Stockton on Tees Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Thursday 15 May 2025

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Part A – Items considered in public

A4	Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun	**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL** **CABINET DECISION** **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 15 May 2025 1. Title of Item/Report Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun 2. Record of the Decision Consideration was given to a report from the Children and Young People Select Committee following a scrutiny review of the Holidays are Fun programme. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme was funded by the Department for Education and the Holiday Enrichment Programme (HEP) was funded by Public Health. The Stockton-on-Tees HAF team held a competition to rename the programme and selected “Holidays Are Fun” to remove some of the stigma some parents associated with holiday hunger. HAF was offered free to school aged children from reception to year 11 who were in receipt of benefit related free school meals. The two programmes covered the following holiday periods: • Holiday Activities and Food – DfE funded – covered Easter, Summer and

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		Christmas and the provision had to be 4 hours a day for at least 4 days a week • Holiday Enrichment Programme – Public Health funded – covered May, October and February and the provision had to be two hours a day for at least four days The overall aim of the review was to understand if HAF was inclusive of and attended by those families who most needed it and the impact that the programme has had on family health and social and economic wellbeing. The Select Committee report concluded that the HAF programme provided much needed support to children and families in need over holiday periods and feedback illustrated that the programme was highly valued. Work was continuing to ensure that the programme was meeting the needs of children in most need and it was encouraging that auto-enrolment of free school meals was helping to identify eligible children. Providers had a good working relationship with the Council and children benefited from taking part in a wide variety of activities, many of which they would otherwise be unable to due to cost. In addition, the programme offered the opportunities for lifelong learning and had been a vehicle for providing support outside of holiday periods. The Select Committee acknowledged the contribution from Public Health which enabled the programme to also operate during half term periods. The Select Committee were also mindful that ongoing Government funding was uncertain and consideration needed to be given making the programme sustainable in the longer term, for example, through the introduction of some paid for places.

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		RESOLVED that:- 1. The Council continues to develop and promote the HAF programme to the residents of the Borough to ensure that the programme is meeting the needs of children in most need. 2. The offer for SEND and secondary school children is further developed and promotional materials refreshed to target these children. 3. Communications with town and parish councils are reviewed and strengthened. 4. The Council works with providers to increase up take in all wards and decrease non-attendance. 5. Consideration be given to how paid for places could be introduced to help make the programme sustainable. 6. The Council works with schools to remove the barriers to them being primary delivery partners (for example, through the employment of a key holder to take responsibility for the premises, and staff choosing to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises). 7. The in-house booking system is replaced with a bespoke fit for purpose booking system with functionality to capture appropriate demographic information, including which school the child attends and that this information is used to identify gaps in provision, analyse take up and inform future targeting of promotional activities.

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		8. One grant application form be introduced for providers for all holiday periods. 9. Opportunities to link the programme to the curriculum and promote lifelong learning for all the family are enhanced. 10. A summer school programme is developed with the Careers Team, to create opportunities for young people aged 13 plus to participate in paid employment (within the law). 11. Opportunities are created for post 16 young people to take an active leadership role in the programme, linking in with local colleges who are delivering T levels thereby making the programme more sustainable. 12. The Council works with providers to extend whole family support outside of the school holidays. 13. The Council considers how best to collect information around SEND children attending activities to ensure that providers are properly prepared, and children's needs are met when attending sessions. 14. A mapping exercise is undertaken to ensure that provision is represented across all wards across the whole borough, especially those rural areas. 15. The potential to explore utilising in house community transport during the school holidays be explored. 16. The possibility of creating a 'free holiday meals' element of the programme

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		in line with the DfE guidance, utilising our own facilities that are in place during term time be explored along with the opportunity of creating our own 'student' kitchen to provide the meals. 3. Reasons for the Decision This topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024-2025. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet. 4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected None 5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest None 6. Details of any Dispensations None 7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed Midnight Friday 23 May 2025

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A5	Billingham Town Centre and Sports Hub Update	**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL** **CABINET DECISION** **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 15 May 2025 1. Title of Item/Report Billingham Town Centre and Sports Hub Update 2. Record of the Decision Consideration was given to a report setting out positive updates on projects to improve Billingham as part of the Council's continued commitment to invest in the town and bring about transformational change. The report provided an update on the Levelling Up Fund (Round Three) alongside progress on the development of a Sports Hub on the former Billingham Campus site to create a sustainable high quality grassroots sports facilities for local clubs and residents to use. Following receipt of a funding agreement, the final elements of legal agreements with Evolve could now be progressed. The current agreement would see the Council acquire West Precinct, the former library site and part of the adjacent Queensway South block, at the point of vacant possession. These acquisitions would facilitate demolition, site clearance and relocation of tenants to support

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		future redevelopment. Planning permission for the demolition and reconfiguration of the affected areas had been secured, and work was underway to explore the provision of a residential community in the heart of the town centre alongside new retail space, improvements to public realm and car parking Work was also underway exploring the feasibility of the reuse of the Wynyard House building for a public sector hub, incorporating a range of services as part of a body of work, funded through One Public Estate. Cabinet considered the approval of an additional £2 million allocation from Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) funds to the Billingham Sports Hub project. This would bring the Council's TVCA commitment to £6 million, in support of an expanded scheme that included two artificial grass pitches, a 7v7 pitch, an athletics enclosure, accessible active track, pavilion, and community facilities. These improvements followed extensive public consultation and engagement with sports bodies and local stakeholders. Cabinet considered entering into funding agreements with TVCA and the Football Foundation, with delegated authority granted to the relevant Directors, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, to finalise the terms. Further delegated authority was sought to approve the contract award and any necessary variations to support project delivery. This approval would allow the business case assessment to be undertaken by TVCA and provided confirmation to funding partners of the Council's commitment to support project costs in advance of costs being finalised in July 2025.

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		Cabinet discussed conferring the completed Sports Hub to the National Football Trust (NFT), via a 30-year lease arrangement that ensured no revenue implications for the Council. The NFT would manage and maintain the facility through Leisure United, with strategic guidance provided, locally, by a Local Advisory Group. Construction was expected to commence in Autumn 2025 and complete in Autumn 2026. RESOLVED that:- 1. Cabinet note the update on Billingham Town Centre, including progress on funding arrangements and legal agreements required to enable redevelopment, and further note the continuing assessment of options to secure the town centre's long-term regeneration. 2. The allocation of £2 million to the Billingham Sports Hub project from funding provided by the Tees Valley Combined Authority, be approved, in support of the aims of the refreshed 10-Year Investment Plan approved in July 2022, and to help promote economic growth in Billingham. 3. The Council enters into funding agreements with the Football Foundation and the Tees Valley Combined Authority in relation to the Billingham Sports Hub project; and that authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, the Director of Corporate Services, and the Director of Finance, Transformation and Performance, exercising that authority jointly and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, to agree the final terms of those

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		funding agreements. 4. Authority be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, the Director of Corporate Services, and the Director of Finance, Transformation and Performance, exercising that authority jointly and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, to: a. approve the specific contract award decision for delivery of the Billingham Sports Hub; and b. agree any subsequent contract variations necessary to support the effective delivery of the project. 3. <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> Approval of the recommendations will support delivery of the Billingham Sports Hub project which will meet identified needs for sporting facilities and benefit local communities and ensures Cabinet are updated on the latest position and future work in Billingham town centre. 4. <u>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</u> None 5. <u>Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest</u> None 6. <u>Details of any Dispensations</u>

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		None 7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed Midnight Friday 23 May 2025 Proper Officer
A6	Minutes of Various Bodies	**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL** **CABINET DECISION** **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 15 May 2025 1. Title of Item/Report Minutes of Various Bodies 2. Record of the Decision In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below were submitted to Cabinet for consideration:- TSAB – 11 December 2024

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		TSAB – 12 March 2025 RESOLVED that the above minutes be received. 3. <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> To enable Cabinet to view the minutes of various bodies. 4. <u>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</u> None 5. <u>Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest</u> None 6. <u>Details of any Dispensations</u> None 7. <u>Date and Time by which Call In must be executed</u> Midnight Friday 23 May 2025 Proper Officer

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