

Appendix 4

1

Select Committee Work Programme Suggested Review – Pro Forma

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Access to GPs and other primary care

Some years ago we covered the issue of access to GP's. Since the start of the pandemic there has been a significant change in how the public contacts and gains access to their clinicians.

My concern is that people feel unsure about contacting their GP. They are no longer sure whether they will see a GP or alternative professional or indeed whether they will have to engage with a machine on-line and answer questions.

I feel there are folk that have very personal issues that do not want to discuss on the phone their issues and are ignoring coming forward because of this, possibly to their detriment.

I know from experience getting through the switchboard is difficult and frustrating, and observed two women at my surgery speaking to the receptionists saying they could not get through online or on the phone to get a doctor's appointment. They were nearly in tears.

Talking to folk many state they are having issues getting to see a doctor.

I would like the scrutiny to find out whether these are significant issues, whether this is actually happening on a large scale and what is being done to improve matters.

I would like clear guidance up in every surgery that gives simple guidance on contacting your doctor.

I would like the online service to be simple and a phone service fit for purpose, not one that cuts you off after 45 mins and tells you lines are closed over lunchtime.

Many folk work, that is their only available time!

If GP's are finding that their workloads are too heavy and they are unable to see all patients that want to be seen then a clear appropriate service should be put in place that allows them to see those patients clearly needing attention more urgently.

At the moment this seems hit and miss.

This review is not about GP bashing. I am enormously grateful to GP's and primary care for the work that they have done. It is about trying to find a better system for seeing your GP. I don't think some surgeries are aware of how much discontent there is out in the public world about the trials of getting to see a GP.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
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Public interest justification: Public lack of understanding of health demands on GP's and frustration getting to see a health professional.
Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area: As above
Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area: N/A
Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?): Not known
How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan? Health of local citizens
What would you want the outcome of the review to be? As above
Signed: E Cunningham Date: 17/2/22
Please return to: Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section Democratic Services Municipal Buildings Church Road Stockton on Tees TS18 1LD Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158

**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Domestic Waste Collections, Kerb-side Recycling and Green Waste Collection

Levels of recycling in the Borough are amongst the lowest in the country. The cost of weekly collection of general waste is increasing rapidly. Food waste collection is likely to be a requirement in the coming years and a proactive approach could contribute to our carbon reduction targets. The free collection of garden waste/green waste benefits some communities more than others. Our approach to waste reduction overall could be improved to reduce the financial and carbon cost.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

Waste and Recycling collections impact every resident in the Borough and are a key service and a statutory duty that SBC deliver to residents. The service is highly visible and impacts on every household.

Our waste and recycling provisions are very popular with residents and have regularly received excellent customer service feedback.

However, collecting refuse weekly in a 240L bin does bring with it a negative effect on the overall household waste recycling rate which the council can achieve. Residents currently have access to a large residual waste disposal capacity of 240 litres every week. This amount of refuse disposal capacity acts as a key disincentive for residents to recycle due to the convenience factor which the 240L green wheeled bins provide. Generally, only those residents with a keen interest in recycling, will recycle.

It is expected that the government will issue a date, in March 2023, for SBC to rollout mandatory weekly food waste collections by 1st April 2026. As a result of this rollout date, which also aligns with the start date of the council’s new waste disposal contract, our current waste and recycling collection services should be reviewed to ensure an efficient, effective and resilient service in the future.

Due to the introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections, there are significant opportunities to deliver carbon reductions and environmental benefits across the whole service.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Defra minister Lord Benyon recently highlighted food waste collections as the biggest contributors to local councils reducing the waste sectors carbon emissions and making implementing them successfully a priority when it comes to improving the Environment.

By diverting food waste from the general waste stream which is sent for recovery through Energy from Waste (EfW) and moving this waste stream to recycling will provide positive outcomes in all areas.

Reducing residual waste and increasing recycling also brings with it financial advantages to the Authority. Our current waste disposal contract does have a competitive gate fee until 2026 however the gate fee reduces further when collecting material for recycling.

There are major financial pressures which local authorities will need to deal with over the coming years and with the expected increase of gate fees from the new waste disposal contract on 1st April 2026, waste and recycling collections should be seen as an opportunity to help with the financial pressure on the authority.

The most common reason given for retaining weekly collection is the potential for food waste to create a smell and a hazard if it is uncollected for up to 2 weeks. This is particularly likely in warm weather. However, the introduction of mandatory weekly food waste collections from 1st April 2026, would resolve this issue and the benefits of alternative weekly collection of other residual waste may then outweigh the disadvantages.

Our continued failure to increase recycling and reduce our carbon impact could become the subject of national Government challenge and penalties as climate change accelerates.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

Stockton's current recycling rate is the lowest in the Tees Valley at 24.3% in 2020/21, ranking SBC 328 out of 338 authorities nationally. This compares to the Tees Valley average of 30.58%, the northeast average of 32.84% and a national average of 42%.

Stockton's 240L weekly residual waste capacity has a significant impact on residual waste per household (KG/HH), which can be seen when compared to other Northeast Authorities. With Stockton having the highest KG/HH of the 7 authorities. This can be seen in the below table.

Year	Authority	Residual Household Waste per household (KG/HH)
2019-20	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	707.3
2019-20	Middlesbrough Borough Council	677.6
2019-20	Hartlepool Borough Council	581.7
2019-20	County Durham	552.2
2019-20	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	516.5
2019-20	Darlington Borough Council	507.6
2019-20	Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council	493.4

The Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS) and the Tees Valley Outline Business Case (TV OBC) has a target of a 45%-50% Tees Valley Recycling rate by 2027, with a national target of 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035. Without significant collection model changes this would not be achievable.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

There are a number of reviews being looked at nationally around waste at the moment with some of the key areas highlighted below:

The requirements of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018 and the Environment Act 2021 places a statutory duty on all waste collection and unitary authorities in England to collect food waste separately and to treat this waste by recycling. We are awaiting clarity around the details of start date and funding however after discussions with Defra it is expected SBC will need to collect food waste by 1st April 2026.

The Government have also now released their response to the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) consultation. DRS will be introduced nationally from October 2025 and will include single use drinks containers of plastic bottles and cans. Glass will be excluded from the scheme.

Local Authorities will now need to understand how the introduction of DRS will impact the kerbside recycling collections, as any drinks container in scope that would have been placed in the kerbside recycling container will now find its way to a DRS drop off point. It is anticipated that a 'levy' of around 20p will be added to each drinks container upon purchase and this will be refunded to the customer once the item has been returned.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is another element of the strategy and places the responsibility onto packaging producers to cover the full net cost of dealing with the packaging they place on the market. It is expected local authorities will receive payments from 2024/25 for any packaging which finds its way to kerbside waste streams. The details of how this funding mechanism will work is not yet known, though it is believed to be based on the quality and quantity collected material.

Consistency in Collections is another consultation which will impact SBC collections with legislation which placed a requirement on councils to collect glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food and garden waste separately. Consultation in this area is also discussing whether green waste collections should be free of charge.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

The project would contribute to the Councils Environmental Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Strategy, specifically Aim 3 to "Maximise the use of existing resources, minimise waste and achieve high levels of re-use and recycling".

By reviewing the waste and recycling collections as a result of the introduction of weekly food waste collections this would also help support the Councils aspirations to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions if changes are made from the review of waste and recycling collections.

The project would also help achieving the targets set out in the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (TVJWMS) which aims to increase recycling levels, reduce the carbon impact of waste management and reduce the amount of waste generated by households.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

Greater clarity about how SBC could reduce carbon and increase recycling through an improved waste and recycling approach, taking account of the potential public resistance but giving appropriate consideration to the importance of the environment, the costs of service delivery, and the direction of national policy over food waste.

Signed: Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Date: March 2023

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<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) (Specifically Discretionary Funding/Approach)</p> <p>Demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) continue to rise at a time when building costs have also significantly increased. The result of this is an increasing number of DFG applications being costed above the maximum means tested grant (£30k threshold). The rationale for this review is to review the discretionary funding provided by the Council (for example financial loan assistance) to ensure that those requiring a DFG can continue to live independently in their homes.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p>NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>
<p>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Building costs have risen significantly over the last year resulting in an increasing number of residents needing to make a greater contributions to their DFG if it goes over the maximum £30,000 threshold. SBC has adopted measures to try to tackle this in the form of discretionary loans with the aim of preventing residents ‘falling out’ of the system. However, with rising building costs a large DFG (for example a property extension is now averaging between £45-£50,000k) residents are needing to seeking increasing loan support (in this example to obtain a loan of between £15-£20,000). Are we doing enough to support vulnerable residents at this time, is there anything else we can do to improve the service provided?</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Issuing DFG’s helps the most vulnerable residents with disabilities in the Borough live independently in their own homes for longer thus releasing other pressures on other services in the borough including the NHS. DFG legislation includes the Regulatory Reform Act which gives Council’s the authority to bring in discretionary policies and procedures to support their residents, therefore there is the scope to modify, influence or improve this service area.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>The demand for DFG’s rises every year which has been acknowledged by government and the increase of funding available for LA’s. We are very focused on delivery, so residents get their adaptation as soon as practicable/ possible. Is our process efficient? Are we providing enough value for money? We have a waiting list for DFG’s, are we doing enough for residents?</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>Good practice guidance has recently been issued by Central Government (produced on their behalf by produced by ‘Foundations’). This guidance is currently being reviewed to identify opportunities and potential policy changes and will involve colleagues across a number of service areas including, Housing, Adult Services (Occupational Therapy Team) and the Home Improvement Agency Team (which has recently been brought back in house).</p>

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

DFG is a specific Council plan priority which is: “To support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible” which comes under ‘*A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm*’

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

To ensure we are delivering an effective and efficient service. Whilst also exploring whether SBC is offering sufficient financial support (loan) to enable vulnerable residents to secure a DFG in the face of rising building costs?

Signed: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Date: March 2023

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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Adult Safeguarding Team

The Adult Safeguarding team is working across Stockton and forms part of the Teeswide Adult Safeguarding Board (TSAB) The team is involved in delivering on Making Safeguarding Personal in all of the work it undertakes. The service is currently engaged in the Team Around the Individual which helps support those individuals with a higher degree of risk and support needs. The service is also looking at its performance and processes to ensure it remains effective. The team has been in place for several years and it would be an opportunity to review the work and ensure that it remains effective and is protecting the vulnerable people of Stockton.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

The work of the safeguarding team is of interest to the residents of the Borough as they need to be assured that the Local Authority is effective to not only safeguarding vulnerable adults in the community but also responding to any concerns raised are dealt with in a timely and effective manner.

It is also important that the service can give assurances about the work it undertakes to all of the key stakeholders and partner agencies it works alongside such as Teesside Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), Police, Ambulance, Health etc. The team often works with issues and situations that generate a high profile in the local media and community.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The work of the service impacts on all aspects of the community and the service should be able to display a level of competence and effectiveness in keeping vulnerable adults that will instil a confidence in the community that it serves

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

No immediate saving identified however the service is looking internally at both the processes it works with and how best to capture and manage its performance. The review would hopefully provide some external oversight to this.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

The service is under review as part of the Quality Assurance it provides to TSAB. No other formal reviews at this point however the service as part of Adult Social Care is working towards a self-assessment in preparation for the CQC inspection process

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

The Safeguarding Team helps support the council plan as part of its vision

“Making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm”

The service helps to protect vulnerable adults in the Borough when concerns have been raised about their safety and wellbeing.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

The review would provide assurance of the work currently being undertaken by the team to ensure it remains effective. The review can also help give an oversight to the team's performance and its processes to ensure it continues to work to the standard expected and in keeping with all current policies, legislation and procedures relating to Adult Safeguarding.

Signed: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Date: March 2023

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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Safety for staff in the night time economy

Safety for staff in the night time economy including restaurants, take aways and pubs. Would it be possible for licences to include conditions that arrangements are made for staff to travel home safely when working unsocial hours / when public transport is not an option.

Can a survey be done of existing businesses to find out what arrangements already exist (a template for good practice).

Desired outcome: - raise awareness of vulnerability of staff (often young, often female) when having to travel after public transport ceases.

- Reward good practice with a star rating etc – publicity
- Encourage others to provide safe transport home for staff after the end of public transport provision

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Safety of workers (particularly young, particularly female.)

Grow confidence in Stockton’s night time economy.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Young workers, females feeling confident to take jobs in the night time economy. Provide good examples of responsible employers.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

May help to lower crime and reduce need for police presence.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Don’t know.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Making Stockton a safer place to work.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

More awareness of safety issues for people working into the early hours. More businesses providing transport / arranging taxis etc.

Signed: Cllr Eileen Johnson

Date: 18/01/23

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**Select Committee Work Programme
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<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Cost of Living Response</p> <p>In response to the ongoing Cost of Living crisis SBC has introduced a number of initiatives (for example the Cost-of-Living on-line HUB / Warm Spaces / Food Aid Fund) to support the Borough’s residents.</p> <p>This review would consider SBC’s response to ensure we effectively support the current and emerging needs of our residents, whilst also evaluating our current approach to inform/provide a steer for ongoing and future activity.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p align="center">NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>
<p>Public interest justification:</p> <p>The impact of inequalities is significant and impacts on quality of life, life chances and life expectancy. We have affluent areas alongside disadvantaged areas in the Borough. Nine of our 26 wards are in the 10% most deprived in the country and there is an average male life expectancy gap of 21 years between the most and least deprived areas.</p> <p>At this time, the rising costs of food, fuel and other essentials are combining with this existing disadvantage and vulnerability to put households under significant pressure. This leaves them at risk of hardship and poor wellbeing in the short-term and reduced opportunity in the long-term.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>The cost-of-living crisis continues to bite, many families are coming under financial strain and parents are having to make cutbacks in order to keep their children fed and warm. In 2022, the rising costs of fuel, food and other essentials combined with this existing disadvantage and vulnerability to put households under significant pressure.</p> <p>The North East Child Poverty Commission says almost two in five children in the North East (38 per cent) are living in poverty, rising to almost half – 47 per cent – of North East children living in a household with an under five.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Improving opportunities for some of the most vulnerable people in our borough. Improving their motivation and self-esteem, mental health and wellbeing and their own economic wellbeing thus improving life chances.</p>

Consider/review the key components of our Cost-of-Living approach adopted by the Council at a time of increasing service demands (for both advice and support).

Exploring the possibility to develop, change and if appropriate grow the Council's services around the Cost-of-Living work to support more residents in our borough. Whilst also reviewing the impact of services being delivered (via the wider FSOT performance framework).

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

This review will build on the 'cost of school uniform' review which was undertaken in 2020 and the recommendations of the Child Poverty scrutiny review undertaken in 2022.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

This review supports the work on inequality as outlined under the people theme. A key priority is to 'Develop and implement Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework' in the Council Plan 2022/23.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

- Oversight of the issue
- Review of our response
- Recommendations for future action

Signed: Leader of the Council

Date: March 2023

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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Holidays Are Fun (HAF) Programme

HAF is a DfE funded programme that provides activities and healthy meals to children and young people during holiday periods, predominantly for those on free school meals. It is delivered in partnership through SBC and Catalyst. It involves a range of providers delivering a variety of activities.

The Scrutiny Committee could consider if HAF is being attended by those families who most need it and how far it is reaching. Other considerations would be whether we should involve schools and education providers more, what constitutes a healthy meal and is this being provided consistently. Also, if and how we could involve more families and increase attendance for those who are not eligible but are willing to pay.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
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Public interest justification:

HAF is a holiday activity programme ran across the Borough. It aims to engage children and young people who are eligible for free school meals and offers activities alongside a healthy meal. There are a range of providers involved including schools. Public interest would be based on

- Eligibility criteria (FSM with some scope for parents to pay)
- Spread - are activities reaching all areas of the Borough and are they accessible
- Cost – reassurance that the money allocated by DfE being spent appropriately.
- Healthy Meals – what constitutes a healthy meal and what is being provided.
- Fairness and transparency- how is the money allocated, monitored and evaluated as good value.
- Vulnerable children and young people – is HAF reaching the right young people who are most in need. How are agencies working together to support families to access and what work is being done to offer support after the holiday period.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The programme is aimed at those most in need, holiday times can be difficult for families especially under the current cost of living crisis. Offering a safe place to go, with fun activities alongside a healthy nutritious meal will help families during long and difficult times of the year. Therefore, it essential that the funding allocated is maximised and provides value for money. Alongside this, longer term appropriate support for families.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

The money is allocated as a grant for a specific purpose and spend is monitored through DfE. The programme should offer the opportunity to help more families at an early stage offering help and support beyond the holiday periods leading to short- and longer-term savings. Having a safe place for children to go during holiday periods helps parents who are

working to reduce childcare cost, it also offers the opportunity to work with families who need support to return to work.	
Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):	
No	
How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?	
Supporting 'our people' to live healthier lives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting the local economy using local providers to deliver.• Supporting schools to work during holiday periods, supporting their local communities offering healthy meals and activities to children and young people• Offer specific and focused provision for children and young people with special educational needs.• Supporting vulnerable groups such as, children in our care, children in need of help and support, children with additional needs and young carers.	
What would you want the outcome of the review to be?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve delivery of the HAF programme ensuring that the right young people attend and are offered fun and appropriate activities.• To ensure the project is value for money and provide actions to improve.• To ensure provision covers the whole borough and offer is accessible by children in rural areas• To increase provision for children with additional needs• To improve provision for young people aged 13 years and over• To develop a plan for sustainability beyond current funding• To increase engagement and attendance and develop systems to expand the opportunities to pay for activities.• To understand how agencies are working together to provide help and support for families who access HAF outside of holidays.	
Signed: Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	Date: March 2023
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**Select Committee Work Programme
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Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Narrowing Gaps in Educational Attainment

Covid and lockdown has had a disproportionate impact on educational outcomes for disadvantaged, Children in our Care (CIOC) and Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) pupils.

A scrutiny review will allow us to explore and spotlight the impact of what we already do, what new initiatives exist and what could still be done to maximise impact.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

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Public interest justification:

Stockton has a number of schools in areas of high disadvantage. Poverty should not be a reason for poorer attainment and the people who live in these areas deserve the best for their children and young people. The public in these areas need re-assurance that this is a commitment of the council and that all services are pulling together to ensure the best possible outcomes for children who are in receipt of pupil premium funding. This funding was introduced to support work in this area. The key challenge then is to find out what strategies can be used to make a difference to the achievement of groups, such as disadvantaged pupils with low income backgrounds. This same principle needs to be applied to children on the SEND register or Children In Our Care (CIOC).

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The educational achievement gap has a huge impact on aspirations and opportunities and can feed into a cycle of other socioeconomic trends. Educational achievement, and its relationship with socioeconomic background, is one of the enduring issues in educational research. This makes it vital that the services of the council to school join up in a coherent and purposeful way to the benefit of the wider socioeconomic context.

Improved results, better support and a wider view will help to break down the disadvantage for these families and press reset for many of these children and young people.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

A review of all of the services which feed into the support of these families and challenge to their service providers should not look so much at cuts and savings but innovative ways of working, better using the resources we have and making any efficiency savings through a renewed approach.

An understanding of how the Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to tackle the issues identified.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

There is not a similar review going on in this area though there may be a review of the service as a whole linked to the council's innovative 'Transformation and Change Programme'.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

The children and young people strategy (endorsed by cabinet in 2019) sets out how partners in Stockton-on-Tees will work together for children and young people and their families. It is a partnership strategy, closely aligned to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The strategy is designed to provide a framework for action which complements the plans and priorities of each partner organisation.

This work complements and supports this over arching vision in joining up services and providing the strongest support to deliver the best possible outcomes.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

An audit of what works well and what can be done better.
A renewed look at how things are done and by whom.
An improvement to the multi-agency approach being offered.
An improvement in educational attainment for disadvantaged children and young people including CIOC and SEND pupils.
A reduction in the achievement gap for vulnerable children and young people.

Signed: Deputy Leader of the Council and
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Date: March 2023

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<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Play Area Distribution, Maintenance and Physical Accessibility</p> <p>The provision of play areas is uneven across the Borough with significant variations in the play value, age and accessibility of equipment and sites. Many older play areas are in decline and there is insufficient budget to maintain all the current sites.</p> <p>The majority of new sites are established through planning obligations and consequently increase provision in areas where new development is taking place, while there are limited opportunities to establish or improve play areas in existing residential areas.</p> <p>There is a need to review whether the current combination of larger destination/neighborhood sites and smaller local sites best meets local needs. In addition, all sites are subject to challenge relating to accessibility and play value, and our approach to both should be reviewed.</p>
<p>NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>
<p>Public interest justification:</p> <p>Play facilities do tend to receive a great deal of public attention, social media comments (both positive and negative) can be challenging.</p> <p>Public consultations are usually well attended, and it does attract some concern about how a development is being utilised (vandalism and ASB are often cited).</p> <p>Overall having an effective portfolio of play provision is a positive step, we do need to ensure that all developments are accessible by the greatest number of people and have significant play value to ensure their importance to children's development.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Play is essential to a young person's development. To enable meaningful play, we do need to ensure that we maintain a portfolio of high quality assets within communities.</p> <p>Play is not only important to child development but can also act as a community cohesion tool, bringing together different age groups and demographics.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees currently have 36 play areas and 9 MUGA's in the borough that we are responsible for. A life expectancy survey was undertaken by RoSPA in 2019 and following this an estimate of costs was obtained to replace any equipment with a life expectancy of less than 5 years, the figure at that time was around £750k. All play facilities are inspected either weekly or fortnightly based on the usage of the</p>

sites. Play facilities are a depreciating asset with budgets mainly set for basic maintenance, and would not cover equipment replacement or replacement of safety surfacing when necessary.

When new play areas are installed, whenever possible a nominal maintenance payment is provided however when this budget is exhausted the play equipment may need to be removed if damage occurs or items fail as the nominal payment for maintenance may not be sufficient to cover replacement equipment as the costs can significantly increase and materials may not be available. All play facilities have serviceable life expectancy however there is currently no play equipment or safety surfacing renewal budget factored in to new play schemes.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

None

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Play is an essential part of every child's life and is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. Play facilities are an essential element to allow **people to live healthy lives** to ensure activity is established at an early age therefore reducing long term health conditions.

By ensuring that play spaces are equitable and deliver a similar play value across the Borough we are helping **to implement the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework.**

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

Clear strategic guidance upon the development of new play areas and priorities and rationalisation of existing play provision.

Budgetary provision for maintenance of play areas is proportionate the number of play areas that are retained.

Signed: Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety

Date: March 2023

Please return to:

Judy Trainer
Scrutiny Section

Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk
Tel: 01642 528158

**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Adult Carers' Service

The Carers Service provides assessment support to those people identified as carers in the Stockton area. The Service provides a range of services to carers and hosts a number of stakeholder events to support this endeavour. The team also has the Shared Lives Service as part of its remit and although this is a new area, we are keen to develop and grow this service and would welcome the oversight of the Scrutiny Committee around all aspects of its work.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The Carers Service works across the whole of the Borough providing advice and direct support to Carers. The community need to have assurance and confidence that the service provided is timely and effective in all aspects of its work.

The Shared Lives work is developing in Stockton and has raised interest with the local media.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

People should receive care and support in their own home for as long as possible and central to that is the work of the unpaid carers in our borough. The work of the Carers services in supporting these individual's is crucial to this and the benefit to people and their families is immense. There is also the financial burden that would be felt by the Local Authority if carers were not supported in their role in a robust and effective manner.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

The work of the service reduces the need for people to receive care in their own homes or come into care, this not only benefits the people who use our service and their families but also helps reduce the need for formal care arrangements to be in place thus impacting on the financial spend of the Council

<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>No formal reviews at this point however the Service as part of Adult Social Care is working towards a self-assessment in preparation for the CQC inspection process</p>	
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>The key priorities from the Council plan as set out below are examples of how the work of the Carers Service supports the plans delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “engage with individuals, families, carers and communities when developing adult social care support and continue to collaborate with the NHS to ensure health and care services work effectively together• support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and offer help to people who are feeling lonely”	
<p>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</p> <p>The Carers Service would benefit from the review providing an assurance of the work it undertakes currently. This oversight would also provide a focus on the Shared Lives service as it continues to develop.</p>	
<p>Signed: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Date: March 2023</p>
<p>Please return to:</p> <p>Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section Democratic Services Municipal Buildings Church Road Stockton on Tees TS18 1LD</p> <p>Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158</p>	

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Roadside Advertising

Over the last few years there has been a notable increase in the amount of unauthorised advertising material being placed on, or adjacent to the highway. This varies from fly posting on the back of road signs, to trailers specifically designed to be left on, or adjacent to the roadside, including on walls and fencing, and has led to increasing concern within the Council, and from the general public. The removal of unauthorised signing can be controversial as the removal of signs can generate adverse comments from businesses and event’s organisers. The organisers of smaller events, in particular, often feel aggrieved as the display of signs and or flyers in the locality are often the only publicity for their events.

The control of advertising on or adjacent to the highway covers many different service areas (highways, planning, enforcement etc.) and each service tackles the issue as they deem appropriate. The proposed outcome of the review would be for the Council to adopt a coordinated approach to the control of roadside advertising allowing, where appropriate and safe to do so, legitimate roadside advertising while controlling, efficiently and effectively, inappropriate roadside advertising.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Members of the public tend not to be aware of the legal position in regards to advertising signs and can be confused about the process for authorisation and therefore may not be aware they are committing an offence or causing a problem.

In certain circumstances the inappropriate siting of roadside advertising can constitute a safety hazard to pedestrians and /or a distraction to motorists.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

One of the Councils four key policy principles is creating economic prosperity and the appropriate advertising of businesses and events can assist with achieving this aim.

Promotion of local events can assist with social inclusion however inappropriate roadside advertising can also be harmful to the local street scene environment.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

The control of advertising on or adjacent to the highway covers many different service areas (highways, planning, enforcement etc.) and each service tackles the issue as they deem appropriate. This can lead to different departments tackling issues inconsistently and multi handling the same complaint. A coordinated approach should set out clear responsibilities and avoid double handling issues with any complaint being dealt with efficiently using the appropriate control mechanism.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

While individual services manage this issue on an individual basis there are no other coordinated reviews currently taking place.

Which of the Council's four policy principles does the proposed scrutiny topic support? (see page 3)

One of the Council's four key policy principles is creating a thriving economy and the appropriate advertising of businesses and events can assist with achieving this aim.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

The proposed outcome of the review would be for the Council to adopt a coordinated approach to the control of roadside advertising allowing, where appropriate and safe to do so, legitimate roadside advertising while controlling, efficiently and effectively, inappropriate roadside advertising.

Signed: Cllr Jim Beall

Date: 17 February 2023

Please return to:

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**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Supporting family placements – our role in supporting foster carers, connected carers and special guardians</p> <p>As corporate parents it is important to understand how young people are cared for and looked after if they are not living with their birth parents but can and want to remain within their wider family.</p> <p>A scrutiny review could consider how we can continue to develop and improve in this area. This could include what it means to be a foster carer or a connected carer , and how we can improve recruitment and support. Additionally, it could consider how we can increase the numbers of family members who want to be Special Guardians, including how we support those who are already looking after children.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p>NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>
<p>Public interest justification:</p> <p>We currently have over 580 children in our care within Stockton on Tees. As a Local Authority we have a responsibility to ensure our children are safe, cared for and go on to enjoy successful and productive adult lives. It is important that the public understand how our children are cared for and what this means.</p> <p>Many residents of Stockton on Tees, care for young people as foster carers or Special Guardians. Informing the public of what happens in these arrangements and how they can become a foster carer or Special Guardian is important if we are to maintain quality and increase capacity within this area.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Caring for children who are no longer living with their birth parents is important. Also reducing the number of cared for young people who are living out of area or in residential placements within the borough is important for both the children and the cost to the Local Authority. Children and young people are happier and more successful when they have a stable home, and if this is with a family member the child will be happier, more resilient and successful in their adult life.</p> <p>Children and young people, in the majority of cases, should live within their own communities and attend local schools. This also helps our children to maintain and develop friendships, develop a strong identity and sense of belonging.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Planning for children to live with foster carers or Special Guardians is significantly less expensive than placing them in high-cost residential placement. The cost of external</p>

<p>residential placements places a huge financial strain on the council budget. More importantly in many cases the expensive provisions are unable to meet the young people's identified needs.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>No</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>In its role as the corporate parent for children and young people in our care, this scrutiny will cut across several areas of the council plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People live in cohesive safe communities – topic will cover; keeping children in our care safe within their own communities?• People are supported and protected from harm – topic will cover; children in our care feeling safer and more protected when they are with a loving and supportive family?• People live healthy lives – the topic will cover – children in our care being healthy and living healthier lifestyles when supported by a Foster Carer or SGO• Improved education and skills development – the topic will cover the Virtual School and the work it does with children who are not with their birth families.
<p>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members gain an understanding of what it means to be a connected carer, foster carer or Special Guardian and how we can improve recruitment of this vital resource• Gaining an insight in the experiences of children and young people and how, as a council, we can improve.• Gain an understanding of the lived experience of children, young people who don't live with their birth parents. Identify areas for improvement.• Gain an understanding of how various parts of the council work together to support young people in foster care and special guardianship arrangements. How this compares to other areas, what can we learn and improve on.• Gain an understanding of how healthy, safe and successful these arrangements are compared to residential and other arrangements. How can we improve?• Gain an understanding of the multi-agency approach and how each area contributes to the child or young person's life and how agencies can continue to improve the support they offer carers.• Explore the delivery and impact of new and innovative ways of working and if and how these can be used in Stockton on Tees.
<p>Signed: Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</p> <p>Date: March 2023</p>
<p>Please return to:</p> <p>Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section TS18 1LD</p> <p>Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158</p>

**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Noise Control Policy

At present, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council does not provide clear, objective noise advice/guidance to developers and a supplementary planning document to this effect does not exist. There needs to be a consistency in the approach to noise assessment and a consideration of National & International guidelines (Noise Policy Statement for England, Planning Practice Guidance - Noise, WHO documentation).

There is a cumulative effect of noise on neighbourhoods and the aim of this review is to protect residents from noisy developments and to improve the management of noise complaints.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

This review could improve community engagement in the planning process.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

As a result of this review, developers would be provided with clear written advice/guidance on this issue. This review also has the potential to protect and improve the environment and residents' health and quality of life.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

A planning noise advice policy, or similar, would improve the planning process, reduce complaints and improve community and developer engagement.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Unknown.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

SBC Local Plan

Local Plan & National Planning Policy

1.5 All Local Plans are required to be consistent with the national policy set out within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF sets out the principles and objectives that are required to underpin approaches to plan-making and development management.

SD1 - Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development

1. In accordance with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), when

the Council considers development proposals it will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals for sustainable development can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

2. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3. Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise - taking into account whether:

- Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or,
- Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.

Strategic Priority 6:

To promote equality and diversity whilst ensuring all of Stockton-on-Tees Borough residents live in strong, prosperous, cohesive and sustainable communities in a safe, healthy and attractive environment.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

15 other Local Authorities have already adopted the 'Planning Noise Advice Document: Sussex': <https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/Media.121802.smx.pdf>. It is hoped that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council would also adopt/ follow this guidance.

Signed: Cllr Mick Stoker

Date: 15 February 2023

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**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Review of Council Tax Empty Property and Second Home Levy

Long term empty property premium

Currently properties which have been empty and unfurnished for 2 years or more attract a 150% council tax charge due to a 50% premium being applied. The premium was introduced in 2013 with 50% being the maximum premium permitted in regulations at that time. Regulations have since changed and Councils are now permitted to apply premiums of:

- 100% where the property has been empty for more than two years*.
- 200% where the property has been empty for between five and 10 years.
- 300% where the property has been empty for more than 10 years.

* The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, currently making its way through Parliament having completed its second reading in January includes that the premium of 100% can be applied after just one year rather than two.

Given that Local Authorities now have options to introduce alternative council tax premiums to empty and unfurnished properties depending on the length of time the property has been empty a review is required. The review will consider the impact on the Council's taxpayers, the Council's finances and the number of empty properties in the Borough.

Second home property premium

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, also includes the introduction of a premium for second home properties (properties unoccupied but substantially furnished).

Currently second home properties attract a 100% council tax charge; the Bill includes a premium of 100% thereby permitting Council's to increase the council tax charge for such properties to 200%.

With the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill due to be enacted during the 2023/2024 financial year, it is appropriate to consider the impact of introducing a council tax second home property premium alongside the long-term empty property premium review.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Council tax charges for empty and unoccupied properties impacts all home owners and landlords with properties in the Borough.

Whilst a decision to increase the empty and second home premiums will raise additional income for the Council and may result in empty properties being brought back into use

<p>sooner these benefits need to be considered alongside the additional expenditure placed upon home owners.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>Properties left empty for long periods can have a negative effect on the surrounding area. Such properties may look neglected with overgrown gardens and can attract anti-social behaviour. Increasing the long term empty property premium may help to address these issues.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>Increasing the long term empty property premium will raise additional income for the council. It may also reduce the number of long term empty properties and therefore has the potential for reducing the work of the empty homes team.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, currently making its way through Parliament having completed its second reading in January includes changes to the empty property and second home premiums which should be considered during the 23/24 financial year and in good time to make any changes necessary to future council tax charges.</p> <p>Some neighbouring and other LA's have reviewed/are in the process of reviewing.</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>Contributes to 'We are committed to being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve' within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review the Medium Term Financial Plan, to reflect changes in Government funding arrangements and legislative changes
<p>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise additional income for the council• Bring empty properties back into use sooner• Reduce the negative impact long term empty properties have on the Borough's communities.
<p>Signed: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing Date: March 2023</p>
<p>Please return to:</p> <p>Judy Trainer Scrutiny Section</p> <p>Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk Tel: 01642 528158</p>

**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

<p>Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?</p> <p>Recruitment and Retention</p> <p>Recruitment and retention of suitably qualified, experienced, and able people is essential in order to maintain and improve service delivery, achieve the Council Plan objectives and ensure the council is fit to meet future challenges. Improving service delivery requires us to recruit a workforce with the capacity to deliver. There is a perception that since the pandemic there are higher numbers of staff leaving the Council, compounded by difficulties in recruiting to some posts, particularly in specialist areas.</p> <p>Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.</p>
<p align="center">NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS. PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.</p>
<p>Public interest justification:</p> <p>The workforce provides the foundation for the efficient and effective delivery of key public services provided by the Council.</p>
<p>Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:</p> <p>The council is significant employer and the workforce contribute directly to the local economy. The delivery of services by the workforce is fundamental to what the council does. A failure of service delivery due to being unable to recruit and retain staff will have significant impacts across all aspects of well-being for our residents and communities.</p>
<p>Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:</p> <p>An efficient and effective workforce is essential to maintain council performance.</p>
<p>Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):</p> <p>No</p>
<p>How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?</p> <p>The workforce is an essential element of delivering upon all council plan objectives.</p>
<p>What would you want the outcome of the review to be?</p> <p>Provide some focussed recommendations around issues impacting upon recruitment and retention. Recognising that basic pay and benefits is predominately set by national drivers, consider how we can tailor a “Stockton-on-Tees” approach to improving recruitment and retention, potentially looking at:</p>

- ways of working (flexibility, hybrid);
- fairness;
- employee well-being;
- career development and progression;
- employee consultation and engagement.

Signed: Leader of the Council

Date: March 2023

Please return to:

Judy Trainer
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Stockton on Tees
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**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Community Assets Based Approach

Evidence suggest that adopting a community asset-based approach can help to better understand and meet need, address inequalities and build community capital and capacity, with the aim of improving efficiency, outcomes and satisfaction in relation to services and support.

It is proposed the scrutiny review would seek to understand the existing work across SBC and key partners, research evidence base and learning from other areas in relation to community asset-based approaches, with a view to developing an approach that can be adopted across the Council and inform our work with partners as a lead organisation for shaping place, our economy and relationship with our diverse communities. This will be in the context of the understanding we have of our local place and communities. There is some existing good practice and the opportunity to build on, to take a more systematic approach across the organisation and influence our work with partners, in line with the research evidence base.

The proposed outcome will be:

- Clear understanding of current work underway across the Council to take a community assets-based approach.
- Agreement to develop an approach to community asset-based working based on current practice, evidence base and learning from elsewhere, that can be adopted (and adapted as needed) across the Council in our work and in our work with partners. It is proposed the approach would inform strategic approach and cover implications for policy, practice, service / model design commissioning and delivery, and evaluation and ongoing impact monitoring.

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The aim is to look at how we actively work alongside our communities and consider how we can more effectively do this through considering the development of an approach that can be adapted and adopted across Council working and our work with partners.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

As set out below, developing an approach to community asset-based working will help ensure a good understanding of the views, assets and needs of our communities. The aim will be to work alongside communities to identify priorities, design our spaces, build our economy and design approaches and models of support, in the context of available resources. Evidence suggests that working with communities in this way can help to meet

need, maximise resource and assets and therefore aim to support efficient and effective working and build community capital and satisfaction.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

Taking a community asset-based approach aims to:

- Understand what is important to communities to help align Council priorities with this whilst developing a mature relationship with communities that enables honest discussion about Council provision within the available resources
- Develops a relationship with communities that enables the Council to work alongside communities to build on and maximise the significant resources available within communities
- This should help design models of support and services (internal, partnership and commissioned) in different ways that maximise the resources across the system, reduce and address demand, address inequalities and help to build and maximise satisfaction, prosperity and wellbeing of residents
- Therefore aims to improve performance and appropriate use of Council and partner services as well as e.g. the use of our town centres and areas of regeneration because they more effectively meet community needs, with greater community understanding and ownership and reduced waste

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

There is existing work in different areas of the Council to build on regarding working with our communities as well as learning from other areas and the research base in relation to community asset-based working. For example there is also regional work to build on through the regional Directors of Public Health network, links to work across the evolving Integrated Care System and ongoing work to further develop strengths-based approaches in social care. The review will fit with the work to address inequalities through our Fairer Stockton-on-Tees approach; and our work to evolve the Council Plan and the approach to strategic planning for the organisation as well as to make better use of our intelligence which includes qualitative intelligence from our communities. The work also fits with other strategic work e.g. refreshing the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and implementing the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the Early Years Strategy.

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

See context above. Evidence points to the need to involve and work alongside the communities we serve to understand and effectively meet the needs of our population in the context of the resources available and to help address inequalities. The aim of the Council Plan is to provide strategic direction to the work of SBC and it is important to use the assets embedded in our communities as we establish our priorities in relation to our people, our places and our economy; and how we deliver on these.

What would you want the outcome of the review to be?

Clear understanding of current work underway across the Council to take a community assets-based approach.

Agreement to develop an approach to community asset-based working based on current practice, evidence base and learning from elsewhere, that can be adopted (and adapted as needed) across the Council in our work and in our work with partners. It is proposed the

approach would inform strategic approach and cover implications for policy, practice, service / model design commissioning and delivery, and evaluation and ongoing impact monitoring.

Signed: Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and
Community Safety

Date: March 2023

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