

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**17 JUNE 2024**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**

**COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE**

**SUMMARY**

This report provides Cabinet with an update on the priorities included in the Council Plan 2023/26.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To update Cabinet on the progress in implementing the Council Plan priorities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the report.

**DETAIL**

1. This report focuses on the implementation of the Council Plan 2023/26. This is therefore the year-end update on progress during 2023/24.
2. An update on each of the Council Plan priorities is set out in Annex 1. The report indicates significant progress in all areas of this year's priorities.

**COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

3. No direct implications.

**CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

4. No direct implications.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. No direct implications.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. No direct implications.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

7. This Council Plan Update is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

8. Not applicable.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9. Not applicable.

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## OUR PEOPLE

Making the borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm means creating a place where:

People live in cohesive and safe communities

People are supported and protected from harm

People live healthy lives

| Priority  | Update   |
|---|--|
| 1. Support achievement for all pupils including a focus on narrowing the gap in outcomes  | The scrutiny review focused on narrowing the gap is to encompass an appreciative inquiry. Early Help support is being brought into education to strengthen a school based community asset approach. Current results at primary level are being evaluated to strengthen support for narrowing the gap and provide targeted interventions. Work is being targeted at raising achievement for higher grades at A level and GCSE to close the gap that has developed between the North East region and the rest of England. 'Closing the gap' briefings are being tailored with new government information to provide support for all education providers (inc. post 16).  |
| 2. Deliver improvement programme focusing on workforce, practice and partnerships for children and families in need                             | The 'Strengthening Services' improvement plan is in place which maximises corporate resources and has oversight from a multi-agency board to ensure collective accountability across the Children's system. An interim senior leadership structure and additional interim capacity has been implemented to re-focus improvement activity. The ASYE academy which will work to continuously improve the quality of social work practice is now operational. Recruitment and retention and workforce development programme developed and Implemented. Bespoke training offered to staff within social care and early help - assessment and analysis to improve planning and intervention. Data and performance practice embedded into social care to enable better understanding of how we are doing and priorities for improvement. |
| 3. Continue to develop and enhance provision and support for children and young people with additional needs or accessing alternative provision | In Sept 2023 the multi million pound development at Bishopton Pupil Referral Unit opened its doors for the first time. The well-established and successful Abbey@Northshore provision was expanded with building works and refurbishment completed whilst the children were on their Summer break leading in increased numbers of children being able to access this provision from September 2023.  |

| Priority  | Update   |
|---|--|
| <p>4. Implement the investment proposals for children in our care, including new provision and new models of delivery</p>                     | <p>Placement Sufficiency has been confirmed as one of the key pillars of the corporate transformation programme and a work programme has commenced which will implement proposals on new models of delivery for fostering and external residential placements.</p> <p>One new children's home has been purchased and is in the process of planning to enable it to open in January 2024. One existing children's home has been refurbished.</p> <p>Work undertaken to understand our current cohort and need, and measures in place to resolve some legacy issues as well as new process of decision making and permanence planning proposed to reduce risk of children remaining in our care that do not require this.</p>  |
| <p>5. Support the Arson Reduction Strategy in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade</p>   | <p>A new arson reduction strategy was launched in the summer of 2023 following the successful completion of the previous multi-agency strategy. Deliberate fire setting has reduced in Stockton on Tees but the significant partnership working must continue to ensure this is consistent across all wards. Joint patrols in deliberate fire setting hotspots has taken place and will continue throughout the summer months when we see an increase in deliberate fire setting during the school holidays.</p> <p>A dedicated preventative approach has been taken through the 'bonfire' period in late 2023 to tackle seasonal increases in deliberate fire setting across Stockton on Tees which was a success and resulted in reductions in arson and deliberate fire setting.</p>                |
| <p>6. Maximise the effectiveness of the additional investment made in our community safety related services in order to protect residents</p> | <p>Following the additional investment made by the Council within our Community Safety related services we appointed an additional 12 Civic Enforcement Officers. These officers are new resources on top of the existing team of 18 Civic Enforcement Officers already employed by the Council. The additional 12 Civic Enforcement Officers are now in position and are actively working within all of our town centre settings, with the objective of ensuring they are safe and welcoming places to visit and shop. A particular area of focus has been the recent Public Space Protection Order in both Stockton and Norton Village. Additional funding has been received via TVCA to extend the additional provision until March 2025.</p>   |
| <p>7. Consider and develop a new serious violence reduction strategy in partnership with other responsible authorities</p>                    | <p>A new serious violence reduction strategy was introduced by the Police Crime Sentencing and Court Act in 2022 and came into effect in early 2023. As a result, we are now under a duty to understand the implications of serious violence on our communities, produce a strategy to tackle the causes and work in partnership with other responsibly authorities. The introduction of serious violence reduction duty in the Community Safety Plan has been completed and is now live.</p> <p>A Violence Reduction Unit (CURV) has been introduced following additional funding from the Home Office, in Cleveland. Stockton BC is represented on this group and part of the decision-making process for funding allocation and the introduction of new initiatives to tackle serious violence.</p> |

| Priority  | Update   |
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| <p>8. Give due consideration to the new Protect Duty placed on local authorities as part of the wider national counter-terrorism strategy</p>   | <p>In July 2023, the government released a draft Bill which covers the new duties under the Protect element of the CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy. The draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill aims to place a duty on qualifying public premises or events to take certain steps to deter and minimise the threat and impact of terrorism to the public. In February 2024 the Government released a draft bill for consultation, known as the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill which will essentially be legislation to enable the Protect Duty. Work is on going in terms of the impact this will have and how we can ensure we meet the requirements of the final Act.</p>   |
| <p>9. Support people to live healthy lives and address health inequalities through a focus on early prevention, long term conditions, substance misuse, smoking, obesity / physical activity, and mental health</p> | <p>Our multi-agency Tobacco Alliance is progressing work on smoking in pregnancy, vaping and we are a regional pilot site for the national NHS swap to stop scheme (provision of free vapes to support adults with quitting smoking in line with national guidance). We are working with TEWV to support people with mental health problems to quit smoking and have issued a response to the government's Smoke Free Generation consultation through the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>We continue to develop our asset-based community working approach, including our peer advocacy pilot to support people with multiple complex needs (particularly domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental ill health).</p> <p>Good progress is being made on implementing the new Domestic Abuse Strategy. Latest updates include work with Tees partners on a perpetrator strategy, local work on outcomes monitoring strengthening links to primary care. We continue to progress a comprehensive workforce development programme and a programme to support those in the community where DA may be disclosed e.g. hairdressers. We are developing a lived experience charter to embed this focus into our work and are supporting mapping work of support to children and young people being carried out by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner - we have a specific local service offer in place.</p> <p>We continue to work across agencies to improve the opportunities for people to be physically active. The recommendations of the healthy weight needs assessment are being implemented along with the resulting strategic framework for healthy weight, reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We are working closely with Tees Valley Sport and Sport England on further opportunities for the borough.</p> |

| Priority  | Update   |
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| <p>10. Continue to lead the public health response to Covid and support the approach to recovery and addressing the impact of Covid, working with partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board</p>      | <p>The multi-agency Health Protection Collaborative continues to meet, reporting to Health and Wellbeing Board to maintain oversight and provide assurance on health protection issues. The Health and Wellbeing Board has been updated regularly on Covid, flu and other infections throughout Winter and a well-attended (50+) conference held with the VCSE to share information to support the community to keep well in Winter. Access to Covid and flu vaccinations has been improved for groups experiencing barriers to access - we have worked with the GP Federation partners to run bespoke clinics resulting in an additional 200 vaccinations. We have also supported national campaigns promoting Covid and flu vaccination uptake and have undertaken behavioural insights work to understand vaccination uptake in young people. The public health team continues to link to support the care sector with advice and information and is supporting education settings regarding the national increase in measles cases.</p>  |
| <p>11. 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>   | <p>The new Care at Home framework tender closed with a significant interest from the provider market. The Council remains on track to go live for this new service. Aligned with the new framework, we will start working with the provider market to develop our approach to a more outcome focussed delivery and use of Individual Service funds (ISF). We are piloting activity monitoring software across reablement and our early intervention services to assess how this could act as an enabler for people to remain independent and will report back in July on option to deploy this at scale across care at home. The Council has committed to support and develop key services during 2024/25 to support people who may be socially isolated and lonely.</p>   |
| <p>12. Continue to work with adult residential care and care at home providers to improve quality of care and to continue to support them as they respond to the challenges arising from COVID-19</p> | <p>The new framework for older people's residential care homes was commissioned in Q4 2023/24 and went live on 01 April 2024. Developed in collaboration with providers and key stakeholders, this has reinforced (through the specification) the focus on lived experience and person-centred support within a residential setting. The Council will undertake annual PAMMs assessment for older people care homes to ensure providers are delivering the expected standards of care and will be given support where they have not achieved a "good" or "excellent" rating. A new framework for mental health has been commissioned (in Q4 2023/24) to deliver local capacity and expertise in residential care for people with complex and highly complex mental health needs. This framework will work with interested providers to develop the local offer through 2024/25. The Transformation Team continue to deliver key interventions to support both care home and care at home market, including leadership network, Well Led Programme, activity coordinator network, provider forums, care academy, research network and care quality group. In Q4, we successfully delivered the 2024 "Care Home Legends" event with 15 care homes, 95 residents and carers plus 15 students from secondary school and 4 catalyst volunteers.</p> |

| Priority   | Update  |
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| <p>13. 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</p> | <p>The Council continues to work effectively with ICB and Trust across the NHS.</p> <p>Integrated Community Equipment Board (ICES): the Council is working collaboratively with the ICB to review the future of this service (along with the other 3 host LAs);</p> <p>ICB are a standing member of the Tees Local Implementation Group (LIG) and are working with SBC and the other Tees Valley LAs to source new housing and care solutions for people with learning disability, autism and mental health needs.</p> <p>ICB and Trust are standing members of the Powering our Future (PoF) mission “Supporting People to live Independently”.</p> <p>The Council have regular integration events with NHS colleagues. At the meeting held in April 2024 we discussed the Care and Health Zone, hospital admission avoidance, hospital discharge, homelessness and leadership.</p> <p>Where issues are identified, the ICB work effectively with SBC to look at the reasons, impact and future solutions. For example, the impact of recent care home closures and change of ownership has reduced our overall nursing bed capacity has led the Council to work with the ICB to identify issues and agree future solutions.</p> |
| <p>14. Review out of area placements and day options provision for adults</p>  | <p>An assessment of the 29 out of borough placements made in 2023/24 has been undertaken and plans for 2024/25 agreed.</p> <p>Capacity for complex mental health residential placements in the borough. The new framework has been commissioned and through this we plan to develop more of the required provision in borough.</p> <p>Requirement for “male only units” was identified through local intelligence (through brokerage evidence) and through the deep dive of out of borough placements. A specific lot in the older people’s care home framework (which went live on 01 April 2024) will allow us to develop this provision locally. It is planned that we engage with the market in June / July to procure this provision.</p> <p>In addition, we have established a Housing group, across social care, procurement and housing to identify people who are struggling to source housing and what plans we can put in place to find them suitable accommodation in borough. This group is considering several development opportunities with local Registered Providers which will bring market capacity into Stockton on Tees.</p>  |

| Priority   | Update   |
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| <p>15. Develop a new model for the health and wellbeing of children and young people 0-19 (25 for SEND), working across key partners and including service commissioning</p> | <p>We have worked closely with partners including children, young people and their families to develop the overarching approach to improving children and young people's health and wellbeing. This focuses on early prevention, based on research evidence and the local picture with the aim of improving outcomes, addressing inequalities and supporting work to prevent escalation of need and demand on services. A section 75 agreement has been secured, enabling us to enter into a strategic partnership to work closely with our provider in developing and delivering this approach. We have worked closely with children and families in developing the model so far and this will be an ongoing process. Through this the 0-19 model (encompassing health visiting, public health school nursing and healthy weight support for families) will be further embedded in the community and wider support across partners including the healthy schools approach, work of maternity services and links to primary care.</p>  |
| <p>16. Work with our communities and partners to develop our approach to healthy places, in the context of regeneration plans and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p>      | <p>Locally we are embedding impact on health and wellbeing and inequalities into key policy e.g. the Local Plan, the town centre blueprint and the Care and Health Zone. We are also looking at learning from other areas to maximise the impact planning, place-shaping and licensing have on creating places that enable people to be healthier. Our local needs assessment work has identified recommendations across the Council and partners to shape an environment that enables people to be more physically active and to have access to healthier food options for example. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed, working across partners in the context of the Council as place-shaper and lead for place (Team Stockton) and the developing ICS. Healthy place and a focus on the wider determinants of health will be key. We are working with the Making it Real Board in developing the Strategy. Working with Tees Valley partners and linking to the Tees Valley ICP, we have developed a programme of work across Tees Valley on healthy place including Anchor institutions, work and health and transport. This support local work such our activity across public health, inclusive growth and learning and skills to support people back into work.</p> |
| <p>17. Work with our partners in the VCSE sector and the Community Partnerships to tackle food poverty in the Borough</p>  | <p>Via monies secured through Household Support Fund Round 3 and Thirteen have enabled the Council to deliver 5 low cost Food Hubs (delivered by the Bread and Butter Thing, an award winning charity). Each Hub is run by local volunteers and an anchor VCSE partner, providing food support to around 400 families per week. HHSF funding has also supported 2 rounds of the Food Aid Fund providing financial support to over 60 VCSE organisations who have delivered a range of food related support initiatives to the boroughs vulnerable residents. The Councils wider commitment to the Stockton Food Power Network, community food pantries and Holiday Enrichment Programme (an extensive programme supporting children and their families during the summer holidays through the provision of health food and free activities) all continue in partnership with Catalyst.</p>   |



| <b>Priority</b>                                  | <b>Update</b>  |
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| 18. Continue to prevent and relieve homelessness | The Council continues to see an unprecedented service demand for those who are homeless and or threatened with homelessness (3030 presentations made to the service during 2023/24). Due to limited affordable housing options in both Registered Provider and private rented sectors the need for temporary accommodation has significantly increased. To address growing service pressures additional units of temporary accommodation have been procured and the service continues to deliver a holistic approach to supporting individuals and families experiencing or threatened with homelessness (i.e. the service currently includes a Domestic Abuse worker, a specialist refugee worker, and a Welfare Support colleague). Due to limited affordable housing options in both the private rented and Registered Provider sectors the service is supporting an increasing number of people seeking support and the waiting time to secure sustainable accommodation are increasing. |

## OUR ECONOMY

Making the borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed means creating:

A growing economy

Improved education and skills development

Job creation and increased employment

| Priority   | Update   |
|--|--|
| 19. Continue to develop the Invest Stockton-on-Tees branding campaign and attract inward investment into the Borough | Continued marketing in the north west area particularly Manchester including Manchester Airport. Continuing to utilise B2B media (Tees Business, Commercial Property publications etc)   |
| 20. Develop options to bring forward development on vacant employment land   | Durham Lane Business Park - Cabinet approval received in March for preferred developer Development Agreement to dispose of land in accordance with the DA. Developer commitment to submit a hybrid planning application within 6 months of signing the DA. Part application may come sooner as currently working with an interested party  |
| 21. Continue to deliver the objectives in the Inclusive Growth Strategy and using an agreed Action Plan              | Review of current strategy being undertaken by Assistant Director of Inclusive Growth & Development. The current strategy has been reviewed and is undergoing consultation with internal and external stakeholders.  |
| 22. Continue to develop the successful Employment and Training Hub Model   | <p>990 people into employment, will reach the 1000 milestone in May 2024, large marketing campaign planned. 5500 people registered with the Hub.</p> <p>Portal launched end of July 2023. Since its launch 150,000 visits, vacancies page is the most visited. New content includes support around internships.</p> <p>SeAH wind event – 125 people attended, numerous people since attended to update CV's to apply for roles at SeAH.</p> <p>Career Change Event held for those looking to upskill, enter management or change sector. 80 people attended, great feedback from businesses and residents, moving forward these will be held quarterly.</p> <p>Upcoming events include the SBC Apprenticeships and the Summer jobs event.</p> <p>Hub on Tour – visited 12 locations, partnered with the Warm Space Initiative, well attended and looking to continue and grow.</p> <p>2 x Engagement Officers recruited April 2024 to widen the 'Hub on Tour' project and work with those 'economically inactive'.</p> |

| Priority   | Update   |
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|  | <p>Social Media Engagement – since Jan 1st 2024 75k reach. Working on larger recruitment campaigns such as Amazon and Primark, Ninja Warrior. Amazon supported 240 people into employment, Primark campaign will launched April 2024, 175 people have secured roles. Primark launch national campaigns, on average receive 2000 applications per store. For the Stockton store they received 6500, interviewed 650, appointed 175. Upcoming campaigns include Ninja Warrior in June 2024 and Practice Plus in July 2024. Practice Plus are a new business to Stockton handling 111 calls. Delivering enterprise projects with secondary schools linking education to employment, more specifically working with the Senior Leadership Team from Billingham schools to look an alternative curriculum linked with enterprise and emerging opportunities in the Borough.</p> |
| <p>23. Develop a procurement charter with partners to promote social value and identify potential areas of development of supply chains in order to support local business</p>                             | <p>To sit within Partnership Powering Our Future</p>   |
| <p>24. Advance our major transport-related projects including the Portrack Relief Road, Billingham and Eaglescliffe Station improvements, Elton Interchange, and improvements along the A689 corridor.</p> | <p>Portrack Relief Road – On hold due to budget gap of around £15m. Billingham station – All works due to be completed. Eaglescliffe Station – Car Park Estimated start date 2nd qtr. 2024 completion date forecast 4th Qtr 2024. Bridge to be complete 2nd qtr 2025. Elton Interchange – Completed. A689/A19 interchange – Detailed design of A689/A19 interchange improvements and footbridge is nearing completion and project is programme for works to commence 3rd Qtr 2024. A689 corridor improvements – Included in CRSTS 2 programme 2027 to 2032.</p>  |
| <p>25. Continue the redevelopment of Stockton Town Centre including demolition of Castlegate and development of the Urban Park</p>   | <p>Work underway on construction of urban park in January 2024. At this stage work remains on programme.</p>   |

## OUR PLACES

Making the borough a place that is clean, vibrant and attractive means creating:

Great places to live and visit

Clean and green spaces

Rich cultural experiences

| Priority   | Update  |
|--|---|
| 26. Deliver interventions for Town Deal in Thornaby  | Design work on new swimming pool progressing and cost plan to be produced. Procurement of contractor planned for early summer 2024. Update to Cabinet on Golden Eagle planned for May 2025.                             |
| 27. Finalise the plans for improvements in Yarm, Preston Hall Museum and Grounds and cycleway infrastructure in line with the Levelling Up fund allocation | Work underway on site for Preston Park Museum extension. Planning application due in 2024 for cafe and toilets. Design work for aviary and south lodge underway.  |
| 28. Conclude the continued redevelopment of the Sycamores  | The development of The Sycamores in partnership with Keepmoat Homes is on track (final sales expected to be complete June 2024).  |
| 29. Development of a business case to actively accelerate the provision of affordable and specialist housing provision within the borough                  | Work is ongoing across directorates (Regeneration, Finance, Adults, Health & Well-being) to explore delivery models which have the potential to accelerate the delivery of affordable and specialist housing provision. |
| 30. Develop blueprints for before phases of redevelopment of town centres.   | Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint complete by end of May 2024. Billingham Masterplan being developed in conjunction with centre owners. Planning for others to follow shortly.                              |
| 31. Develop structures and models for future development of Stockton and Billingham town centres.  | Blueprint for Stockton and site specific master planning out to consultation. Ongoing dialogue with owners of Billingham town centre on potential development partnership   |

| Priority   | Update   |
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| <p>32. Continue the programme of road / pavement maintenance and repairs and deliver our City Regions Sustainable Transport programme schemes</p>  | <p>Programme of road/pavement maintenance and repairs is ongoing. By year end the carriageway programme was 92% complete with 47 of 51 schemes completed. The remaining 4 schemes were delayed due to programming issues and are all due for completion by the end of April 2024. The footway programme was 96% achieved with 23 of 24 schemes completed by year end, the remaining scheme was ongoing and is due for completion during April 2024. CRST – Programme in place and shared with TVCA. Internal and external resource requirements identified and schemes being progressed. LUF scheme to be tendered in April, Towns Fund schemes in detailed design.</p>  |
| <p>33. Continue implementation of the Carbon Reduction and Environmental Sustainability Strategy action plan which includes coalitions with residents, businesses, and partners.</p>                         | <p>We continue to work with service teams to deliver actions identified within the ‘live’ action plan. The action plan is monitored by a Senior Management Team Oversight group. We now have 128 service area actions, 40.63% of those actions are now embedded into standard practice. 51.56% of the actions are in progress and 7.81% are yet to commence.</p> <p>The data collection and analysis framework continues to work well, proving to be a useful tool for many areas of the authority.</p> <p>The four independently chaired Climate coalitions (Creative, Youth, Community and Business) continue to meet and have agreed individual action plans. All four coalition chairs meet to share good practice and challenges to delivery.</p> <p>A new Carbon Literacy training course has been developed with our learning and skills colleagues; this will work alongside our carbon awareness training for members, school governors and our business communities.</p> |
| <p>34. Development and implement the 2023 borough-wide events programme, incorporating celebrations for the King’s coronation and ongoing preparations for Stockton &amp; Darlington Railway Bicentenary</p> | <p>Range of coronation events supported across the Borough including 75 street parties and 9 community events.</p> <p>Ongoing support for community event organisers across the Borough.</p> <p>S&amp;DR bicentenary preparations ongoing.</p>   |
| <p>35. Support the Combined Authority and Bus Operators in delivering the agreed outcomes set out in the Tees Valley Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan and Scheme</p>  | <p>Stockton working on bus corridor improvement schemes across the Borough funded by the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement to provide better bus priority measurers. SBC staff involved in working groups looking at ticketing, fares, marketing and network improvements to encourage people back to bus following covid pandemic. Tees Flex extended for a further 18 months. £2 Fixed Single Fare Cap in place and extended until Dec 2024.</p>   |

## OUR COUNCIL

We are committed to being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve, this means we will provide:

Financial sustainability and value for money

Dedicated and resourceful employees

Strong leadership and governance

| Priority  | Update   |
|---|--|
| 36. Review of Medium Term Financial Plan including delivery and funding.  | The Budget and MTFP report was approved by Council in February. This shows a budget gap rising to £9m across the MTFP and how this will be addressed. The Powering Our Futures programme, in particular the transformation mission, will be the main route to resolving the budget gap. Ensuring successful delivery of this programme is key to delivering a balanced MTFP. The level of expenditure pressures seen in 23/24 are significant, particularly across Social Care. Funds have been identified to meet this overspend if it arises as predicted by the end of the year. The MTFP is under constant review considering inflationary pressures, demand pressures and future NNDR position. A review has been undertaken of all reserves and provisions, with a large sum of reserves paused, and greater controls introduced on expenditure. |
| 37. Develop a Corporate Debt Strategy   | On with options appraisal, expected completion during May 2024.  |
| 38. Respond to and implement Government's review of Business Rates and Revaluation  | Implemented new rating list following revaluation.   |
| 39. Develop and deliver a transformation programme across all services to support the Medium Term Financial Plan  | Report presented to Cabinet in April 2024 outlining the transformation programme incorporated with the Powering our Future programme.<br>The programme is being developed with a range of reviews underway with particular focus on Childrens Services.  |
| 40. Deliver proposals for the redevelopment of Dunedin House to support flexible working arrangements and the re-location of staff from current buildings | Refurbishment works progressing on programme with the 3rd floor already handed back to SBC in February 2024. 1st floor and ground floor including the café and meeting spaces will be complete in July 2024. HR and Comms plan in place covering staff site visits, building inductions, ID badges and welcome packs. Regular updates provided to staff through the Intranet pages. Relocation of staff to start at the end of July 2024 through until September 2024.   |

| Priority  | Update   |
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| 41. Review the Council's land and assets and develop plans for disposal or for any potential development  | Review of administration buildings on-going linked to decant of staff/tenants. Other land and assets being reviewed monthly by Place Asset Group as new requirements/opportunities emerge.   |
| 42. Add new features and functions to the Council website and improve online services for customers   | The new website went live in February 2022, along with 152 live self-serve transactions. Since then we have continued to add content and have developed a total of 245 online solutions. As at 31 March 2024 35,168 customers have signed up for My Council accounts. We completed the work to redesign the Stockton Information Directory and went live with the new site in February 2024.   |
| 43. Launch a new Council Volunteering Strategy to support our employees to volunteer in the community and to provide additional volunteering opportunities at the Council                     | Council Employee Volunteering Policy approved by Cabinet 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 – employees able to have 1 days paid leave in a rolling 12 month period to volunteer in the borough. Team volunteering also encouraged as a team building exercise.  |
| 44. Implement the new flexible working arrangements to capitalise and build on the technological advancements and new working practices developed during the pandemic                         | Flexible Working arrangements continue to be available to eligible employees – further guidance and policy will be provided with the planned moves to Dunedin House  |
| 45. Continue to develop the Bright Minds Big Futures initiative to ensure that the voice of young people is heard and valued in the development and delivery of Council policies and services | BMBF continue to work on a number of initiatives and are also supporting the Councils Powering Our Communities programme. For example BMBF are part of the Young Person and Family Friendly Borough work to encourage the retention of young people within the borough (to live & work), they are supporting the climate coalition . Looking ahead they will be supporting the Council's Employee Engagement Day, a range of summer community events and also be running a further recruitment campaign. |

| Priority  | Update   |
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| <p>46. Respond to and implement the Local Government and Parliamentary boundary reviews</p>                                   | <p>For the Local Government ward boundaries within the Borough. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England review is complete. The 2023 local elections held in the Borough were successfully delivered on the new ward boundaries.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission for England have concluded their review of Parliamentary Boundaries and published their final recommendations for the Tees Valley region and those specifically for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The Boundary Commission has recommended some changes which will affect the current Stockton North and Stockton South parliamentary constituencies. The Electoral Services team have completed their work to ensure the Electoral Register is ready to implement the new Constituency arrangements at the next Parliamentary General Election. The Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023, which implements the new boundaries was approved in November 2023. The new boundaries for Stockton North and Stockton West (previously Stockton South) will be used at the next general election.</p> |
| <p>47. Continued implementation of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework to address poverty and inequality in the Borough</p> | <p>Activities concluded in 2023/24 included embedding A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (FSOT) within all Council activities (examples include the introduction of the FSOT branding/the Councils adoption of a Social Value Policy which directly aligns and supports council strategies including a FSOT). Work is also been ongoing to establish a CSR Network (bringing together local business and VCSE partners) / drafting Equality and Impact Assessment Toolkit (to ensure all Council policies, strategies and decisions' are considered with a 'poverty and inequality lens') / &amp; working with those with lived experience to co-produce an Anti-Poverty Plan.</p>  |
| <p>48. Continue the development and roll out of the Cost-of-Living Hub to support the Borough's residents</p>                 | <p>A range of support activities have been implemented, they include for example; the 'Here to Help Hub' (one stop shop on the Councils website), the circulation of 10,000 Cost of Living Booklets to a range of community and partner organisations, Here to Help events held across the 7 community Partnerships, the continued development of the 'Community Spaces' (previously known as Warm Spaces) the current network is an offer of nearly 70 venues, with many committed to deliver a year round support offer, Winter Warm boxes and wider support and signposting through a range of communications including Stockton News.</p>  |