

People Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2026

Scrutiny Review – Post 16 Provision	
Achieved since last meeting	The Committee considered information from the Post 16 Partnership transitions strand in May 2026, which included the outcomes of a student service regarding influences on their decisions for post-16 education. The information highlighted the importance of data sharing, communication, and transport. The Committee held an informal meeting in June 2026 to review the evidence received throughout the review and draft recommendations. The final report and recommendations were subsequently agreed at the July meeting. The review found that there has been genuine collaboration taking place contributing to increased engagement, rising applications numbers, and stronger alignment with local labour market needs. The Committees recommendations build on these strong foundations to further enhance communication approaches between schools, providers, young people and parents/carers, earlier careers education, and improved transitions support. The report will be presented to Cabinet in September 2026.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	NA
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Procurement and Tendering	
Achieved since last meeting	A scope and project plan for the next review was presented and subsequently agreed at the meeting in July 2026, and background information presented. The aim of the review will be to ensure procurement processes deliver value for money, are competitive, and transparent. The review will be examining the Council's own procurement processes and receiving information from internal officers. The Committee also wishes to understand how the Council operates in the wider region, along with areas of best practice in procurement processes. Evidence will therefore be requested from North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) and Local Government Association (LGA). The Local Chamber of Commerce will be invited to share their experience of the Councils procurement process.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The first evidence session will be held in September
On track – yes / no	Yes

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Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	A progress update was received for Disabled Facilities Grant. There were eight outstanding items, with two agreed as achieved and four on track. The recommendations regarding arrangements with Registered Providers and producing a register of adapted properties had slipped, however discussions were ongoing and progress was being made, including promoting landlord applications with a pilot in place with North Star. The next progress updates will be received by the Committee as follows: • Partnership working in Early Help – September 2026 • Disabled Facilities Grant – November 2026
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	The Committee received overview reports from Corporate Services and Revenues, Benefits and Welfare Services at the May meeting. The reports outlined key achievements and challenges in 2025-26, as well as emerging issues within these areas. Members gave positive feedback on the Council's new recruitment video that was shown. The importance of digitalisation and move towards livestreaming to increase transparency and communication with residents were also highlighted by members.
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review
TBC

2026-2027 Meetings (all 2.00pm unless stated)
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