

## People Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2026

| Scrutiny Review – Procurement and Tendering |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <b>Achieved since last meeting</b>          | The first evidence session took place in September, with members receiving information regarding the Council's own procurement processes. This included the hybrid procurement model of procurement for Construction, ICT, and general goods and services. Spending thresholds, framework agreements, and contract management arrangements were also explained. It was noted that spending thresholds and officer delegated decision limited were locally set and included in the constitution. |
| <b>Problems or concerns</b>                 | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Planned next month</b>                   | The North East Procurement Organisation have been invited to the October meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>On track – yes / no</b>                  | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Monitoring                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b> | <p>A progress update was received for Partnership Working in Early Help was presented at the September meeting, with all recommendations assessed as on track. The Family Help Front Door was launched in April, along with a self-navigation online triage tool for partners and families, supported through external briefing sessions on referral processes and communications and engagement sessions to raise awareness and promote consistent use. Members were informed that emerging data demonstrates a shift towards earlier intervention and partnership-led support, with requests for Early help increased by 29%, referrals to partner agencies increased by 94% and contacts progressing to statutory assessment reduced by 61%.</p> <p>An Action Plan outlining how the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Post 16 Education will be implemented will be scheduled following these being accepted by Cabinet in September</p> <p>The next progress updates will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Facilities Grant – November 2026</li> <li>• Partnership Working in Early Help – March 2026</li> </ul> |
| <b>Requests for more information</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance |
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| <b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b> | <p>Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report was presented to the Committee in September, which highlighted its performance in 202/26 along with key achievements. It was noted all but two of the service's key performance indicators were at or above target, and achieved green assessment in 97% of the Xentrall control checks undertaken by Internal Audit. It had also maintained certification in ISO Standards 27001 (Information Security Management and 9001 (Quality Management), and the BACS Accredited Bureau status. It also was re-certified for continued access to the Government's Public Services Network (PSN).</p> <p>The Committee also received a report regarding the Catering Transformation Review for comment before this is considered by Cabinet in October.</p> |
| <b>Requests for more information</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

### Next Scrutiny Review

TBC

### 2026-2027 Meetings (all 2.00pm unless stated)

Monday 5 October 2026  
Monday 2 November 2026  
Monday 7 December 2026  
Monday 4 January 2027  
Monday 8 February 2027  
Monday 8 March 2027