

Date:

Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 2.00 pm

Venue:

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

Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair)

Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Stephen Dodds, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Tony Riordan and Cllr Marilyn Surtees

Agenda

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

2. **Apologies for Absence**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 16)

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 April 2026.

5. **Adult Social Care Front Door Business Case/Options Appraisal** (Pages 17 - 18)

6. **Scrutiny Review of Capital Projects** (Pages 19 - 24)

To receive the Executive Summary of the Place Select Committee report (for information).

7. **Scrutiny Review of Children Affected by Domestic Abuse** (Pages 25 - 30)

To receive the Executive Summary of the report of Community Safety Select Committee (for information).

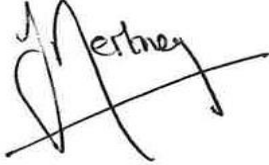
8. **Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School** (Pages 31 - 36)

To receive the Executive Summary of the report of the Children and Young People Select Committee (for information).

9. **Forward Plan** (Pages 37 - 58)

10. **Chair's Updates** (Pages 59 - 74)

11. Chair's Update and Executive Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 75 - 76)



Jonathan Nertney
Head of Democratic Services
Monday 11 May 2026

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

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

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

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

Key – Declarable interests are :-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

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

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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Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

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

Officers: Tracey Carter, Iain Robinson, Rachel Haycock, Ged Morton, Julie Butcher, Jonathan Nertney, Judy Trainer, Gary Woods and Laura Kelsey

Also in attendance: Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Andrew Sherris

Apologies: Cllr Sufi Mubeen

ESC/1/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

ESC/2/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

ESC/3/26 Minutes

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 March 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ESC/4/26 Call in Meeting Procedure

The Committee noted the meeting procedure.

ESC/5/26 Call In - Levelling Up Fund - Yarm Public Realm

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report setting out the background to the call-in and supporting documents.

The decisions taken at Cabinet on 12 March 2026 in relation to Levelling Up Fund – Yarm Public Realm had been subject to a valid call-in. The call-in applied to the following decisions:

RESOLVED

- 1) The findings of the public engagement undertaken in relation to the Yarm High Street public realm scheme be noted.
- 2) With regard to the £2.35m remaining funds from the allocated budget for Yarm High Street:-

- a) The £950,000 of SBC co-funding be returned to support the Council's MTFP and financial position.
- b) £950,000 of the remaining LUF funding be used to repay the borrowing associated with the additional expenditure at Preston Park Museum.
- c) The remaining £450,000 LUF funding be committed in the Yarm area.
- d) Delegated Authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to produce a shortlist of possible projects that could be achieved with the remaining budget of £450,000 and then engage with the residents and businesses of Yarm for their priorities. The list is to include the costs of each item on the list and to include the consideration of the replacement of the pontoons, to enable residents and businesses to consider the value for money and extent of the works available when providing their priorities.

In addition, Members who had signed the call-in request had been invited to attend the meeting.

The Monitoring Officer presented his report which set out the reasons for the validation of the call-in in relation to the following principles of decision-making:

- Due consultation and the taking of professional advice
- Explanation of options and reasons
- Relevant matters not ignored
- Clarity and explanation of information provided

The following documents had been included with the agenda for the meeting for consideration by Executive Scrutiny Committee:

- Call in Form
- Cabinet Report
- Decision Record
- Report of Monitoring Officer

On behalf of the Councillors who had submitted the call-in request of the Cabinet decision, Councillor John Coulson set out the rationale for the call in which related to:

- Failure to meet the standards of decision-making
- Lack of transparency, proper consultation and openness
- Funding being diverted to address the Council's wider financial pressures
- Lack of alternative options presented
- Pre-determination of the outcome
- Lack of consultation with key partners

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing (Councillor Richard Eglington) explained why he believed the decision-making principles had been complied with. He explained that the "You Decide" engagement presented a binary choice asking residents to indicate whether they supported the proposed works or not. The design itself was not re-visited as part of the exercise. Furthermore, the LUF funding had been earmarked for public realm works and it was therefore prudent to use that

funding towards works at Preston Park. Where additional comments had been made in the boxes provided, officers had been asked to assess whether any of the suggestions would be realistic to achieve and cost these.

Questions from Committee Members and responses included:

1. 86% of Yarm residents had voted against the proposals and saw a design as part of that consultation. Why weren't residents given alternatives?

The Cabinet Member commented that residents had simply been asked to respond yes or no to the proposal.

2. Why did the consultation not make it clear to residents that the money would be taken away from Yarm if they voted against the proposals?

The Cabinet Member responded that this was not the case and now that a decision had been made, other options would be looked at. There was never a guarantee that the money would stay in Yarm; this was a Cabinet decision. The consultation simply asked for a yes or no response and had not included information about what would happen to the funding.

3. Did you look at all options as Cabinet Member?

The Cabinet Member responded that he had looked at all options as Cabinet Member. However, only viable options had been included in the Cabinet report.

The Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth advised that the Cabinet report provided a series of options with no recommendation from officers. All options were included in the report apart from the option to give the money back.

4. With reference to paragraph 43 of the Cabinet report, what part of the MHCLG's technical guidance did the Cabinet Member not understand when the money was removed from the regeneration fund to support the Council's finances?

The Cabinet Member responded that he did understand the guidance and, in his view, the decision was in line with the guidance.

5. Was there anything in the "yes/no" consultation to indicate what would happen to the funding depending on the outcome, or was this neutral?

The Cabinet Member confirmed that this had been neutral.

6. What Local Authority money had been put into the bigger scheme?

The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had committed £1m as part of a £3m investment. The Preston Park improvements had been met from borrowing, so it was prudent to recover these costs.

7. Were you satisfied that the decisions were taken in accordance with the principles of decision-making set out in the Constitution.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that he believed this to be the case.

8. Would you agree that it is a worrying precedent that if residents don't agree with the first option presented, then funding is taken away and they get nothing?

The Cabinet Member commented the LUF area was benefitting, and the Preston Park element delivered the same ambitions.

9. How do you account for the press releases stating that funding would stay with the people of Yarm?

The Cabinet Member commented that the funding was for the full LUF area and that the press releases were issued after the Cabinet decisions were made.

10. Was Yarm Town Council consulted on the decision to remove funding from Yarm?

The Cabinet Member commented that emails had been sent to the MP and ward Councillors and he had been advised that the Town Council had received a presentation prior to the Cabinet meeting. No one was consulted on the re-allocation of the money as this was a function of Cabinet.

11. Paragraph 28 of the report stated that Yarm Town Council had contributed £100k towards the works at Yarm. Why were they not properly consulted as a contributor and significant stakeholder?

The Cabinet Member advised that the £100k was for works at the Town Hall and these had been completed at this point.

12. How can you do the right thing for the people of Yarm whilst taking money away from them and spending it elsewhere? The whole consultation was flawed and disingenuous. Please explain why proper consultation did not take place with the Town Councillors and local ward Councillors?

The Cabinet Member commented that the Council had committed significant funding for the LUF area and further engagement was planned. He believed that the residents of Yarm had not been short changed but that they were consulted and rejected the proposed scheme. As a result, Cabinet had reallocated the funding.

13. Why were no revised proposals brought forward? Officers gave the impression that residents would have a say on revised proposals.

The Cabinet Member advised that the consultation was a simple yes/ no question and the most prudent options were presented to Cabinet.

14. Will the Cabinet Member confirm that other proposals will be looked at if financially viable?

The Cabinet Member confirmed that this was the case.

15. Does the Cabinet Member consider that the "yes/no" consultation was meaningful and influential or was a no vote anticipated based on previous feedback rendering it pre-determined?

The Cabinet Member advised that a wider response had been anticipated and was influential in seeking views for and against the proposed scheme.

16. Has the MP been notified of the Cabinet decision?

The Cabinet Member advised that notification had not taken place as the decision had been called in.

It was moved by Councillor Jim Beall and seconded by Councillor Ann McCoy:

“That the decision was taken in accordance with decision-making principles as set out in the constitution and no further action be taken.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared lost (5 voting in favour; 7 voting against) and it was:

AGREED that the decisions of Cabinet taken on 12 March 2026 in relation to Levelling Up Fund - Yarm Public Realm be referred back to Cabinet for re-consideration, having regard to concerns raised in relation to the following decision-making principles:

- a) Due consultation and the taking of professional advice
- b) Explanation of options and reasons
- c) Relevant matters not ignored
- d) Clarity and explanation of information provided

Chair:

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 MAY 2026

ASC Front Door Business Case/Options Appraisal

Summary

This report outlines plans to redesign the Adult Social Care (ASC) “Front Door” to improve how residents access help and support.

The current model creates delays for residents by routing them into formal assessment processes when their needs could be met through more timely, proportionate support.

A more responsive model focused on early, flexible intervention will enable people to receive the right support at the right time, improving outcomes and reducing demand on formal assessment pathways.

A new, integrated approach is proposed to:

- Improve access and response times
- Strengthen prevention and early intervention
- Reduce unnecessary demand on statutory services
- Provide better outcomes for the residents if Stockton-on-Tees

This change is informed by both the CQC inspection (2025) and the LGA Peer Review (2024), which highlighted the need to improve access, reduce handoffs, and strengthen early support.

Detail

Why change is needed

Demand for Adult Social Care is increasing, and needs are becoming more complex.

The current Front Door:

- Passes many people into assessment processes
- Creates delays and multiple handoffs
- Limits opportunities to support people earlier
- Places avoidable pressure on services

The CQC inspection (Published October 2025) highlighted that people’s experience of accessing services is mixed, with challenges in navigating the system and getting timely support.

The LGA Peer Review (July 2024) identified that the Front Door has multiple handoff points, requires people to repeat their story, and in some areas was described as “struggling to meet demand” and not consistently connecting people to timely prevention support.

Doing nothing would increase these pressures and risks to service delivery.

The preferred model is an integrated Front Door, bringing professionals from different disciplines together in one place and supported by better digital access.

This will:

- Resolve more enquiries at first contact
- Provide quicker, more coordinated support
- Improve access to information and community services
- Reduce duplication across teams

Benefits

The new model is expected to deliver:

- A better experience for residents
- Faster and more joined-up responses
- Greater focus on prevention and independence
- Reduced demand on statutory services
- More efficient use of resources

Overall Position

The proposed redesign will modernise the ASC Front Door, improve outcomes for residents and support a more sustainable service.

Discussions have taken place with staff/residents and other professionals to determine what works well and where improvements can be made.

The Committee is asked to note the direction of travel and the rationale for change.

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 MAY 2026

Place Select Committee Scrutiny Review of Governance of Capital Projects – Executive Summary

Summary

1. This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the Place Select Committee's scrutiny review of Capital Projects. Capital Projects are defined as those that are carried out via capital expenditure on the creation or improvement of assets such as purchasing land or buildings as well as creating or improving existing assets such as a roads/cycleways/drainage or undertaking works to Council property assets.
2. A strong governance and oversight framework for capital projects gives confidence to both Council members and residents that they are value for money and deliver the intended benefits. The review therefore aimed to examine the processes, including the governance and decision-making structures, in delivering major capital projects.

The Capital Programme

3. The Capital Programme reflects the Council's long-term ambition to support regeneration, manage assets, and deliver infrastructure that meets the needs of residents. Investment is targeted to meet the five strategic priorities. There is no definitive definition of what constitutes a major capital project, and while there is monetary value to consider there are also community economic and environmental impacts which may make a capital project a major project.
4. A programme is a group of linked projects that deliver a long-term objective (e.g. regeneration of an area) whereas a project is a specific action to achieve an outcome (e.g. one scheme within an area).
5. When presented to the Committee in November 2025, there were 17 programmes and 112 projects delivering place or theme-based outputs and benefits. Community, Environment, Culture, and Leisure had the biggest number of programmes (8) followed by Regeneration (4), however within those programmes Transportation had the biggest number of projects (46) followed by Community Environment and Culture & Leisure (24).
6. Funding determines what can be achieved within the capital programme, with projects unable to progress without the funding that they need. Work may commence to scope the outcomes, resource and finance requirements ahead of an allocation of capital. In November 2025 there was £245,234m allocated to the Capital Programme within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2027. Regeneration had the largest budget for capital projects (59.52%)
7. The majority of resources come from grants and contributions (64.9%) therefore many projects are dependent on successful bidding opportunities or complex negotiations with developers, and require alignment with external criteria.

8. Due to the breadth of the Capital Programme, there is a challenge to ensure the knowledge and skills are in place to support and deliver the programme. Staff development is important and there is investment in trainees, graduate trainees and apprenticeships. In areas where specific knowledge is required, external support from other organisations is sought.

Emergence of Schemes

9. Projects are identified through several routes including:
 - As a response to a specific issue
 - Through a funding opportunity that has arisen
 - Consultation with members
 - Consultation with the public
10. The Capital Programme is agreed annually, in February as part of the MTFP Budget report and changes to the programme contained with the quarterly MTFP update. The Council receives funding for investments, e.g. the Basic Needs Grant used for school investments, and aims to use these as flexibly as possible to deliver interventions, submitting annual grant returns to the relevant Government Department where required. Developer Funded Schemes, either Section 106 or Section 278 schemes, are secured as part of planning application to mitigate the effect of a development and negotiated by Council officers with the Developers.
11. There are also Government funding streams that the Council can bid for. These funding opportunities can arise suddenly e.g. Town Deal and Levelling Up, and the scoping of these projects may need to be determined to enable to apply before detailed design work is completed, creating uncertainty. Officers will include a contingency and allowances for inflationary uplifts to mitigate for this but there is often an unpredictable time lag between application and award then delivery, that creates an inbuilt inflationary pressure.

Project Governance Arrangements

12. Strong governance is essential to managing risk and complexities within the capital programme. The Council's project lifecycle (micro) governance framework is ensuring that each scheme follows a structured process with clear gateways, financial oversight, risk management, and defined responsibilities. This provides consistency across directorates, the ability to intervene early if issues arise, and reduces the risk of uncontrolled projects.
13. The five stages each project must go through are:
 - Foundation – high-level feasibility of a new capital initiatives, identifying benefits and producing a Project Mandate
 - Discovery – Mandate is developed into Project Brief, giving an outline design or business case/option appraisal. At the completion of this stage the project is noted within the MTFP
 - Design – detailed design and Full Business Case/Project Initiation Document (PID) developed

- Delivery – delivered against agreed plan, and highlight, exception reports produced along with change requests. Exception issues must be reported to the Placemaking (Regeneration) Mission Board (PMB)
 - Review – project handover and review take place when nearing successful completion and ready for formal handover along with budget reconciliation. A checklist is completed by the Project Management Office on closure of the project, along with an outline of ongoing support and maintenance and contract management
14. There are gateways at each stage to approve progression to the next stage, reviewing and monitoring the PID.
 15. Scopes can evolve, cost fluctuate due to unpredictable issues (utility delays, market inflation, weather, site investigations, and land acquisition), and timescales span several years, therefore flexibility in delivery is required. While officers make judgements on tolerances to include in the initial project scope, these can create challenges for public communication and managing expectations.
 16. The reporting and decision-making structure includes:
 17. A Project Group for every project to oversee the delivery, with officers from finance, legal, procurement and any other officers relevant to the project. The group has responsibility and accountability for the maintenance of documentation, project plan and Risks, Actions, Issues, Decisions, and Lesson Learn Log (RAIDL).
 18. Programme Working Groups chaired by Assistant Directors, who oversee progress of the projects within individual programmes and manage delivery of the projects.
 19. Placemaking (Regeneration) Mission Board who oversee the capital programme and formally approves projects to move to the next stage. The Board also provide advice to the decision making of the relevant Director who has delegation from Cabinet to deliver projects and programmes. The Board will also escalate decisions to Cabinet where they exceed delegated powers.
 20. Corporate Management Team (CMT)/ Powering our Futures (PoF) Board authorises capital projects for progression to Cabinet/Council
 21. Cabinet/Council makes executive decisions and formally approves inclusion of capital projects in budgets and delegates further decision making to the relevant Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder in line with the Council's Constitution.
 22. Project Groups, Programme Working Groups, and the Placemaking Mission Board (PMB) are providing a layered oversight to the programme, with strong escalation routes and clarity on decision-making at each stage, while frequent reporting to the relevant Cabinet member and Corporate Management Team ensures accountability.
 23. The completion of Closure reports by officers aims to ensure that lessons learnt from completed projects are informing future projects, strengthening the process and improving future delivery of the programme.
 24. As it was only introduced in its current form in November 2024 the governance framework has not yet been tested across enough completed projects to fully evaluate its effectiveness.

25. In addition to projects being subject to the in-house governance processes, some schemes within the capital programme require compliance with external governance arrangements to either secure funding and/or demonstrate how the funding has been used e.g. Tees Valley Combined Authority assurance frameworks for transport schemes, Homes England validation for the Elton Interchange scheme, Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)/HM Treasury requirements for Town Deal, annual grant returns to the Department of Education (DoE), etc. This gives assurance that these projects meet national standards, strengthening the governance arrangements and credibility.
26. Member engagement with the capital programme is dependent on the specific project. The capital programme is included in the annual MTFP Budget report members agree in February and there is regular dialogue with Cabinet Members on the projects that fall within their portfolio. In addition, there may be consultation with Ward Members for Ward specific projects or members may be represented on boards associated with a project, e.g. the Town Deal. However, there is an appetite for clearer, more consistent information flows. While there is a Concordat for Communication with Members which outlines how information should be provided to members as well as how officers should consult with members, this has not been reviewed in recent years
27. Effective communication with residents and stakeholders can be also beneficial to the smooth and agile delivery of a project.
28. Continued collaboration with the Council's partners, strong governance, and investment in staff capability will be crucial to ensuring the successful delivery of outcomes and benefits across the borough in the years ahead.

Conclusion and recommendations

29. Overall, the Committee concludes that the Council has made significant progress in building a strong and credible governance framework for its capital programme, the systems now in place provides a solid foundation for delivering projects that benefit residents, support regeneration, and meet the strategic ambition of the Borough. Continued focus on governance, communication, risk management and workforce capability will further improve delivery, ensuring that capital projects achieve their intended outcomes and continue to contribute positively to the Borough's growth and development.
30. The Committee recommends that:
 - 1) The level of financial delegation given to officers in relation to capital projects is reviewed and any potential changes be taken through Cabinet and Council.
 - 2) When making a decision Cabinet receive information that addresses the following:
 - option appraisal
 - public and stakeholder consultation and engagement
 - benefit identification
 - risk management
 - financial delegations
 - lessons learned from previous projects where appropriate

- 3) Member information for and engagement of the capital programme is strengthened by:
 - Providing regular and consistent updates to members via Cabinet/Member briefings showing progress against approved programme
 - Including training for members on capital programme governance and funding frameworks within the Member Induction
 - Refreshing the Council's Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Councillors to include the flow of information on the progress of capital projects particularly to relevant Ward Members
- 4) Consideration be given within the ongoing development of the Council's People Plan of the need to ensure sufficient workforce capacity and skills to support the capital programme
- 5) Officers provide a report on the effectiveness of the governance structure to the Select Committee in January 2027, when further projects have been through the process

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19 MAY 2026

Community Safety Select Committee: Scrutiny Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse – Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report outlines the findings and recommendations following the Community Safety Select Committee's scrutiny review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse.
- 1.2. The impact of domestic abuse is felt by children regardless of their age, and this is now recognised in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Children exposed to domestic abuse or experiencing domestic abuse in their own relationships are regarded as victim-survivors in their own right. [Statutory Guidance](#) supporting the understanding of the definitions of 'domestic abuse' and 'personally connected' as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 was released in 2022.
- 1.3. Domestic abuse can seriously affect families and the physical, mental and emotional health, wellbeing and development of children and young people. Children and young people can develop emotional, behavioural and developmental issues such as anxiety, challenging and aggressive behaviour or withdrawal, delayed speech, language and communication and low self-esteem, affecting their ability to form healthy relationships and educational attainment. In 2020-2021, the local domestic abuse service found that children were exposed to three-quarters of domestic abuse incidents, whilst a third of referrals to Children's Services were related to domestic abuse.
- 1.4. Domestic abuse can be experienced by anyone and disproportionately affects children and young people. Domestic abuse can be one of the factors resulting in child exploitation and can contribute and exacerbate multiple disadvantage. A variety of research and commentaries on this scrutiny topic have been previously published, including by renowned organisations such as [Barnardo's](#), [The Children's Society](#), and the [National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \(NSPCC\)](#).
- 1.5. In December 2023, [Foundations](#) (the national 'What Works Centre for Children & Families') reported figures which revealed that at least 827,000 children in England and Wales may have suffered domestic abuse by the end of 2023. Amid concerns that the numbers of children affected by domestic abuse had escalated, the organisation called for an urgent focus on testing the most promising approaches to strengthen support for children.
- 1.6. April 2025 saw the publication of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales's vision for transformation in the response to babies, children and young people subject to domestic abuse. '[Victims in their own right?](#)' examined the current reaction to those who experienced domestic abuse at home or in their family across both the statutory and non-statutory response. Evidencing current gaps in provision, examples of good practice, and providing constructive solutions for a co-ordinated approach that made the improvements needed, the report drew on extensive engagement and comprehensive insights to support recommendations across seven key themes.
- 1.7. The main aims for this review were to understand the impact of domestic abuse on children, the extent of the issue across the Borough, and the ways in which those who experience this were identified (with specific attention on exploring how domestic abuse impacted children in their early years, and the extent of the lasting impact as they grew older). Furthermore, the review sought to articulate the current local offer for children and young people affected by domestic abuse (providing clarity for frontline professionals, families and children / young people), as well as explore opportunities for early intervention

(focusing on services engaging with children / families with children in their early years) to protect children from the enduring impacts of domestic abuse.

- 1.8. The Committee found that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 had heralded a significant change in the law that led to children being recognised as victims in their own right if they saw, heard or were exposed to domestic abuse (defined as psychological, physical, sexual, financial and / or economic, emotional, and controlling and / or coercive behaviour, where the people involved were aged 16 or over and were or had been personally connected to each other (including relatives and intimate relationships)). Other relevant legislation / guidance outlined the expectations on organisations, both individually and in partnership with other agencies, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.9. Extensive information exists on both the immediate impact and the enduring and chronic effects of domestic abuse on children, and this was reinforced by several of the contributors to this review. The Committee acknowledge the wide range of physical and mental ramifications across different phases of a child's development, factors which underline the severity of the issue and the way in which it causes those experiencing such abuse problems in the present, as well as likely challenges and obstacles for them in the future. Stronger public communication of this impact may play a part in making those over 16 consider the effects of their actions / potential actions when children are in the household.
- 1.10. Councils have a number of obligations around domestic abuse, including the provision of safe accommodation, working with organisations that represent the voice of victim-survivors, and leading on a domestic abuse partnership (involving the development and implementation of an associated strategy). The Local Authority also offers a range of early help support, with children's services undertaking required statutory interventions in relation to safeguarding / child protection and other associated planning which involves, in part, child protection investigations, home visits, observations of the child with parent(s), and referrals to support services. Whilst some of this work is conducted on a multi-agency partnership basis, from a housing perspective, the Committee note that SBC has limited direct working with social housing providers regarding domestic abuse considerations.
- 1.11. Commissioned by SBC as the local domestic abuse support service, Harbour highlighted that, whilst progress had been made, there was work to do around this scrutiny topic, specifically in terms of educating professionals and the public (especially schools). Of particular interest to the Committee was the use of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) within health settings, roles which were reportedly much-valued and had made a significant difference in assisting staff with this challenging issue, as well as facilitating safe disclosure of abuse from victim-survivors and signposting them / enabling access to available support. Although future funding for IDVAs is uncertain, it is clear that these arrangements should be maintained and indeed built upon where possible.
- 1.12. Given the focus on early years, the Committee sought, and was pleased to receive, assurance from several local organisations within the health sector around their role and actions in relation to this scrutiny topic – this included maternity, health visiting, and child mental health services. The Committee also welcomed the importance placed on domestic abuse by the overarching NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), as well as its involvement in local multi-agency partnerships, though heard that three of the four Primary Care Networks (PCNs) within the Borough were unaware of the local GP IDVA arrangement (with all four requesting better promotion of the Harbour offer within practices). Cleveland Police was a key contributor to this review and highlighted its central role and responsibilities on this issue (including co-location within the Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub (CHUB) to improve working relationships and the

timeliness of responses). Mindful of the forthcoming changes to the SBC 'front door' arrangements, it is vital that established relationships with partners are maintained to ensure robust safeguarding of children.

- 1.13. Two important partnerships provided evidence of work undertaken on this issue. The local Domestic Abuse Steering Group involves a range of partners and is responsible for delivering 'system' outcomes around domestic abuse – the current Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2028 and its associated actions being key to this endeavour. Backing-up Harbour's view that further work was required within schools, the Committee encourage a focus on increasing the uptake of domestic abuse training within primary schools (which in September 2025 had seen only 10% of these settings partake). Separately, the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) has responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and involves multiple statutory and non-statutory partners. Whilst the Committee expressed concern about the lack of an explicit HSSCP focus on domestic abuse in recent years, it received assurance that this topic was frequently considered as part of the partnership's work (e.g. a recent multi-agency audit on this theme).
- 1.14. The Committee heard that there were 5,225 recorded 'incidents' of domestic abuse across the Borough and 3,907 recorded domestic abuse 'crimes' during 2023-2024. For this same period, 1,010 contacts into SBC Children's Services had domestic abuse listed as the reason for contact, with 25% of referrals made to SBC Children's Services over this period being domestic abuse-related. The recently published Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy stated that *'Domestic abuse overall is showing a downward trend; however, incidents involving children present in the household are beginning to rise'*, a claim which was supported by data published within HSSCP annual reports. From an early years perspective, Cleveland Police statistics demonstrated that there were 763 cases recorded of children aged 0-5 being present during a domestic abuse incident in Stockton in 2025.
- 1.15. This review had a strong emphasis on seeking assurance around identifying and reporting cases where children had experienced domestic abuse, and all contributors provided details on how this was carried out and how staff were supported to recognise signs and act on them. Importantly, individual organisations not only reflected on their own work to raise awareness of this form of abuse and promote reporting routes, but also acknowledged collective efforts around this scrutiny topic through their involvement in multi-agency arrangements. However, whilst the Committee was often given assurance on the provision of training for staff, little data was submitted on training uptake and the extent to which this was being repeated / reinforced. Similarly, the Committee found that some organisations did not appear to record domestic abuse-related referrals that they had made, making it difficult to cross-reference this against the work coming into the Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub (CHUB) and local support service, Harbour, or establish trends within specific provision.
- 1.16. Again, mindful of this review's emphasis on the 0-5 age-range, the Borough's early years providers (e.g. nurseries / childminders) were asked to provide assurance on the identification and reporting of children who were, or were at risk of, being affected by domestic abuse within their household. Whilst the response rate to the Committee's survey was limited, those providers who did submit views demonstrated a good understanding of this issue, though also noted concerns regarding hidden abuse (particularly involving those who did not fit the stereotype of a family affected) and an absence of guidance / communications from the Council and / or other local organisations to assist in identifying / supporting children who had experienced domestic abuse. There was a clear call for an increased training offer for this sector.

- 1.17. Principally reflected through the ongoing work of Harbour, the Committee praised the involvement of local children and young people in the nationally significant '*Tell Nicole*' (the Domestic Abuse Commissioner) project which captured the voice of individuals affected by domestic abuse. As recognised in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children are victims in their own right if they see or hear domestic abuse, and those charged with supporting them have a duty to understand their experiences and seek their views in order to shape effective service provision.
- 1.18. There was broad positivity around the work of local partnerships when it came to the issue of domestic abuse, a feeling echoed by an annual assurance report from the Domestic Abuse Steering Group in September 2025 which, as stated by HSSCP, provided strong confidence regarding the effectiveness of arrangements, demonstrating that agencies from across the system were working to prevent, intervene early, and respond to domestic abuse. This review indicated sound buy-in and recognition of responsibility from all relevant local agencies, as well as an appreciation that working together was the best way to safeguard children.
- 1.19. Contributors were asked to identify areas for future focus in relation to this scrutiny topic, and a range of subsequent suggestions are included in the findings of this report – these should be considered by the local domestic abuse / safeguarding children partnerships. Additionally, the findings from six joint targeted area inspections (JTAs) carried out between October 2024 and June 2025 (looking at how local partnerships and services responded to children who were at risk of, or who had been victims of, domestic abuse) were published by the Government at the end of the Committee's evidence-gathering phase – key messages from these also need to be disseminated to all relevant local agencies.
- 1.20. This was a complex topic to review about an issue that is multifaceted. Whilst it is not within the gift of the Committee to prevent this type of abuse occurring, the review has allowed a spotlight to be shone on how aware local services are of this issue, how they respond to any cases they identify, and how they work together to raise awareness and react to domestic abuse across the Borough. Addressing the causes of domestic abuse is a deep-rooted challenge for society in general, but it remains incumbent on organisations and their staff to be vigilant, appropriately trained, and suitably responsive to this all too prevalent issue.

Recommendations

The Committee recommend that:

- 1) **The Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) undertake a communications campaign (reflecting the ‘keeping your child in mind’ principle) around the impact of domestic abuse on children.**
- 2) **In collaboration with local schools, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and Harbour introduce a school staff training programme on domestic abuse, its impact on children, and the support services available (including a plan to increase the uptake of domestic abuse training in primary schools).**
- 3) **Options be explored in order to secure funding for the continuation / enhancement of Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) services within local health settings (hospitals and primary care).**
- 4) **All organisations improve their recording of details (including a child’s age) of domestic abuse-related referrals made to the Stockton-on-Tees Children’s Hub (CHUB) (*note: to be known as the ‘Family Help Point’ from 1 April 2026*) and local support service, Harbour (even when domestic abuse is only one of several reasons for a referral being submitted).**
- 5) **In terms of domestic abuse-related training:**
 - a) **SBC introduces a mandatory course for all staff (and Elected Members) which includes content on identifying this form of abuse and how / where to report it.**
 - b) **Relevant partnerships with oversight of domestic abuse / safeguarding matters encourage organisations represented within these multi-agency arrangements to introduce mandatory courses for all staff, the content of which should reflect a tiered approach based on individual roles / responsibilities.**
 - c) **The Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) seek greater assurance around the uptake of such training within individual organisations (including early years providers) and how this is impacting upon practice.**
- 6) **Harbour strengthens the promotion of its existing offer within local primary care services (across all Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the individual practices themselves).**
- 7) **Where appropriate, the Stockton-on-Tees DASG oversee a drive to increase awareness and utilisation of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) by frontline professionals across the local ‘system’ when domestic abuse is identified within a household.**
- 8) **SBC provides assurance to key partners and all Elected Members around the changes to its ‘front door’ to services for children and their families (*note: to be known as the ‘Family Help Point’ from 1 April 2026*), including how existing partnership arrangements will be maintained / enhanced.**

(continued overleaf...)

Recommendations (continued)

The Committee recommend that:

- 9) **The Stockton-on-Tees DASG seek assurance that key local partners have ‘voice of the child’ strategies / mechanisms in place and that best practice principles in relation to capturing the child’s voice are shared and continually reinforced (particularly with frontline officers attending households).**
- 10) **The Stockton-on-Tees DASG provide updates on the progress of actions associated with the local Domestic Abuse Strategy, highlighting any areas which are proving challenging and the reasons for this.**
- 11) **Suggested areas of future focus identified by contributors to this review be shared with, and subsequently considered by, the Stockton-on-Tees DASG and the HSSCP.**
- 12) **The findings and recommendations from the recently published thematic joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) report on ‘*the multi-agency response to children who are victims of domestic abuse*’ be shared with all relevant local organisations.**

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REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 MAY 2026

Children and Young People Select Committee – Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School – Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Select Committee's scrutiny review of Children Not in School (CNIS).
- 1.2 CNIS covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:
- All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
 - Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
 - Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision (AP) not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
 - Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision (H&H)
 - Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
 - Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
 - Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)
 - Children who move into the Borough and are waiting for a school place
- 1.3 The Committee undertook the following key lines of enquiry:
- What are the scenarios where a child may be or become a CNIS? Why do parents choose to take their children out of school and what difficulties does this create?
 - What risks and safeguarding issues arise from CNIS?
 - What are the statutory requirements in relation to the different scenarios?
 - Who has responsibility and oversight to ensure appropriate systems are in place and there are no gaps?
 - What support is provided when a child is not in school?
 - How well do partner agencies work together?
 - What is the impact on the child of not attending school?
- 1.4 Contributions were sought from Council Officers and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee visited the homes of children being educated at home due to illness or being electively home educated.

Key Findings

Children Not in School (CNIS) – Overall

- CNIS covers a wide range of children not accessing full-time education
- Primary absence in Stockton is lower than the national average; secondary absence is higher than the national average
- Persistent absence remains a particular issue in secondary schools
- Illness is the main reason for absence, aligning with national patterns

- At the time of the review 164 children were on reduced timetables, 112 with SEND
- There are rising numbers of pupils moving into the Borough with EHCPs, creating pressure on specialist placements
- Admission timescales are normally 10–15 school days, though delays occur for complex or specialist placements

Home & Hospital Tuition

- Provides support for children unable to attend school due to health needs
- 13 pupils were accessing this provision at the time of the review
- Teaching is tailored, flexible, and welfare-focused
- Pupils are offered a mix of functional skills and GCSE qualifications depending on personal circumstances
- Health needs dictate timetabling
- Student and parent feedback is positive

Elective Home Education (EHE)

- Numbers continue to rise: 476 children were electively home educated at the time of the review
- In Stockton-on-Tees, the main reason for choosing to home educate is mental health
- The Local Authority monitors educational suitability but is legally limited in safeguarding checks
- 42 children were returned to school through statutory School Attendance Orders in the previous year
- Caseworkers rely on professional curiosity to identify risk when conducting educational visits
- Legislative change was anticipated, including possible compulsory national registers

Children Missing Education (CME)

- CME numbers have decreased due to improved data systems and off-roll audits
- In the current academic year, 115 children had been referred from Stockton schools. To date 61 had been traced. 32 enquiries had been made from other Local Authorities and 22 of these had been tracked as in a Stockton school.
- CME pupils face high risks (underachievement, poorer health outcomes, harm, exploitation, radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training) later in life.
- Improvements were being driven by stronger national guidance, better data sharing, and multi-agency cooperation

Education Other Than at School (EOTAS)

- Very small number of children access EOTAS
- Used only for the most complex SEND cases where school is inappropriate
- Provision remains stable, tightly monitored, and legally under the Local Authority's responsibility

Alternative Provision (AP)

- Rising numbers accessing AP, both school-commissioned and Local Authority commissioned
- Reasons include behaviour challenges, medical issues and exclusions
- Growth was particularly noted for primary-aged pupils
- Stockton's AP Framework was expanded in 2025; at the time of the review there were 29 approved providers
- There was a strong emphasis on quality assurance
- Regular multi-agency AP networks support consistency and best practice

Conclusion and Recommendations

- 1.5 Overall, the review highlights the wide range of reasons a child may not be accessing full time education at school and demonstrates that, while Stockton has strong systems in place for quality assurance, multi-agency working and engagement with families, there are pressures relating to emotional and mental health needs and rising demand linked to SEND. The Committee was also mindful that home visits to electively educated children were limited by legislation to the monitoring of the child's education. Increasing pressures continue to present risks to educational continuity and safeguarding.
- 1.6 The Committee's recommendations therefore focus on strengthening staffing capacity, consistency and partnership working to reduce time out of education and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Alongside this, the Committee emphasises the importance of preparedness for anticipated legislative changes, improved information sharing to mitigate safeguarding risks, and early intervention to address emotional-based school avoidance. Collectively, these recommendations aim to ensure that all children and young people are supported to access suitable education safely and in a way that meets their individual needs.
- 1.7 The Committee recommends:

Home and Hospital (H&H)

- 1) That staffing capacity is reviewed to ensure provision remains, safe, responsive and broad enough in curriculum and that the staffing model adopted provides flexible and responsive provision in the most cost-effective way.
- 2) That opportunities are explored and expanded for peer social interaction.
- 3) That opportunities for partnership working to enhance both curriculum and enrichment are explored.
- 4) The re-integration pathways are explored.

Electively Home Educated (EHE)

- 5) That a more relational approach be strengthened with EHE families with identification of dedicated staffing resource to promote this.
- 6) That clearer information is provided to parents about:
 - Examination entry processes
 - Associated costs
 - Available support services
- 7) That work continues to prepare for legislative changes on compulsory registers and strengthened Local Authority powers.
- 8) That the range of support shared via EHE networks is broadened.
- 9) That opportunities for partnership working to strengthen intervention and support are explored.

- 10) That the capacity for schools to provide early intervention and support in response to emotional and mental health needs is reviewed.
- 11) That best practice identified at the Attendance Networks on re-integrating vulnerable learners into school is widely and regularly shared.
- 12) That the support available to children and their families experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is widely and regularly shared.
- 13) That the Team Around the School be fully appraised of the needs of previously Electively Home Educated pupils who are returning to mainstream education to support and nurture them back into school.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

- 14) That off roll audits are maintained and expanded to prevent inappropriate removal from school rolls.
- 15) That opportunities to work in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector are fully utilised to gather intelligence.
- 16) That consideration is given to how the social care reforms can be used to reduce the number of children missing from education.

Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)

- 17) That multi-agency working arrangements for children receiving EOTAS be strengthened, to ensure earlier, coordinated planning for children with complex needs, with education, health and social care partners jointly developing, owning and reviewing EOTAS packages to improve timeliness, quality and outcomes.

Alternative Provision (AP)

- 18) That the new QA framework is implemented fully with follow up action plans for providers needing improvement.
- 19) That AP networks continue to be expanded to promote consistent practice.
- 20) That action is taken to ensure that all AP placements have a clear education plan, regularly reviewed, with reintegration as a priority where appropriate.

Admissions

- 21) That processes and capacity for pupils with EHCPs who move into the Borough are reviewed to minimise time out of education.

Safeguarding

- 22) That caseworker training in professional curiosity is enhanced to seek to ensure that risks are spotted during educational monitoring visits.
- 23) That multi-agency information sharing for EHE and CME cohorts is strengthened, to compensate for restrictions on direct safeguarding checks.
- 24) That CME processes continue to involve agencies such as Border Force, Police, Health and Housing to track and protect high risk pupils.

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Statutory Forward Plan

Key Decisions

1 January 2026 - 31 July 2026

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
Admin Accommodation Review To review the Council's administration accommodation. Key Para No	Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport	Cabinet	14 May 2026	Cabinet	Meetings	chris.renahan@stockton.gov.uk chris.renahan@stockton.gov.uk		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Adult Social Care Fees and Charges</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek authority to consult on a proposal to introduce fair and transparent administration fees across several adult social care functions. These include Appointee, Court appointed Deputyship, Deferred Payment Agreements (DPA's), interest on DPA's and Deceased estates. The proposals are intended for public consultation.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>14 May 2026</p>	<p>Integrated Care Board Service Users Wider public engagement</p>	<p>Letter out to inform people subject to Stockton Borough Council appointee Survey 2 Face to Face meetings Notice on Stockton Borough Council web site.</p>	<p>adam.carabine@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Carol.Malham@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>EPIA required</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
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<p>Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document and Article 4 Direction The report will provide an update in relation to the commencement of a new Local Plan, Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD (which is being submitted with a recommendation for adoption) and the Article 4 direction (which has been subject to consultation).</p> <p>Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD The SPD has been produced, following the</p>	<p>Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>14 May 2026</p>		<p>Statutory consultation / notification undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation.</p>	<p>simon.grundy@stockton.gov.uk planningpolicy@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>An Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA) has been undertaken</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
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<p>Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan Council endorsed a recommendation for a full update of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan in January 2024. Fundamental changes to the planning making system have occurred through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 ("The Act") and subsequently The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.</p> <p>Combined 'The Act' and 'Regulations'</p>	<p>Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>20 May 2026</p>	<p>The Local Plan process will be subject to statutory consultation at various stages of its preparation in accordance with the associated regulations.</p>	<p>Statutory notices and consultation to be undertaken in accordance with regulations.</p>	<p>simon.grundy@stockton.gov.uk planningpolicy@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>Yes EPIA this will be fully considered and undertaken during the development of the Local Plan and associated evidence base, should the relevant authorisation be given to commence the Local Plan.</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
Depot Provision Update Depot provision update and key acquisition and disposal decision. Key Para No	Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport	Cabinet	23 Apr 2026	Cabinet	Meetings	tracey.carter@stockton.gov.uk Kieran.Meighan@stockton.gov.uk	Private Meeting Notice -28 Day Notice - acquisition of a depot April 26	EPIA required

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Post-16 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transport – Approval on statutory consultation</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council currently provides discretionary post-16 SEND transport to approximately 185 learners, including 29 learners aged 19+. This provision is not a statutory requirement.</p> <p>Demand and associated costs for community transport services continue to rise, with overall expenditure projected to exceed £11</p>	<p>Director of Community Services, Environment and Culture</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>23 Apr 2026</p>	<p>Stockton Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) met with SBC officers on 16 February 2026 for early engagement. This meeting underlined the need for clear timelines, accessible consultation materials, and opportunities to share lived experiences. SPCF also emphasise</p>	<p>A statutory consultation will be undertaken for a minimum of 28 working days during term time. Consultation will include an online survey, targeted engagement with stakeholders, listening events, and collaboration with representative groups including</p>	<p>Representations may be submitted via the Council's online consultation platform and by email to the responsible service. Details of how to respond, including the closing date for representations, will be set out in the consultation materials.</p>	<p>Forward Plan Proforma 2026 - Post-16 Transport</p>	<p>YES – An Equality Impact and Poverty Impact Assessment has been completed and will remain a live document, to be updated in light of consultation responses and to inform any subsequent decision-making.</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Supported & Temporary Accommodation - Adults & Families, Children & Young People</p> <p>The report seeks approval from Cabinet for the procurement of Supported and Temporary accommodation provision for Adults & families and Children & Young People).</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>18 Jun 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Meetings.</p>	<p>jane.edmends@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Adults/families = jane.edmends@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Children/young people = jane.smith@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>EPIA to be completed</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Levelling Up Fund - Yarm Public Realm</p> <p>Update on outcome of consultation undertaken in regard to public realm proposals on Yarm High Street.</p> <p>Consideration of and decision on next steps</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>12 Mar 2026</p>	<p>None specific beyond consultation already undertaken.</p>		<p>iain.robinson@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Via email towncentresinvestmentteam@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment to be completed</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Annual Procurement Plan/ Higher Value Contracts</p> <p>The report seeks approval from Cabinet for the procurement of higher value contracts. The report includes all known contract awards scheduled for 2026/27.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Corporate Services</p>	<p>Cllr Paul Rowling</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>12 Mar 2026</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Meetings and email</p>	<p>julie.marsden@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>Martin.skipsey@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>EPIA not required.</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>A Children's Integrated Front Door</p> <p>The Children's Hub is the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person who lives in Stockton-on-Tees. The Children's Hub is delivered in partnership with, and managed by, Hartlepool Borough Council.</p> <p>The Families First nationally mandated reforms for children's services and the strategic direction of both</p>	<p>Director of Children's Services</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>9 Feb 2026</p>	<p>The Children and Young People's Partnership Hartlepool Borough Council Cleveland Police Integrated Care Board (ICB) Tees Esk Wear Valley Trust Harrogate District Foundation Trust Education Partners Commissioned Domestic Abuse Services</p>	<p>Meetings with partners involved in the current Children's Hub arrangements Partnership meetings supported by the Department of Education The Families First Partnership Board</p>	<p>aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>An EPIA has been completed and quality assured for the process, details of which are included in the Cabinet report.</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy</p> <p>The report to Council to set the Council's budget and Council tax for 2026/27 and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>18 Feb 2026</p>	<p>Members briefings and meetings will be held with Councillors.</p>	<p>Members briefings and meetings will be held with Councillors</p>	<p>clare.harper@stokton.gov.uk</p>		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Re-procurement of the Stockton drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service</p> <p>Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to commission drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services as part of their public health duties. The current Stockton service has been delivered by Change, Grow, Live (CGL) since 2020 under a five-year contract originally ending on 31st March 2025. To enable appropriate planning and alignment</p>	<p>Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>15 Jan 2026</p>			<p>sarah.bowman-abouna@stockton.gov.uk</p> <p>sarah.bowman-abouna@stockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>A separate community impact assessment was not undertaken. However, the potential impact on communities has been considered through the completion of a health needs assessment, service reviews, and stakeholder engagement, including staff, people with lived experience, residents, and partner organisations. The findings from this work have informed the development of the financial options for re-procurement and the assessment of the minimum viable service model.</p>

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
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<p>Revising the Public Spaces Protection Orders in Stockton Town Centre and Norton Town Centre 2026-2029</p> <p>Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) are designed to prevent individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in public spaces. PSPOs are very common across England & Wales, especially in town centre areas.</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees has had one in place since 2023, covering the town centre areas of Stockton and Norton</p>	Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing	Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety	Cabinet	12 Mar 2026	Countless national & regional PSPO examples were reviewed in the initial first design phases of the revised drafts – and as part of the evaluation into the 2023 Order – 9 local authorities were directly contacted by the Council's Community Safety Dept. in 2025 (a further regional local authority was contacted in 2026), where in-depth discussions took place over the principles and enforcement of PSPOs, in an exercise in learning, development, and best practice sharing. SBC Community Safety has kept in contact with four of those other LAs throughout this process, as to continue sharing best practice and aid in SBC's development of the revised Order and accompanying implementation strategy/enforcement policy. Once the design of the drafts was completed following discussions between SBC Community Safety		adam.bateman@stockton.gov.uk Adam.Bateman@Stockton.gov.uk		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
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<p>Article 4 Direction Small Houses of Multiple Occupation (Use class C4) To seek approval for implementing an Article 4 Direction to control the proliferation of small Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs).</p> <p>The Planning system categorises HMOs as either use class C4 (small houses in multiple occupation) consisting of between three and six persons with basic shared facilities, or for HMO's over six residents fall into the Sui Generis</p>	Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing	Council	15 Jan 2026	Councillors	Meeting with full Council.	chris.renahan@stockton.gov.uk		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy</p> <p>The report to Council to set the Council's budget and Council tax for 2026/27 and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>18 Feb 2026</p>	<p>All Members of the Council.</p>	<p>Members briefings and meetings will be held with Councillors.</p>	<p>clare.harper@stokton.gov.uk</p> <p>clare.harper@stokton.gov.uk</p>		

Description of Matter / Decision Required Key Decision?	Responsible Officer	Portfolio Leader	Identity of Decision Taker (eg Cabinet or Council or Joint Arrangement)	Decision Due Date	Principal Consultees	Method of Consultation	How Interested Parties may submit representations to decision-takers and end date for representations	Reports and background papers submitted to decision-taker for consideration	Notes / Comments
<p>Housing Strategy 2026-2036 Updated and refreshed Housing Strategy to ensure it remains relevant to the local Housing environment, provides a clear market position statement, and evidence to support future funding initiatives / opportunities.</p> <p>Key</p> <p>Para No</p>	<p>Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>11 Dec 2025</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Meetings and emails</p>	<p>jane.edmends@st ockton.gov.uk</p> <p>jane.edmends@st ockton.gov.uk</p>		<p>EPIA will be completed.</p>

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Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair’s Update – May 2026

Scrutiny Review – Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee’s final report was presented to, and subsequently endorsed by, SBC Cabinet in March 2026.</p> <p>A draft Action Plan relating to the report’s recommendations was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee in April 2026. The first update on progress of these actions will be required in early-2027.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	n/a
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Protection of Property	
Achieved since last meeting	n/a
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	Initial meetings to begin the scoping process for the Committee’s next in-depth review of Protection of Property will be held in May 2026 with a view to presenting a draft scope and plan to the Committee for approval at either the May or June 2026 meeting.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>CQC / PAMMS Inspections – Quarterly Update: A report was presented at the Committee meeting in February 2026 detailing the findings of both CQC and PAMMS inspections that had been published in the third quarter (October to December 2025) of 2025-2026.</p> <p>Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone (TVCHIZ): In order for the Committee to have increased oversight of developments in relation to this initiative, SBC officers had recently proposed that more frequent reports were presented to formal Committee meetings (rather than simplified versions of the minutes from TVCHIZ Strategic Programme Board meetings being shared). Consideration would therefore be given as to the scheduling of these updates for the 2026-2027 municipal year.</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Wellbeing Hub: In April 2026, the Committee received a presentation on the Stockton-on-Tees Wellbeing Hub which outlined its achievements since opening in July 2024. Subsequent discussion points covered the various partners who were involved at the Hub (including co-working / information-sharing), those accessing the facility for support, and funding.</p>

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

	<p>Overview Report: SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing (Adult Social Care and Strategy & Transformation): Following a decision in 2025 to resume overview and performance reporting to the Council's Select Committees, an overview-only report was presented to the Committee in April 2026 in relation to the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate (<i>note: the reporting of performance measures would not commence until September / October 2026</i>). Specifically focusing upon the Adult Social Care and the Strategy & Transformation departments, the report outlined key achievements and challenges in 2025-2026, as well as emerging issues within these areas of Council activity. Member comments / questions centred on the anticipated data in relation to performance measures that would be provided to future meetings, the reported increase in requests for care from working age adults, hospital discharge, and the new requirement for the Council to publish a supported housing strategy in 2027.</p> <p>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) Quality Account 2025-2026: The annual NTHFT Quality Account item would be considered at the Committee meeting in May 2026, with senior University Hospitals Tees (UHT) personnel scheduled to be in attendance to present an overview of NTHFT performance against its 2025-2026 quality priorities, as well as highlighting any identified priorities for 2026-2027. Following this, the Committee would prepare and submit a third-party statement for inclusion in the Trust's published Quality Account document.</p>
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NHS Updates / Consultations

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): Following the early-2025 announcement requiring ICBs to reduce running and programme costs, the NENC ICB is progressing with the implementation of its strategic commissioning transition programme. From April 2026, place partnerships, led by local partners, will take on increased responsibility for the delivery and governance of integrated care and neighbourhood models. As part of this transition, ICB-led place committees will conclude at the end of March 2026, with locally-led governance arrangements taking their place.</p> <p>Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW): In March 2026, CNTW provided an update on its forthcoming engagement programme regarding the future of specialist inpatient mental health services for autistic adults and adults with a learning disability, and outlined how it was seeking views from stakeholders across the region – this has since been raised with the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee as a potential future agenda item.</p> <p>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV): In March 2026, TEWV issued correspondence regarding a review of the pathway and model of care for adult eating disorder services, noting the formal engagement process which had now</p>
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Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

	<p>commenced in relation to this area of provision. The review of the services would include looking at how and where TEWV provide specialist inpatient adult eating disorder provision, as well as how it develops community services. Again, this has since been raised with the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee as a potential future agenda item.</p> <p>NHS England (North East and Yorkshire): At the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2026, Members were made aware of a recently received letter from the Director of Specialised Commissioning, Health and Justice, and Public Health (North East and Yorkshire Region) and the NENC ICB Chief Contracting & Procurement Officer outlining proposed changes to the delivery of neonatal care across the North East and North Cumbria region. It was agreed that an additional Committee meeting should be convened in the near future to enable further detail to be provided and considered.</p>
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Regional Health Committees

<p>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</p>	<p>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council hosted the Committee in 2025-2026. The most recent meeting took place on 12 March 2026 and included Quality Account presentations from both North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV). TEWV also provided an urgent care mental health crisis update.</p> <p>As per previously agreed rotational arrangements, Chair and support responsibilities for this joint committee would move to Middlesbrough Council for 2026-2027. The first meeting date of the new municipal year had been scheduled for 2 June 2026 where Quality Account presentations from both North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) would be considered.</p> <p>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p>North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
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Monitoring

<p>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</p>	<p>No updates had been considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (May 2026) • Reablement Service (September 2026)
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Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service (TBC – early-2027)
Requests for more information	None

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews

- Protection of Property

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Tuesday 19 May 2026	Tuesday 17 November 2026
Tuesday 23 June 2026	Tuesday 15 December 2026
Tuesday 21 July 2026	Tuesday 19 January 2027
Tuesday 22 September 2026	Tuesday 16 February 2027
Tuesday 20 October 2026	Tuesday 23 March 2027

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

Scrutiny Review – Additionally Resourced SEND Provision

The overall aim of the scrutiny review is to receive an update on the implementation of the transfer from September 2025 and engage with secondary schools to secure additional applications from the secondary sector, exploring the barriers to the schools becoming Additionally Resourced Provision (ARPs) and identifying ways in which we may overcome this to secure the provision required for children and young people in the borough. Not having a full complement of secondary schools taking up the places risks undermining the effectiveness and reach of this key element of the local SEND Strategy and means that there may be implications for children upon transition to secondary that there may not be the same type or level of support available to them, potentially creating pressure on special school places and missed opportunities for inclusive education in mainstream settings. The Select Committee will therefore be exploring the following key lines of enquiry as part of the review:

- How will the transfer improve the outcomes for children with special educational needs across our Borough?
- How does the project support the Council's vision and strategy for SEND provision?
- What does DfE Guidance tell us?
- Will the changes ensure that there is sufficient and suitable educational provision for SEND pupils in both primary and secondary?
- What are the barriers to secondary schools becoming additionally resourced provision? How can the number of ARP placements in secondary be increased?
- To what extent do families and schools understand the changes and how will they be engaged during implementation?
- Can lessons be learnt from the primary ARP model and the higher uptake?
- Is the funding provided to ARP adequate and sustainable for them to provide the support needed?

The Select Committee's review was paused to understand the implications of the anticipated White Paper. Now that the White Paper has been published, the Select Committee will be receiving a presentation at its May meeting on the implications of the White Paper and consider how this links to the Select Committee's review work.

Scrutiny Review – Children Not in School

A draft scope and project plan and introductory presentations was considered at the November meeting.

Children not in school covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:

- All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
- Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
- Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
- Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision
- Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
- Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
- Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)

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

- Children who move into the borough and are waiting for a school place

Strengthened systems for Children Not in School has the potential to:

- improve attendance further
- improve pupil outcomes
- reduce associated anti-social and criminal activity
- reduce demands on community safety resources

Evidence sessions have been held on respect of the different categories of CNIS focusing on safeguarding and Members visited home and hospital and electively home educated pupils. The April meeting considered the summary of evidence from the review and the May meeting will consider a draft of the final report.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>At its April meeting, the Select Committee received an overview report for children's social care on key achievements, challenges and emerging issues for 2025/26.</p> <p>Key achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strengthening of social work practice confirmed during the focused ILACS visit • The Launch of the Integrated Front Door • Preparedness for Children's Social Care Reforms • Increasing workforce stability <p>Challenges included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in complexity of need • Sufficiency and budget pressures <p>Emerging issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children' Social Care Reform • Development of the Regional Care Cooperative • Youth Justice Modernisation • Best Start in Life Strategy
Problems or concerns	None
Requests for more information	None

Monitoring

Key Issues / Problems or concerns	<p>Outstanding monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships - A further progress update to be scheduled in due course • Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment - Ongoing
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Children and Young People Select Committee Chair's Update May 2026

Next Scrutiny Review
Alternative Provision

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 5.00pm unless stated)
13 May 2026 17 June 2026 15 July 2026 16 September 2026 14 October 2026 11 November 2026 16 December 2026 13 January 2027 10 February 2027 17 March 2027

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Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

Scrutiny Review – Children affected by Domestic Abuse	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>A draft final report was considered and subsequently approved at the Committee meeting in March 2026.</p> <p>The Committee's final report was presented to Cabinet in April 2026 where all recommendations were endorsed.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	A draft Action Plan in relation to the report's recommendations will be presented for approval at the Committee meeting in May 2026.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>A draft scope and plan for this review was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee at its meeting in March 2026. The main aims for this review will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the scope of interventions that are eligible through these two budget schemes, the processes for determining the priorities for use of the funds, and the management of the projects that are funded through CPB and WTB. • establish the effectiveness of these two budgets and whether projects funded through the CPB and WTB have had genuine and sustained impact. • ascertain the communication of the CPB and WTB to Ward Councillors and wider public awareness of these two funding streams. • consider the value of CPB and WTB in the context of significant ongoing budget pressures for the Council as a whole. <p>Given this scrutiny topic was largely Council-focused, relevant Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) officers involved with these initiatives and Ward Councillors themselves would be the predominant contributors to the review. However, it was also proposed that the review established the extent to which residents were aware of these budget schemes, the involvement of local Town and Parish Councils in CPB / WTB-related work, and whether any learning could be found within other Local Authorities which operated similar funding arrangements involving its Elected Members. It was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be reported to Cabinet in October 2026.</p> <p>The first evidence-gathering session was held at the Committee meeting in April 2026 – this focused on an initial presentation from the SBC Community Services, Environment and Culture directorate. Questions for a Ward Councillor survey were also</p>

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

	discussed and agreed – this would be issued to all SBC Elected Members in early-May 2026.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The second evidence-gathering session in May 2026 is scheduled to feature further contributions from the SBC Community Services, Environment & Culture directorate, including examples / effectiveness of similar schemes at other Local Authorities. Early feedback from the Ward Councillor survey may also be considered if available.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>No updates have been considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC) (<i>note: in November 2025, Cleveland Police was approached to see if there were any developments from a force perspective that might enable some further progress on this issue – to date, no further information has been provided</i>) • Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (May 2026) • Children affected by Domestic Abuse (TBC)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP): Minutes of previous SSP meetings are periodically included on Committee agendas so Members are sighted on developments within that forum.</p> <p>Overview Report: SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing (Community Safety and Regulated Services: Environmental Health and Licensing): Following a decision in 2025 to resume overview and performance reporting to the Council's Select Committees, an overview-only report was presented to the Committee in April 2026 in relation to the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate (<i>note: the reporting of performance measures would not commence until September / October 2026</i>). Specifically focusing upon the Environmental Health and Licensing functions within the Council's Community Safety and Regulated Services department, the report outlined key achievements and challenges in 2025-2026, as well as emerging issues within these areas of</p>

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

	Council activity. Member comments / questions centred on recent media regarding the increase in attacks on Trading Standards officers, pest control (including sites near to / involving Thirteen Housing Group properties), co-operation with large organisations in relation to air quality matters, use of apprenticeships, and the need to promote the successes of these Council services more.
Requests for more information	None

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews

- Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budget
- Alley Gates

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Thursday 28 May 2026	Thursday 26 November 2026
Thursday 2 July 2026	Thursday 17 December 2026
Thursday 30 July 2026	Thursday 28 January 2027
Thursday 1 October 2026	Thursday 25 February 2027
Thursday 29 October 2026	Thursday 25 March 2027

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People Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

Scrutiny Review – Post 16 Provision	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee received evidence from the Post 16 Partnership Careers Strand at the meeting in April regarding the careers advice available in schools and colleges and relationships with local businesses. It was noted that there is universal Information and guidance within schools and colleges which schools are required to source, as well as targeted support as and when requested by a student, parent/carer or college staff. Members also received details of the interventions taking place, including Skills for Success and Excellence for All, that are targeted to give insight into local businesses and support students achieve their full potential.</p> <p>The Careers strand also discussed the increase in young people not in education, employment or training and the Committee received information regarding the Opportunities for Young People into Employment Outcome-Based Review taking place to target this issue.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The Committee will receive evidence regarding the Post 16 Partnership Transitions Working Group at the meeting on 11 May
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The next progress updates will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Facilities Grant – May 2026 • Partnership working in Early Help – September 2026
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review
Procurement and Tendering Processes

2026-2027 Meetings (all 2.00pm unless stated)
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**People Select Committee
Chair's Update – May 2026**

Monday 11 May 2026 (4pm)
Monday 8 June 2026
Monday 6 July 2026
Monday 7 September 2026
Monday 5 October 2026
Monday 2 November 2026
Monday 7 December 2026
Monday 4 January 2027
Monday 8 February 2027
Monday 8 March 2027

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

Scrutiny Review – Capital Projects	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>Evidence was received from the monitoring officer in March outlining the governance principals with capital project oversight. This included how good governance makes sure risks are identified and recorded properly, the importance of members receiving clear, consistent, and timely information as projects evolve, and ongoing governance improvement.</p> <p>The informal session was also held in March were members reviewed the evidence received and formulated draft recommendations which were agreed at the meeting April along with final report for the review. The Committees recommendations focus on effective communication, both in decision-making, the reporting of capital projects, risk management, and the sharing of lessons learnt.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The final report will be presented at Cabinet in May.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Animal Welfare	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>A scope and project plan has been drafted for the next review and a tripartite with the Cabinet member held.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Team performs several critical functions and interventions to protect the public and ensure the welfare of animals and has received the RSPCA's platinum award for their continual excellent service. However, there is increasing pressures on the service including demand, increasing complexity of cases, longer length of kennelling stays, and increasing costs driven by rising operational expenses, stricter regulations, and rising veterinary costs.</p> <p>The proposed aim of the review will be to address the challenges to the long-term sustainability and cost of services and thereby continue to provide excellent care for animals and ensure the safety and well-being of the community.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The scope and project plan will be considered at the meeting in May.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – May 2026

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing (May 2025) • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (July 2026) • Muslim and Faith Burial (October 2026) • Burial Provision (December 2026)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>An overview report for Regeneration and Inclusive Growth was presented at the April meeting. Areas of work highlighted included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the delivery of the capital programme, including works to Preston Park Museum and Grounds, delivery of the Thornaby Town Deal, progress made on housing delivery and Tees Valley care & Health Innovation Zone • facilitating grant funding to businesses to enable growth • support and initiatives provided by the Employment and Training Hub, to identify skills needs, raise young people's aspirations, and improve individual residents' employability • preparation for a new Local Plan
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review
TBC
Remaining 2024-2025 Meetings & 2025 – 2026 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)
<p>Monday 18 May 2026 Monday 15 June 2026 Monday 13 July 2026 Monday 14 September 2026 Monday 12 October 2026 Monday 9 November 2026 Monday 14 December 2026 Monday 11 January 2026 Monday 15 February 2027 Monday 15 March 2027</p>

Executive Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2026-2027

In addition to the Standing Items:

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

Date	Item	Attending
19 May	Scrutiny Review of Capital Projects – Report of Place Select Committee – Executive Summary for Information	Michelle Gunn
	Scrutiny Review of Children Affected by Domestic Abuse – Report of Community Safety Select Committee – Executive Summary for Information	Gary Woods
	Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School - Report of Children and Young People Select Committee – Executive Summary for Information	Judy Trainer
	ASC Front Door Business Case/Options Appraisal	Callum Titley
21 July	MTFP Outturn	Clare Harper
22 September	MTFP Quarter 1	Clare Harper
	Stockton on Tees Plan and Performance Update	Geraldine Brown
	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Complaints Report 2024/25 and the New Complaints Policy	Ged Morton Gemma Jackson Lisa Williams
17 November		
15 December (Additional Meeting)	MTFP Quarter 2	Clare Harper
	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Public Report	Ged Morton
19 January		
23 March		

Regular Reports

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

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