emergency)	Low is good			New Indicator	19		
7	Total number of temporary accommodation places made (single or couples) - (commissioned and emergency)	Low is good			New Indicator	166		
8	Number of families in B&B over 6 weeks (MHCLG)	Low is good	0	0	0	0	Q3 25/26	
9	Number of people supported to live independently via Disabled Facilities Grant Funding	High is good	207	211	211	49	Q4 2025/26	

10	Number of legal interventions made to improve private sector housing	N/A			New Indicator	6	New Indicator	
11	Proportion of rental housing in LA area deemed decent (MHCLG)	High is good	85.3	NA	NA	87.3	2023	
12	Number of Private Rental properties that have a Licence within the Selective Licensing Areas	N/A			New Indicator	1295	New Indicator	
13	Net additional dwellings (MHCLG)	High is good	337	604	666	753	2024/25	
14	Number of new affordable homes delivered (rented and home ownership)	High is good	146	293	131	105	Q4 25/26	
15	House price to workplace-based earnings ratio (ONS)	Low is good	5.22	5.73	5.58	4.78	2025	
16	Percentage of long-term vacant dwellings in the Borough (more than six months)	Low is good	3.6%	3.6%	3.2%	2.2%	Q4 25/26	
17	Number of households securing accommodation via Tees Valley Homefinder	High is good		New Indicator	270	63	Q4 25/26	
18	Number of volunteer hours delivered by residents of the Borough	High is good		New Indicator	2826	3239	Q4 25/26	
19	Number of households accessing food support initiatives	Low is good		New Indicator	8225	4926	Q4 25/26	
20	Number of households supported to improve their housing situation through direct financial assistance	Low is good			New Indicator	40	Q1 25/26	

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Place Select Committee

Housing & Fairer Stockton-on Tees Overview Report 2025/2026

Examples of cross our Key Achievements

Homelessness Service

- Adoption of refreshed Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Service
- Implementation of the repeat Homelessness Service

Delivery of the Thornaby Town Deal Housing Programme

- Property improvements (security measures / energy efficiency measures)
- Returning empty properties to use & wider environmental improvements

Worked with Registered Housing providers to increase the supply of affordable housing

- 131 new affordable homes

Continued to support individuals to live as independently as possible in their homes

- 211 property adaptations delivered through

Continued support to support those experiencing poverty & social isolation

- Free School meals auto enrollment / Here to Help events

Challenges and Emerging issues

Examples of challenges

- Limited affordable housing options in both the social and private rented sectors
- Continued cost of living pressures

Examples of emerging issues

- Responding to key Government priorities and legislation:
 - National Plan to End Homelessness / national commitment to end rough sleeping
 - Renters Right Act (Register Your Rental Property Service)
 - Supported Housing Regulatory Act (Introduction of a mandatory licensing regime for supported housing)
- Working with the Neighbourhood Board to prepare the Central Stockton & Portrack **Pride in Place** Plan and 10-year Vision

Looking ahead key areas of focus (examples of planned activity)

- Continued focus on addressing homelessness & rough sleeping
- DFG funding review (specifically our use of discretionary funding)
- Continuing our preparation the next phases of the Renters Rights Act & Supported Housing Regulatory Act
- Publish a Supported Housing Strategy
- Work with the sector to refresh the boroughs Volunteering Strategy (“People Power”)

PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

9TH NOVEMBER 2026

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

Community Services and Transport Overview Report

Summary

This report gives an overview of the key achievements and challenges in 2025/26 in the Community Services and Transport Service.

Key Achievements

Waste Changes

Following Cabinet approval to move to weekly recycling and food waste collections, alongside a shift to fortnightly residual waste collections, the service was launched on 31st March 2026. There were some significant challenges in the first few weeks, not only associated with such a significant change in collection provision, but specifically dealing with much higher levels of recycling participation than the most optimistic of modelling.

Most authorities when adopting to a fortnightly refuse collection provision in the past have experienced an increase of recycling participation levels of around 40%, rising to 60% over time. As Stockton introduced the new recycling and waste services following an extensive community engagement campaign, we experienced unprecedented recycling levels which approached 90% recycling of at least 1 commodity in the first week and, even after 6 months, participation levels are around 75%.

The need to deploy additional resources has been challenging as the extra 15% in participation levels has resulted in an increase of 6 rounds to deal with the demand, although this is also countered with the huge success associated with our residents engaging with the new service and has seen a net reduction in residual waste tonnages of around 33% when compared to 2025/2026. In recent weeks, the efforts to engage proactively with residents in the run up to the implementation of the new collection service was recognised nationally when the Waste Engagement Team were crowned the winners of the 'Best Communications Campaign of the Year' at the annual Local Authority Advisory Committee (LARAC) Awards.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

We have secured a new facility which will see the location of the HWRC move from its current location on Haverton Hill Road to a new facility at Belasis Avenue, Billingham following the end of the current contract that we have with Suez in 2030.

A partnership with colleagues from across the Council managed to close on the sale of the new site in the summer and works are now progressing to identify the most appropriate project delivery model for the new site. This new facility will provide an opportunity to consider and implement best practice from other recently constructed sites across the country in order to improve on the offer of what is a well-used and critical means by which our residents can dispose of their large items of household waste.

Waterfront Park

In conjunction with many colleagues from teams across the Council, we successfully opened the new Waterfront Park, which has provided a vital link between the High Street and the riverside. The park has received a significant number of compliments from users and has drawn the attention of national interest as a result of the innovative design and distinct areas including the play area, ornamental areas and the events space.

The maintenance of the site has been challenging although the team have worked tirelessly since the park was opened to ensure that the standard remains high and the park continues to be a beacon of the ongoing development and regeneration across the town centre.

Workforce Planning and Development

Investing in staff is not only a key corporate commitment but also one which is of significant importance within Community Services and Transport in light of the number of staff employed within the area and the need to tackle issues associated with competition in what can be a buoyant employment market, staff retention and dealing with the challenges of an ageing workforce.

The ongoing support with the Council's Apprenticeship programme has provided many young people with opportunities in areas including Highway Maintenance, Arboriculture, School Catering with many Apprenticeships being used as a springboard to onward employment with the Council. We have also provided work placement opportunities in a range of national schemes including the Youth Trailblazer Programme and, more recently, provided work placement opportunities to some of our Care Experienced Young People with one young person being successful in securing a Gardener Apprenticeship working at our flagship waterfront park.

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Eaglescliffe Station Western Car Park

The new western car park at **Eaglescliffe Station** has been successfully delivered, providing 65 additional parking spaces together with a new bus shelter, secure cycle parking facilities and two dedicated taxi bays. The scheme has significantly improved access to rail services from the western side of the railway and enhanced connectivity between the station, surrounding residential communities, existing businesses and the Tees Link development. The project was completed ahead of programme and within budget, delivering early benefits to station users and the wider local area. The design has also been developed to accommodate future expansion should parking demand increase over time.

Various cycleways

Working with the **Tees Valley Combined Authority**, **Thornaby Town Deal** and **Levelling Up Fund** programmes, significant progress has been made over the past year in developing and delivering several strategic cycleway schemes across the Borough. These schemes are designed to improve walking, wheeling and cycling connectivity, providing safer and more sustainable access to town centres, education and employment opportunities.

The **Thornaby Town Centre Cycleway** and **Durham Lane Cycleway** schemes are currently under construction. The contract for the **Thornaby to Stockton Cycleway** has been awarded, with the **Cowpen Bewley to Wolviston Cycleway** scheme expected to be awarded shortly. In addition, delivery of the **Stockton Town Centre Cycleway** is programmed to commence over the coming months. Together, these schemes will make a significant contribution to improving active travel infrastructure and connectivity across the Borough.

2025/26 Highway Maintenance Programme

The **2025/26 Highway Maintenance Programme** has been successfully delivered, with all planned footway maintenance, vegetation clearance, street lighting and Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) works completed. The carriageway structural maintenance programme was also substantially delivered, resulting in significant improvements to the condition and resilience of the Borough's highway network. In addition, 100% of the planned general bridge inspections were completed, providing a comprehensive assessment of the Council's structures assets and informing future investment priorities.

The structures programme has also delivered several key achievements. Investigation works at Billingham Beck Bridge have been completed and have informed a funding bid to the Department for Transport's Structures Fund. Furthermore, the Council successfully submitted its Department for Transport Transparency Report, securing the full allocation of highway maintenance funding. Collectively, these achievements demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to maintaining and improving its highway infrastructure through effective programme delivery, asset management and external funding opportunities.

Challenges

The significant financial challenges the Council faces also inevitably impacts upon operational areas where budgets remain the same (or are reduced to make MTFP savings) whilst the cost of supplies, materials and equipment continues to increase significant. To illustrate, the costs of parts to maintain the councils fleet of vehicles has increased by around 50% in the last 4 years although budgets are not increased to reflect these hikes.

This is the same scenario across all other services across Community Services as the majority of functions are operationally focused providing direct services to the public whether this be on grounds maintenance, street cleansing, school catering or other functions, all of which are heavily reliance upon goods, materials or contractors and all areas have seen significant price increases in recent years. Whilst the service tries to adopt creative ways in which resources can be stretched, explore the use of new technology and materials which may prove more cost-effective, it is inevitable that we will need to deliver less in the future as a direct consequence of reduced financial resource and the natural increase in supplies and services; it is proving impossible to deliver more for less.

The Council also continues to face significant challenges in maintaining its highway assets. As the Borough's most valuable asset, the highway network has an estimated replacement value of £2.27 billion and requires substantial ongoing investment to maintain its condition and resilience. These challenges have been compounded by a prolonged period of static maintenance funding, alongside significant inflationary increases in labour, materials and construction costs, resulting in a reduction in purchasing power in real terms. In addition, significant funding has been allocated to essential structural works and investigations on key bridge assets. While necessary to ensure the continued safety and operation of these critical structures, this expenditure has reduced the funding available for wider carriageway maintenance across the network. The Council must continue to prioritise investment based on risk, asset condition and network hierarchy, recognising that parts of the network will continue to deteriorate unless additional funding becomes available. This presents an ongoing challenge in balancing the maintenance of key transport corridors and structures whilst seeking to minimise further decline across the wider highway network.

The ongoing search for a new cemetery to serve the Stockton Centre / West as a result of the ongoing reduction in available grave spaces in Durham Road. At the moment, there is around 6 years of burial provision left in Durham Road and working to tight timescales to find suitable burial provision considering the time associated with the identification of appropriate land, purchase (if it is not owned by the Council), planning approvals, construction and settlement time before the ground is ready to accept burials.

Emerging Issues

Continued emphasis is being placed on evidencing the Council's performance in maintaining its highway assets, particularly in response to increasing requirements from Government to publish transparency reports and provide supporting evidence to secure the full allocation of

maintenance funding. These reporting requirements play an important role in demonstrating effective asset management, accountability and value for money, while providing assurance to residents that available funding is being invested efficiently and targeted where it will deliver the greatest benefit. However, the preparation of these reports and the associated evidence base is resource intensive and places additional demands on officer time and specialist technical expertise.

On a practical level, unprecedented level of potholes associated with weather and the degradation of the highway network has taken significant resources to maintain in line with the requirement and criteria contained our Highway Safety Inspection Policy.

The introduction of the Mayoral Transport Fund (MTF) represents a significant opportunity for the Council and the wider Tees Valley to secure a more flexible and integrated approach to transport investment. By consolidating several previously separate funding streams into a single allocation, the MTF provides greater flexibility to develop and deliver local transport priorities, including highway maintenance, active travel, public transport improvements, electric vehicle infrastructure and wider sustainable transport initiatives. This approach should enable investment to be aligned more effectively with local needs and opportunities while supporting the delivery of strategic transport objectives across the Borough.

However, alongside these benefits, the new arrangements bring increased demands on local highway authorities. The development, prioritisation and delivery of a larger and more diverse programme of transport interventions will require additional resource, business case development, scheme appraisal, programme management and performance monitoring. There are also enhanced reporting requirements associated with the Department for Transport's outcomes-based approach, requiring robust evidence and governance arrangements to demonstrate the successful delivery of investment. As a result, while the MTF presents a valuable opportunity to secure additional transport improvements and investment for residents, it will also require increased technical, project management and administrative capacity to maximise the benefits of the funding programme.

Changes to waste collections has seen pressures within the Workshop environment. The introduction of 22 new recycling vehicles has caused an increase of "Operator License" vehicle numbers to the fleet and introduced a review of the current "O" license arrangements with the Traffic Commissioner.

We are also having to respond to the change in environmental factors and weather conditions as the traditional seasons appear to be bleeding into each other with changes seen in areas including grounds maintenance and the provision of winter maintenance services. The traditional growing season has changes in recent years following warmer winters; this has required us to adopt a more nuanced approach to start and finishing points for grass cutting and has seen an increase in costs as resources have needed to be kept on contract for longer.

There has also been emerging issues around flooding and storm conditions in recent years, all which have proved to be problematic for staff across the service both in terms of dealing with the incidents at the time but also dealing with the clearing up exercise which can often impact upon the normal programme of work – a good example being the Arboriculture team where it can take several weeks to deal with impact of winter storms.

Cabinet Member Approval

The Cabinet Member has been briefed on the contents of this report.

Stockton-on-Tees Plan – Progress 2026

Community Services and Transport

Summary

Following Council agreement of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan in 2024, it was agreed that Place Select Committee would receive annual performance updates of the Tier 2 outcomes.

The indicators attached (Appendix 1) provide Place Select Committee with an update on the Council's progress against the high-level outcomes identified in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan.

Recommendations

Place Select Committee is recommended to note and comment on the update attached at Appendix 1.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To Ensure Transparency and Accountability:

Regular reporting against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan enables Members to monitor progress, assess the effectiveness of service delivery, and ensure that the Council remains accountable to residents and partners.

2. To Support Evidence-Based Decision Making:

The report provides an overview of outcomes, highlighting both achievements and areas requiring improvement. This evidence base supports informed decision-making and prioritisation of resources.

3. To Drive Continuous Improvement:

Identifying areas for improvement allows for timely intervention and the implementation of corrective actions. This promotes a culture of continuous improvement across services and contributes to better outcomes for communities.

4. To Align with Strategic Priorities:

Monitoring progress against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan ensures that the organisation remains focused on delivering its strategic objectives and that progress is aligned with the Council's vision and long-term goals.

5. To Inform Future Planning and Budgeting:

Insights from the report can inform future service planning, policy development, and budget setting, ensuring that resources are targeted effectively to meet community needs.

6. To Highlight and Celebrate Success:

Recognising areas of strong progression helps to motivate staff, share best practice, and reinforce the Council's commitment to delivering high-quality services.

Detail

1. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan (2024) set a Vision for the future of the Borough, developed with communities, for communities:
 - a. Our Vision: Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity.
2. The wider plan was developed to reflect the drivers and priorities that can turn our Vision into reality, and included a picture of success, underpinned by key outcome measures (What success looks like – Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).
3. Outcomes centre around our priority areas of:
 - The Best Start in Life to Achieve Big Ambitions
 - Healthy and Resilient Communities
 - A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit
 - An Inclusive Economy
 - A Sustainable Council
4. Appendix 1 provides the first year's progress report against key outcome measures, it includes:
 - a. The vision and priorities
 - b. Key indicators (current position and direction of travel)
 - c. Activity to date
 - d. Planned activity

e. Key metrics

5. This includes:

- a. Areas where the Council performs above the national average, and demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions:
 - Proportion of passenger journeys on local bus services taken by elderly and disabled concessionary passengers
 - Killed or seriously injured per billion vehicle miles
 - Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (motorways and A roads)
 - Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (B and C roads)
- b. Areas where the Council shows strong performance relative to national averages, however there is a need to manage local trends to improve outcomes:
 - Connectivity Score (overall public transport)
- c. Areas where the Council demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions:
 - Percentage change in service mileage year on year (Total local bus services vehicle miles (millions))
- d. Known areas of challenge, which form the basis of targeted activity to improve outcomes:
 - Percent of total household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting
 - Percentage of total household waste that is collected separately as food waste
 - Residual household waste per household
 - Percentage of adults who engaged in active travel at least twice in the last 28 day
 - Number of passenger journey of local bus services per head of population
 - Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (unclassified roads)
 - Public EVSEs (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment per 100,000 population)
 - Rate of change of years remaining in Durham Road Cemetery
 - Rate of change of years remaining in Oxbridge Lane Cemetery

- Rate of change of years remaining in Billingham Cemetery
- Rate of change of years remaining in Egglescliffe Cemetery
- Rate of change of years remaining in Thornaby Cemetery

e. Indicators that are specific to SBC with a positive trend:

- Percentage of referrals received by Home Improvement Agency completed in priority timeline
- Customer Satisfaction - Pavements and Footpaths
- Customer Satisfaction - Condition of Highways
- Customer Satisfaction - Highway Maintenance
- Customer Satisfaction - Street Lighting
- Customer Satisfaction - Highway Overall
- Customer Satisfaction - Provision of EV charging points

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

6. The Council Plan drew from a wide range of data and intelligence. But overall, it represents the voice of the Borough. It has been developed with communities, for communities. Intelligence has been gathered from:

- Our Residents Survey
- Conversations with Community Groups
- Face-to-face interviews
- Out Viewpoint Panel

7. Key themes from our conversation with communities, and which are reflected in the Council Plan are:

- Creating a Borough to be proud of that encourages more young people to stay here
- Creating employment opportunities and raising aspirations
- Creating safe communities and reducing anti-social behaviour in town centres
- Good Schools and Colleges
- Good transport links – including cycleways & pathways
- Joint working with communities and creating an inclusive Borough

8. Working closely with our communities and partners will help us meet the needs of our residents and make Stockton-on-Tees a place we can all be proud of. Some examples of how we will measure success include:

- The number of children in poverty
- Educational attainment
- Feelings of belonging in communities
- Crime rates & perceptions of crime
- Satisfaction with employment & accommodation
- Employment rates & productivity

Corporate Parenting Implications

9. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan's strategic priorities will support the Local Authority to deliver its statutory functions and enable it to be an effective Corporate Parent.

Financial Implications

10. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan is aligned with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report. Financial Implications will be considered through any proposed action to deliver and approval sought at that point.

Legal Implications

11. Any and all legal implications will be identified through careful action planning throughout the delivery of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan noting, in particular, that growing pressures on communities and public services will require effective management of all Council's resources, and that, any decisions made pursuant to the Council Plan are also made in accordance with the law to minimise any risk of legal challenge.

Risk Assessment

12. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan provides the vision for the future of the Borough. The greatest risk associated with the Stockton-on-Tees Plan is that the development has not been sufficiently robust and that the wrong priorities have been identified. This risk has been mitigated by a detailed development process including considerable consultation with our communities, partners and internally with Members and officers.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward Councillors

All Stockton-on-Tees Wards are affected.

Background Papers

Council Plan (Council Report, November 2024)

Name of Contact Officer: Craig Willows

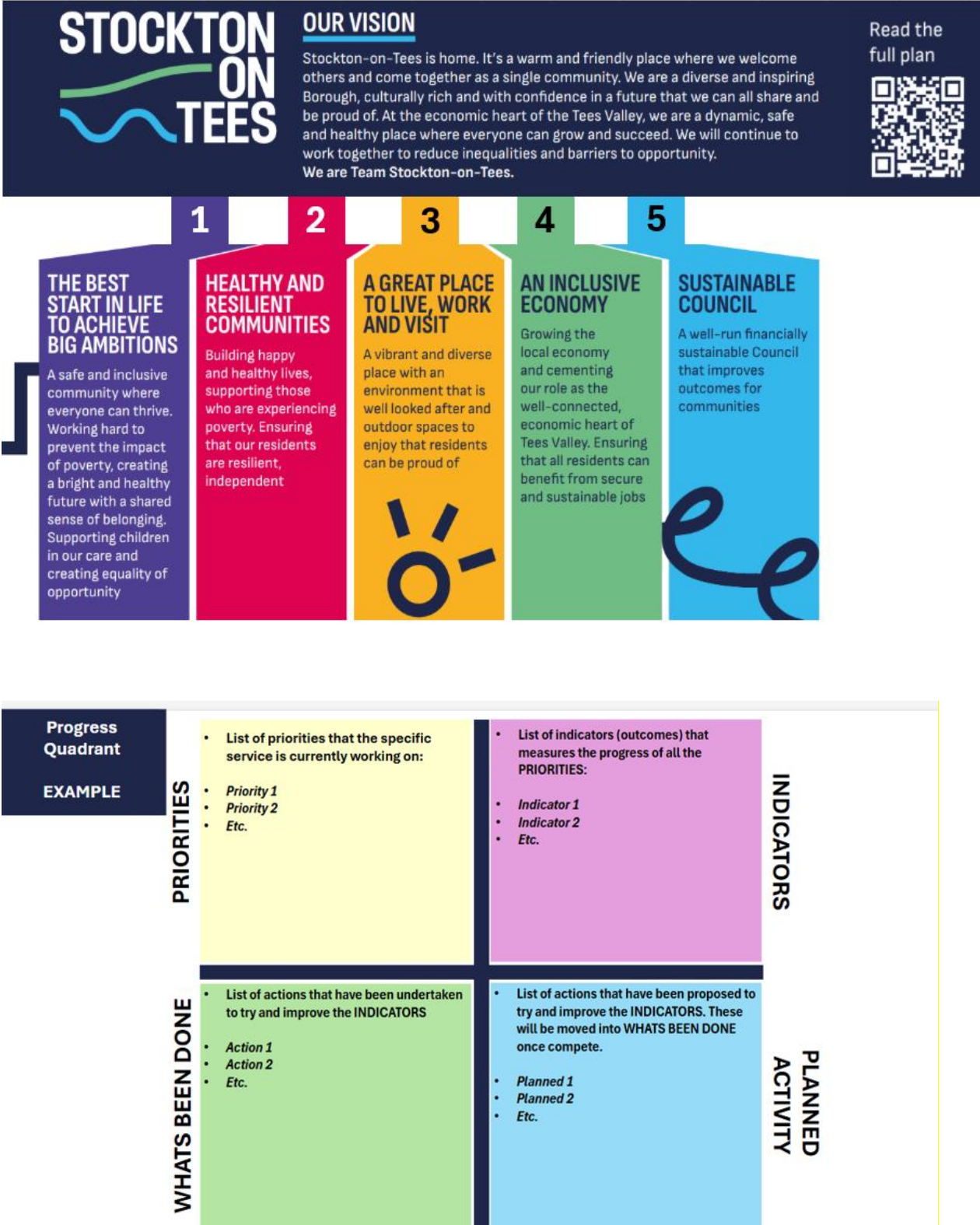
Post Title: Assistant Director - Community Services and Transport

Telephone number: 01642 527179

Email address: craig.willows@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Measuring Progress

a) The vision, priorities and key indicators



Community Services & Transport		Service Priorities				
		THE BEST START IN LIFE TO ACHIEVE BIG AMBITIONS	HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES	A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT	AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY	SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL
		↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Unique Indicator Code	Priority	Linked to above priority				
CS001	Provision of high-quality and cost-efficient catering to Schools	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
CS002	Development and delivery of Capital & Planned Maintenance Projects and Transport Programmes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
CS003	Work with Tees Valley Combined Authority to assist in reducing CO2 emissions from Road Transport	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
CS004	Provision of Recycling services to homes and businesses in-line with Government legislation and Environment Act 2021	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
CS005	Ensure sufficient burial provision throughout the Borough	No	No	No	No	Yes

b) Key indicators (current position and direction of travel)

Ref	Indicator	Latest Value	Trend
1	Percent of total household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	24.2%	
2	Percentage of total household waste that is collected separately as food waste	0.00%	
3	Residual household waste per household (kg)	702.0	
4	Proportion of passenger journeys on local bus services taken by elderly and disabled concessionary passengers	35.0%	
5	Percentage of adults who engaged in active travel at least twice in the last 28 days	24.5%	
6	Number of passenger journey of local bus services per head of population	30.3	
7	Killed or seriously injured per billion vehicle miles	48.9	
8	Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (motorways and A roads)	1.0%	
9	Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (B and C roads)	1.0%	
10	Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (unclassified roads)	18.0%	
11	Public EVSEs (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment per 100,000 population)	132.70	
12	Connectivity Score (overall public transport)	64.11	
13	Percentage change in service mileage year on year (Total local bus services vehicle miles (millions))	3.2%	
14	Operator Licence MOT Pass Rate	92.0%	
15	Percentage of Schools in the Borough provided with SBC Catering Services	50.0%	
16	Percentage of referrals received by Home Improvement Agency completed in priority timeline	99.5%	
17	Rate of change of years remaining in Durham Road Cemetery	71 months	
18	Rate of change of years remaining in Oxbridge Lane Cemetery	0	
19	Rate of change of years remaining in Billingham Cemetery	326 months	
20	Rate of change of years remaining in Egglecliffe Cemetery	0	
21	Rate of change of years remaining in Thornaby Cemetery	911 months	
22	Total number of public requests for repairs to Street Lighting received	1,486	
23	Customer Satisfaction - Pavements and Footpaths	48.0%	
24	Customer Satisfaction - Condition of Highways	29.0%	
25	Customer Satisfaction - Highway Maintenance	46.0%	
26	Customer Satisfaction - Street Lighting	65.0%	
27	Customer Satisfaction - Management of Roadworks	45.0%	
28	Customer Satisfaction - Highway Overall	51.0%	
29	Customer Satisfaction - Footpath Schemes	-	
30	Customer Satisfaction - Carriageway Schemes	95.0%	

Ref	Indicator	Latest Value	Trend
31	Customer Satisfaction - Cycle routes and facilities	53.0%	
32	Customer Satisfaction - Provision of EV charging points	41.0%	
33	Customer Satisfaction - Refuse Collection	88.5%	
34	Customer Satisfaction - Recycling Collection	82.0%	
35	Customer Satisfaction - Street Cleansing	77.0%	
36	Customer Satisfaction - Bulky Waste	86.0%	
37	Customer Satisfaction - Grounds Maintenance	73.0%	

c) Activity to date

1	Weekly recycling and food waste collections achieved exceptionally high participation levels, helping reduce residual waste by around 33%.
2	Separate weekly food waste collections were introduced across the Borough from March 2026.
3	The new collection regime has delivered a significant reduction in residual waste tonnages.
4	Improvements at Eaglescliffe Station have enhanced access to public transport for residents, including elderly and disabled passengers.
5	Multiple strategic cycleway schemes have progressed, improving opportunities for walking, wheeling and cycling.
6	Sustainable transport connectivity has been enhanced through investment in station and active travel infrastructure.
7	Highway maintenance and asset management activity has supported safer and more resilient transport infrastructure.
8	Significant carriageway maintenance works have been completed through the Highway Maintenance Programme.
9	Structural maintenance programmes have improved sections of the local road network.
10	Planned highway investment has addressed deterioration across the wider local network.
11	Sustainable transport remains a priority and future funding opportunities have been identified.
12	The Eaglescliffe Station western car park has improved rail access and wider connectivity.
13	Ongoing transport investment supports the sustainability and connectivity of public transport services.
14	Fleet operations continue to perform well despite significant increases in maintenance costs.
15	Apprenticeships and workforce development continue to support School Catering Service capacity.
16	Effective service management has maintained strong operational performance.
17	Capacity pressures have been identified, with around six years of burial provision remaining.
18	Cemetery capacity is being monitored as part of long-term service planning.
19	Ongoing asset management supports future burial provision planning.
20	Burial capacity continues to be monitored and managed.
21	Cemetery assets continue to be managed to support long-term provision.
22	All planned street lighting works were completed during 2025/26.
23	All planned footway maintenance works were completed.
24	Significant carriageway maintenance works have improved network condition and resilience.
25	The Council successfully delivered the majority of its maintenance programme.
26	Planned lighting improvement works were completed successfully.
27	Major maintenance and transport projects have been delivered through effective programme management.
28	Continued investment has supported improvements across highway assets and infrastructure.
29	Footway maintenance programmes have improved walking infrastructure.
30	Structural maintenance programmes have delivered improvements across the road network.
31	Several strategic cycleway schemes are under construction or progressing to delivery.

32	Future opportunities have been identified through sustainable transport investment programmes.
33	A major transformation of refuse and recycling services was successfully implemented.
34	Weekly recycling collections achieved participation levels of up to 90% following implementation.
35	Frontline environmental services have continued despite financial and operational pressures.
36	A new Household Waste Recycling Centre site has been secured for future service provision.
37	High standards have been maintained across parks and open spaces, including Waterfront Park.

d) Planned activity

1	Continue resident engagement and operational improvements to sustain high participation rates and further increase recycling performance.
2	Embed the new service and maximise food waste capture through ongoing communications and service optimisation.
3	Continue promoting waste minimisation and recycling behaviours to further reduce residual waste levels.
4	Continue investing in transport connectivity through the Mayoral Transport Fund and wider transport programmes.
5	Complete delivery of the current cycleway programme and encourage increased active travel usage.
6	Deliver further transport connectivity improvements through MTF-funded schemes and active travel investment.
7	Continue prioritising highway safety interventions and asset maintenance based on risk and condition.
8	Continue targeting investment at key strategic routes while seeking additional external funding opportunities.
9	Maintain a risk-based approach to prioritisation whilst maximising available maintenance funding.
10	Continue prioritising available funding to minimise further deterioration across lower hierarchy roads.
11	Utilise opportunities available through the Mayoral Transport Fund to expand EV charging infrastructure.
12	Monitor demand and consider future expansion opportunities identified within the scheme design.
13	Work with regional partners to maximise transport funding and support network accessibility.
14	Continue investment in fleet maintenance and explore efficiencies to manage cost pressures.
15	Continue workforce development initiatives and promote service quality to maintain and grow provision.
16	Continue monitoring performance and prioritising timely support for vulnerable residents.
17	Progress identification, acquisition and development of a replacement cemetery site serving Stockton Central and West.
18	Continue reviewing burial provision requirements across the Borough.
19	Continue monitoring capacity and future demand trends.
20	Review future provision requirements as part of borough-wide cemetery planning.
21	Continue monitoring capacity and future demand forecasts.
22	Maintain planned maintenance activity and respond to customer requests efficiently.
23	Continue footway improvement programmes through future Highway Maintenance Plans.
24	Maintain a risk-based investment strategy and seek additional external funding opportunities.
25	Continue delivering annual maintenance programmes whilst evidencing performance to secure full DfT funding allocations.
26	Continue asset replacement and maintenance programmes to maintain service standards.
27	Strengthen programme coordination as transport investment activity increases through the Mayoral Transport Fund.
28	Focus future investment on key transport corridors and critical structures based on risk and condition.

29	Deliver future footpath and active travel schemes to improve accessibility and connectivity.
30	Continue annual carriageway investment programmes while seeking additional funding sources.
31	Complete the current programme of strategic cycleway schemes across the Borough.
32	Develop and deliver additional EV infrastructure through Mayoral Transport Fund investment.
33	Stabilise the service, manage increased demand and continue supporting residents to use the new arrangements effectively.
34	Maintain engagement activity and optimise service delivery to sustain high participation rates.
35	Explore new technology and service efficiencies to maintain standards within available budgets.
36	Progress project development, agree the delivery model and construct the new facility ahead of 2030.
37	Adapt service delivery to changing seasonal growth patterns and climate impacts whilst maintaining flagship sites.

e) Key Metrics

Ref	Indicator	Polarity	Previous 2 years		Previous year	Latest data	Latest data date	Direction of travel	Trend
1	Percent of total household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	High is Good	25.7%	25.2%	24.5%	24.2%	2024/25	↓	
2	Percentage of total household waste that is collected separately as food waste	High is Good	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2024/25	→	
3	Residual household waste per household (kg)	Low is Good	735.1	693.5	699.2	702.0	2024/25	↑	
4	Proportion of passenger journeys on local bus services taken by elderly and disabled concessionary passengers	High is Good	34.0%	33.0%	35.0%	35.0%	2024/25	→	
5	Percentage of adults who engaged in active travel at least twice in the last 28 days	High is Good	24.4%	25.6%	24.7%	24.5%	2024/25	↓	
6	Number of passenger journey of local bus services per head of population	High is Good	25.5	29.1	30.7	30.3	2024/25	↓	
7	Killed or seriously injured per billion vehicle miles	Low is Good	76.4	86.3	90.3	48.9	2024	↓	
8	Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (motorways and A roads)	Low is Good	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	2024/25	→	
9	Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (B and C roads)	Low is Good	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	2024/25	→	
10	Percentage of local authority motorways and A roads that should be considered for maintenance, split by road type (unclassified roads)	Low is Good	15.0%	20.0%	22.0%	18.0%	2024/25	↓	
11	Public EVSEs (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment per 100,000 population)	High is Good	-	129.40	127.40	132.70	2025/26	↑	
12	Connectivity Score (overall public transport)	High is Good	-	-	-	64.11	2025	→	
13	Percentage change in service mileage year on year (Total local bus services vehicle miles (millions))	High is Good	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%	2024/25	↑	
14	Operator Licence MOT Pass Rate	High is Good	-	-	95.0%	92.0%	2025	↓	
15	Percentage of Schools in the Borough provided with SBC Catering Services	High is Good	-	-	-	50.0%	2025/26	→	
16	Percentage of referrals received by Home Improvement Agency completed in priority timeline	High is Good	99.25%	100.0%	100.0%	99.5%	2025/26	↓	
17	Rate of change of years remaining in Durham Road Cemetery	High is Good	-	-	82 months	71 months	2025/26	↓	
18	Rate of change of years remaining in Oxbridge Lane Cemetery	High is Good	-	-	0	0	2025/26	→	

Ref	Indicator	Polarity	Previous 2 years		Previous year	Latest data	Latest data date	Direction of travel	Trend
19	Rate of change of years remaining in Billingham Cemetery	High is Good	-	-	339 months	326 months	2025/26	↓	
20	Rate of change of years remaining in Egglescliffe Cemetery	High is Good	-	-	0	0	2025/26	→	
21	Rate of change of years remaining in Thornaby Cemetery	High is Good	-	-	917 months	911 months	2025/26	↓	
22	Total number of public requests for repairs to Street Lighting received	Low is Good	-	-	-	1,486	2025/26	→	
23	Customer Satisfaction - Pavements and Footpaths	High is Good	-	49.0%	52.0%	48.0%	2025/26	↓	
24	Customer Satisfaction - Condition of Highways	High is Good	-	25.0%	-	29.0%	2025/26	↑	
25	Customer Satisfaction - Highway Maintenance	High is Good	-	46.0%	46.0%	46.0%	2025/26	→	
26	Customer Satisfaction - Street Lighting	High is Good	-	60.0%	62.0%	65.0%	2025/26	↑	
27	Customer Satisfaction - Management of Roadworks	High is Good	-	-	50.0%	45.0%	2025/26	↓	
28	Customer Satisfaction - Highway Overall	High is Good	-	-	52.0%	51.0%	2025/26	↓	
29	Customer Satisfaction - Footpath Schemes	High is Good	-	-	-	-	-	→	
30	Customer Satisfaction - Carriageway Schemes	High is Good	-	-	-	95.0%	2025/26	→	
31	Customer Satisfaction - Cycle routes and facilities	High is Good	-	54.0%	50.0%	53.0%	2025/26	↑	
32	Customer Satisfaction - Provision of EV charging points	High is Good	-	38.0%	29.0%	41.0%	2025/26	↑	
33	Customer Satisfaction - Refuse Collection	High is Good	92.0%	93.0%	91.0%	88.5%	2025/26	↓	
34	Customer Satisfaction - Recycling Collection	High is Good	88.5%	87.0%	87.0%	82.0%	2025/26	↓	
35	Customer Satisfaction - Street Cleansing	High is Good	85.0%	81.0%	80.0%	77.0%	2025/26	↓	
36	Customer Satisfaction - Bulky Waste	High is Good	92.0%	93.0%	92.0%	86.0%	2025/26	↓	
37	Customer Satisfaction - Grounds Maintenance	High is Good	86.0%	84.5%	82.5%	73.0%	2025/26	↓	

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Agenda Item 9

Place Select Committee Work Programme 2026-2027

Date (4pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
Monday 20 April 2026	<p>Scrutiny Review of Governance of Capital Projects – Final Report</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Centres Development Inclusive growth & Development 	<p>Iain Robinson, Neil Bramma & Andy Corcoran</p> <p>Cllr Richard Eglington, Tracey Carter, Iain Robinson, & Chris Renahan</p>
Monday 18 May 2026	<p>Monitoring: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Affordable Housing</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets – Scope and Project Plan</p>	<p>Jane Edmonds</p> <p>Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy</p>
Monday 15 June 2026	<p>Monitoring: Action Plan – Scrutiny Review of Governance of Capital Projects</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	<p>Iain Robinson, Neil Bramma & Andy Corcoran</p> <p>Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy Polly Edwards, Kirsty Wannop, Graham Lyons & Sarah Garside</p>
Monday 13 July 2026	<p>Monitoring: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	<p>Dale Rowbotham</p> <p>Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy</p> <p>PC Chris Lambert</p>
Monday 14 September 2026	<p>Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	<p>Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy</p> <p>PDSA</p>

Place Select Committee Work Programme 2026-2027

Date <u>(4pm unless stated)</u>	Topic	Attendance
Monday 12 October 2026	Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Gathering 	Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy Dogs Trust and RSPCA
Monday 9 November 2026	Monitoring: Progress Update – Muslim and Faith Burials Monitoring: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Affordable Housing Overview & Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Services Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees 	Dale Rowbotham & Darren Robinson Jane Edmends Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Richard Eglington, Kellie Hopkins Craig Willows, & Jane Edmends
Monday 9 November 2026 (Informal)	Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of evidence 	Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy
Monday 14 December 2026	Monitoring: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision Monitoring: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling and Protection of Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Report 	Chris Renahan Dale Rowbotham Marc Stephenson & Stephen Donaghy
Monday 11 January 2027	Monitoring: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Governance of Capital Projects	Iain Robinson, Neil Bramma & Andy Corcoran
Monday 15 February 2027		
Monday 15 March 2027		

Place Select Committee Work Programme 2026-2027

Date <u>(4pm unless stated)</u>	Topic	Attendance

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