

Place Select Committee
Overview Meeting 2023
10 July 2023
Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Context

Members are reminded of the Council's Vision that supports decision-making:

A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm where:

- This means the Borough will be a place where:
 - People live in cohesive and safe communities
 - People are supported and protected from harm
 - People live health lives

- This means that the Borough will have:
 - A growing economy
 - Improved education and skills development
 - Job creation and increased employment

- This means we will enjoy:
 - Great places to live and visit
 - Clean and green spaces
 - Rich cultural experiences

The Council plays its part in making sure this is achieved by being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve.

Performance Reporting

Performance across the Council Plan was reported on a six-monthly basis to Executive Scrutiny Committee. Please see the link:

<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/users/public/admin/kab71.pl?cmte=SCR>

ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Director – Ann Workman/ Carolyn Nice

Relevant services include:

- Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees

Council Plan 2023-2026

The Council Plan sets out the aims and objectives for all services and is refreshed on an annual basis.

The key priorities for Adults, Health and Wellbeing are attached at Appendix 1.

Emerging Issues

Service delivery is influenced by a range of internal and external factors that develop over time. Emerging challenges and opportunities are summarised as follows:

Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees - Priorities for the year ahead

- To continue to prevent and relieve homelessness (including the prevention of rough sleeping).
- To continue to improve the housing conditions and management of private rented properties.
- To provide an effective and efficient Disabled Facilities Grant Service to support people to remain safe and independent in their homes.
- Work with VCSE sector and our network of Community Partnerships to tackle food poverty in the borough.
- To support integration and independence for those who move into the borough through national refugee and asylum programmes (for example Homes for Ukraine / Afghan Resettlement Programmes).
- Work with the North Thornaby community to implement a range of interventions funded through the Thornaby Towns Fund.
- The successful implementation of the new MRI Tees Valley Homefinder lettings and nominations portal.
- Work with the borough's young people through the Bright Minds Bright Futures (BMBF) youth led initiative to ensure young people are heard and valued in the development and delivery of Council policies and services.
- Continued implementation of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework to address poverty and inequality in the borough.

Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees – Challenges and opportunities

Challenges:

- An increasing number of the borough's residents are feeling the negative impact of the current cost-of-living crisis (implications for single person households and families across all areas of the borough).
- Demand for affordable housing continues to rise (family, older persons, and specialist) at a time when we are experiencing a reduced turnover of affordable housing in the borough. Placing pressure on waiting lists and waiting times / people living in inappropriate accommodation.

- Rents in the private rented sector are rising, resulting in an increasing number of properties becoming 'unaffordable' for those on low incomes (above Local Housing Allowance levels).

Opportunities:

- To continue to work with our local communities, VCSE and statutory partners to explore how to do things differently (to achieve maximum impact).
- To seek out new funding opportunities for example working with both SBC colleagues, Catalyst and the business sector to maximise Corporate Social Responsibility.

APPENDIX 1: COUNCIL PLAN – KEY PRIORITIES 2023-2024 (ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING)

A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm means the Borough will be a place where:

- people live in cohesive and safe communities
- people are supported and protected from harm
- people live healthy lives

We have identified these key priorities for 2023 to 2024 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

- support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and offer help to people who are feeling lonely
- continue to prevent and relieve homelessness
- work with our partners in the VCSE sector and the Community Partnerships to tackle food poverty in the Borough

A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive means we will enjoy:

- great places to live and visit
- clean and green spaces
- rich cultural experiences

We have identified these key priorities for 2023 to 2024 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

- conclude the continued redevelopment of The Sycamores
- development of a business case to actively accelerate the provision of affordable and specialist housing provision within the Borough

We will play our part in bringing about this vision for the Borough by being A Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve. This means that we will make sure that we provide:

- financial sustainability and value for money
- dedicated and resourceful employees
- strong leadership and governance

We have identified these key priorities for 2023 to 2024 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

- continue to develop the Bright Minds Big Futures (BMBF) initiative to ensure that the voice of young people is heard and valued in the development and delivery of Council policies and services
- continued implementation of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework to address poverty and inequality in the Borough
- continue the development and roll out of the Cost-of-Living Hub to support the Borough's residents