

CABINET

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday 14 November 2024.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Leader), Cllr Pauline Beall (Cabinet Member), Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member), Cllr Lisa Evans (Cabinet Member), Cllr Clare Besford (Cabinet Member), Cllr Steve Nelson (Cabinet Member) and Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Cabinet Member).

Officers: Garry Cummings (DCE&F, T&P), Reuben Kench (DoCS,E&C), Majella McCarthy (DoChS), Ged Morton, Geraldine Brown, Julie Butcher, Peter Bell (DoCS), Carolyn Nice (DoA,H&W), Sarah Bowman-Abouna (DPH), Tara Connor (CS,E&C), Jane Edmends (AH&W), Vanessa Housley (ChS).

Also in attendance: Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Marc Besford.

Apologies: None.

CAB/58/24 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CAB/59/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CAB/60/24 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

CAB/61/24 Memorandum of Understanding between Stockton on Tees Borough Council and Teesside University

Consideration was given to a report that set out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Stockton on Tees Borough Council and Teesside University. It established a framework for collaboration between the organisations and confirmed a commitment to partnership working.

The MOU built on a strong history of collaboration between the two organisations and reinforced the shared ambitions for the social and economic future of the area.

The MOU marked a new phase in the partnership, cementing shared goals and key areas of activity. It was grounded in organisational objectives and existing partnership commitments, including those set out through the Care and Health Innovation Zone Bard and Place Leadership Board. As such, it also confirmed the shared commitments with partners including the University Hospitals Tees.

The MOU identified a set of shared objectives and underpinning projects or initiatives that would drive shared success. The initial list of activity was not exhaustive, and each Party would identify a single point of contact to ensure that this MOU remained a live document, that delivered meaningful impact.

Central to the shared objectives, was delivering the Vision for a Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone, specifically:

- Developing skills infrastructure and provision that are fit for purpose to support a successful Care and Health sector, and removing barriers to access training
- Ensuring that Innovation, Research & Development drives cutting edge service delivery in Tees Valley, and establishes a regional reputation for excellence
- Reducing Health Inequalities by taking a strength-based approach to working with communities, with a focus on Early Help and Prevention
- Using research, data analysis and intelligence to inform better decision making that delivers meaningful impact.

Following agreement by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet and Teesside University's Executive, delivery of this MOU would be overseen by the Chief Executive of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the Vice Chancellor of Teesside University.

Quarterly Management meetings would take place to ensure progress and impact with annual reporting of progress and achievements to the Council's Cabinet and University's Executive. Governance would also align with, and not duplicate other arrangements, including: Care and Health Innovation Zone Board and Place Leadership Board.

It was recommended that Cabinet approved the MOU to enable formal signature by:

- Leader of Stockton on Tees Borough Council
- Chief Executive of Stockton on Tees Borough Council
- Teesside University Executive.

The MOU would run for 5 years from the date of signature.

RESOLVED that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

CAB/62/24 Procurement Plan / Higher Value Contracts

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval for the award of planned higher value contracts where the value exceeds the limit on officer delegated authority and which were either funded within the approved MTFP / Capital Programme or were subject to a bid for external funding.

The constitution defined a range of decisions that required a specific Cabinet approval, the financial threshold for which was set at a level of £500k or more. Annex 1 of the report listed contracts that exceeded the financial threshold and have not otherwise been delegated to officers.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contract listed in Annex 1 be approved.

2. Authority be given to the relevant Director or Assistant Director to make the specific contract award decision and any subsequent contract variation, annual inflationary uplifts (where allowed in the contract terms and conditions) and extension decision in accordance with the delegations listed in Annex 1 of the report.

CAB/63/24 Minutes of Various Bodies

In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below were submitted for consideration:-

TVCA Cabinet – 27 September 2024
SSP – 17 July 2024

RESOLVED that the meetings detailed in the appendices be received.

CAB/64/24 Civil Penalty Policy

Consideration was given to a report on the Civil Penalty Policy.

Following a recent Upper Tribunal decision (Leicester City Council vs Morjaria) the report detailed proposed changes to the Councils Civil Penalty Policy and Civil Penalty Fee structure to ensure it was robust and mitigated the risk of successful appeals. Members were also asked to approve a streamlined process of progressing financial penalty notices of intent and final notices.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The amended Civil Penalty policy and fee matrix (Appendix A of the report) be approved.
2. As detailed in paragraph 22 of the report delegated authority be given to the Director of Adults, Health & Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing to make any further / necessary amendments to the Civil Penalty Policy and associated financial penalty policies.
3. The streamlined process for signing off financial penalty notices of intent and final notices (as detailed in paragraph 23 of the report) be approved.

CAB/65/24 Local Accounts for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Consideration was given to a report on the Local Accounts for Adults, Health and Wellbeing.

The Making it Real Board (the strategic group for co-production, made up of people with lived experience of care and support along with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Council Officers) were asked by the Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing to co-produce a Local Account for the Adults Health and Wellbeing Directorate.

The Local Account was a brief document to be published and shared with the citizens of the Borough to celebrate the successes across the Adults, Health and Wellbeing Directorate over the last year, to share the challenges and agree the priorities for the year ahead.

The Making it Real Board was formed in January 2024 as a strategic group for co-production. The Board was made up of local people with lived experience of drawing on care and support (social care, health or wellbeing services) in Stockton-on-Tees, working in equal partnership with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

The Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing asked the Making it Real Board to co-produce a Local Account for 2024. Whilst it was not mandatory to publish a Local Account, it was considered good practice as a way of reflecting on a Local Authority's Adult Social Care functions over the last year, improvements made, and its priorities for the year ahead. In order to acknowledge the achievements, challenges and priorities across the whole Directorate, the request was for the Local Account to span all of the Council's Adults Health and Wellbeing services.

Examples of Local Accounts were gathered and shared at the Making it Real Board as a starting point. A small working group was formed in April 2024 comprising some members of the Making it Real Board and Council Officers from two service areas within the Adults Health and Wellbeing Directorate. Officers from Adults Social Care, Public Health, Housing and A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees and Public Health were asked to share information about specific achievements, challenges and future priorities in those areas, to be considered for the Local Account.

Progress on the Local Account was brought back to each Making it Real Board meeting at each part of its development, for direction and agreement.

In its latter stages, members of the working group had liaised with the Council's Communication and Design and Print Teams to prepare the document for publication within the parameters of the Council's branding requirements, with the aim of maintaining the fidelity of the original document design as far as possible.

The Local Account would be a public document for all citizens across all wards in the Borough.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The Local Account for Adults Health & Wellbeing 2024 be agreed and endorsed.

CAB/66/24 Care & Health Winter Planning Update Oct 2024

Consideration was given to a report This briefing provides an update to Cabinet on Winter planning work across the Council, working with partners. This includes measures in place across Adult Social Care (ASC) to respond to Winter pressures and the associated increase in service demands.

The report highlighted the following areas:-

- Winter Planning
- Integration Workshops
- Infectious Disease Surveillance
- Covid, flu and vaccinations
- Health Protection work with key settings

- Local health protection response
- Adult social care support
- Housing
- Supporting our communities

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

CAB/67/24 Powering our Future - Call in - Potential Referral to Cabinet from Executive Scrutiny Committee on 12 November 2024

The Director of Corporate Services informed the meeting that there had not been a referral from Executive Scrutiny Committee held on 12 November 2024.