



Notice of a Meeting of the

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Proceedings of the
Borough Council and reports to Council**

June/July 2022

**Councillor Stuart Smith
Mayor**

**J Sampson
Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)**

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That a meeting of the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will be held on Thursday 14 July 2022 at 2pm. Please note that this meeting will be held in the Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest.**
- 3. To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022.**
- 4. To note the attendance matrix from the last meeting**
- 5. To receive any Announcements from the Mayor, the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Members.**
- 6. To receive any Announcements from the Managing Director (Head of Paid Service).**
- 7. To consider Questions from the Public for which Notice has been given.**
- 8. To receive Reports from Portfolio Holders.**

**A) Report of the Cabinet Member for Children
(HEREWITH)**

(A period of 10 minutes, or such longer period at the discretion of the Mayor, will be set aside for questions which must be succinct and relate directly to matters within the report).

- 9. To consider Reports.**

Report of the Leader of the Council:

A) Decisions Taken Under Urgency Provisions (HEREWITH)

Reports of the Governance Director and Monitoring Officer:

B) Review of Proportionality and Distribution of Seats (HEREWITH)

10. To consider Motions.

MOTION 1

MOVED by Councillor Carl Quartermain and duly seconded by Councillor Thomson:-

“Redcar & Cleveland Council believes that much more needs to be done to investigate the reasons for the mass death of sea creatures found on our coast in the latter part of 2021 and more recently.

Redcar & Cleveland Council also believes much more support should be given to our local fishing industry which has been adversely affected by the consequent radical reduction in fishing stock.

Since October last year dead crustaceans have been found on our beaches along with, the possibly associated, deaths of seal pups and porpoises.

The report of the Government Joint agency investigation into Teesside and Yorkshire Coast Crab and Lobster mortalities was published in May 2022 and concluded that as healthy crabs and lobsters were now being found the investigation was closed.

Redcar & Cleveland Council believes:

1. The decision to close the investigation was premature and demands that the Government re-open it as a matter of urgency to consider why the crustacean deaths continue.
2. A pertinent local investigation also be instituted as a matter of urgency, making every reasonable effort to understand and address this devastating incident.
3. That the Government proposal to support to the local fishing industry via the existing Seafood Fund is inadequate and calls on them to provide proper compensation for the lost income and livelihoods caused by this crisis.”

11. To appoint Members.

Where there are vacancies or changes in appointment:

- To appoint Members of Council Bodies and Representatives to serve on other bodies to which Members are appointed by the Council; and
- To approve any changes to Committee membership and to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs where appropriate.

12. To reply to Questions from Members of the Council.

Questions to the Chair, Members of the Cabinet, Chairs of any Committee or Sub-Committee, Members of the Fire Authority, Police and Crime Panel or the Tees Valley Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee, for which notice has been given.

Question from Councillor Sue Jeffrey to Councillor G Nightingale

“During the weekend of 2/3 July the national FreeTech 24-hour bike race took place at the South Tees Motorsports Park causing considerable noise and disruption for resident for 24 hours from 12 noon on Saturday until 12 noon on Sunday.

Following the previous event in 2021, which caused similar disruption, I met with officers to find out what could be done to alleviate the noise nuisance. I was promised a comprehensive noise survey would be carried out to monitor this and other events in order to assist with the overall noise picture for the site and to provide robust justification regarding whether to allow further events to go ahead.

This week, following complaints from residents I inquired on the progress of the survey and the results so far and was told to my dismay that it had not been commissioned.

Could the Cabinet member now tell me:

1. When the promised survey will be carried out; and
2. When a full review of the land lease will be undertaken to ensure that the council as landowner is able to properly regulate the site so that residents are able to enjoy the comfort of their homes, whilst still allowing motorsports events to go ahead. “

Question from Councillor Billy Wells to Councillor Chris Gallacher

“Please could it be explained has the money been recovered from the Enterprise Fund and what R &CBC intend to allocate this funding to ?”



JOHN SAMPSON
Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)
Redcar and Cleveland House
Kirkleatham Street
Redcar
Yorkshire
TS10 1RT
6 July 2022

9 JUNE 2022

BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Borough Council was held on 9 June 2022 in the Civic Centre, Redcar.

PRESENT His Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Stuart Smith),
Councillors Ayre, Baldwin, Barnes, Berry, C Brady,
Brown, Cawley, B Clarke, R Clark, Cutler, Fisher,
Fletcher, Foley-McCormack, Gallacher, Gray, Griffiths,
Hannaway, Head, Hixson, Holyoake, Hunt, S Jeffery,
Kay, King, Lanigan, Lockwood, Massey, Morgan,
I Nightingale, Ovens, Pallister, L Quartermain, Rider,
Sandra Smith, V Smith, Thomson, Turner, Waterfield,
Watts, Wells, Westbury, Williams and Wilson.

OFFICIALS K Boulton, D Boville, E Dale, S Newton, A Pearson,
P Rice, J Sampson, C Styles and P Winstanley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors
Brook, Cook, Craig, Davies, Dowson, Foggo, C Holmes, L Holmes,
G Jeffery, Jones, Lax-Keeler, Moody, G Nightingale, C Quartermain and
D Rees.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor Holyoake declared an interest in all matters relating to
Guisborough Town Gateway Project and Health Visitors.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022 be
confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**2.01 Mayor's Announcements:**

"I would like to thank those Councillors who attended my Investiture
Ceremony for their support and a big thank you to the communities and
organisations throughout the borough who invited me to celebrate the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee with them, it has been a wonderful four days."

2.02 Leader Announcements:

"The Jubilee weekend was a wonderful celebration of such a remarkable
achievement by the Queen.

People across our borough marked the occasion with a range of events,

9 JUNE 2022

from street parties to cultural activities.

The jubilee spirit will continue through the summer, when the Queen's Baton Relay, which celebrates communities in the build-up to the Commonwealth Games, comes to Redcar and Cleveland.

The baton will pass through Saltburn and Redcar in July and I'm sure our residents will turn out once again to mark the occasion.

The former Marks and Spencer building and the Goodwins building will be transformed to become a new family attraction as part of the Redcar Town Deal.

The site will also include a public events space and the council has appointed a design team to create the family activity centre, which will also host a new central library for Redcar.

We have hosted the vaccination centre which was previously at the Riverside for the past months giving our residents more opportunity to get a jab continues our priority of keeping our residents and visitors as safe as possible throughout the pandemic. Residents can also still get vaccinated at our mobile sessions throughout the borough, which have been such a huge success.

One of the key priorities for our Council was at the heart of an internationally renowned work of art on Redcar beach last month.

The Whale highlighted the issue of climate change on the oceans and this message was spread far and wide in our schools, which used the artwork as part of the curriculum. It also started discussion on the issue among people who came to see the whale and those who followed it on social media.

Work has begun on clearing the site for a new swimming pool for the greater Eston area. Demolition of the former Pathways School building has started and this will allow work to begin on the area surrounding the new pool.

Elsewhere, development work continues on the Teesworks site.

The latest company to commit to the site is Circular Fuels Ltd, which will take non-recyclable waste and convert it into clean-burning gas,

I was delayed today as the Secretary of State for Scotland arrived unexpectedly and at very short notice to Teesworks in order to talk to us about how we had progressed with the Free Port. I am sure that you are all aware that our area is leading with this. Scotland, I understand want to have two Free Ports and that is why the Secretary of State came down to talk to us. He was very interested in what we were doing, and we will help if they need any further assistance.

The Skills Academy has gone up on Teesworks and the roadway is going in as we speak.

The recently announced Hydrogen Community Project carried out by Northern Gas will run through a section of Redcar. We are up against Liverpool for funding and we will be bidding for further funding. I understand from the Minister that there is only one area that will be successful.

Net Zero Teesside will capture ten million tonnes of carbon from the area's chemical and process industry and that will be covered in Councillor Westbury's report.

SeAh Wind and their executives came to see us last week and we had a long and fruitful meeting with them. They will be on site on the 7 July 2022. A large turbine is being constructed on the site. The company are from South Korea, they are a family-owned company although they are a national and international business, and they are investing millions of pounds into that site.

Tees Valley Lithium are seeking to build the first Lithium Hydroxide plant and that will be at Wilton International. They are seeking to build the first lithium hydroxide plant.

EDF are launching a pioneering project that will see the green electricity from EDF offshore. BP are to have a green hydrogen production facility on our site. We will be working in partnership with Teesworks to make sure that we get the investment coming in. This investment is coming in from countries all over the World, the United States, Europe and South Korea and we are delighted that the turbines being put in by SeAh are using British steel."

2.03 **Cabinet Members Announcements**

Councillor Kay made the following announcement: -

"I would like to report on the excellent news about our beaches. We have taken a hammering recently with the escape of effluent and the mysterious death of crustaceans. We have now moved into the fourth week of the bathing session which started on the 15 May 2022. As you may have read in the Gazette, Saltburn has achieved Blue Flag for the fourth year running. Saltburn Beach and Redcar Lifeboat Beach have also received Seaside Awards. Saltburn was one of only seven beaches in the Northeast to win the Blue Flag and is the only Blue Flag Beach in the Tees area.

You may be interested to know that in North Yorkshire Blue Flags were also awarded to Whitby Beach and to Scarborough's North Bay Beach. Water quality is the main criteria towards winning a Blue Flag and must

be adjudged excellent. Safety and cleanliness must also be to the highest standard. In these areas we owe much to our staff who do their utmost to maintain standards. Despite our best efforts all our bathing beaches Coatham Lifeboat, Granville, the Stray, Marske and Saltburn can suffer abnormal pollution, for example, on the second day of the bathing season we had short term pollution warnings for the Stray, Marske and Saltburn whereupon our officers issued warning notices.

We have had one or two of these events since then, but luckily, when you have had this type of event it does not affect your overall grading for a Blue Flag or Seaside Award. Despite negative publicity regarding accidental pollution at Saltburn and the local deaths of thousands of crustaceans I am delighted to report that the first official sample within the season has returned excellent water quality results for all of our six beaches and we have had no more short term pollution warnings.”

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR.**

The Managing Director made the following announcement: -

“It is my intention to start the pre-council briefing sessions which we had before the Covid interruption, and we do have particular Council messages that we would want to give, the position on Asylum Seekers and Cleveland Police who are interested in coming along. In addition, you will be aware of the integrated Care System that is going live from the 1 July 2022, and our health colleagues will come along to talk to Members. The North York Moors National Park have just released their updated Management Plan and they will come along to talk to us on that. We have eight Council Meetings through to the next AGM excluding specials which we will look to populate with these briefings.

4. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE.**

Councillor Westbury presented a report which gave an update on his portfolio and answered Members’ questions in relation to it: - **NOTED.**

5. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HOUSING.**

Councillor Hunt presented a report which gave an update on his portfolio and answered Members’ questions in relation to it: - **NOTED.**

6. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROVISIONS.**

The Leader of the Council requested Members note the following decisions that had been taken recently using urgency provisions as set out in the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules and that required reporting to Council.

- Approval of use of Council Tax Utility Rebate (discretionary fund)
- Approval of the use of Household Support Fund (extended funding)
- Telecare and Assistive Technology Services – new contract with Beyond Housing

:-NOTED.

7. TO APPOINT MEMBERS

RESOLVED that on the successful motion of Councillor G Nightingale and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan that the following changes to committee membership be agreed:

Adult and Communities Scrutiny & Improvement Committee

Councillor Davies to replace Councillor Lockwood

8. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

8.01 Question 1: Question from Councillor Brook to Councillor Hunt Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing.

“Housing Association Beyond Housing have just recently confirmed that they are no longer offering a free pest control service to their tenants and are now directing all enquiries to the Authority. Which currently charges £85 in all cases that require treatment.

This comes at a time where many of our families have been plunged into poverty due to the cost of living crisis and families simply cannot afford to pay for such services, in my Ward we already see the highest levels of poverty and deprivation and with over 90% of our housing stock being that of Beyond housing, I have real concern that if this is not addressed swiftly we could soon see an already problematic issue become severely overwhelming and out of control

Can the council advise if there are any plans to redesign the authority’s current pest control service to accommodate this and could a commitment be made to the residents of this borough today by launching a price review?”

In the absence of Councillor Brook, it was agreed that the written response would be provided to all Members.

8.02 Question 2: Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor Kay Cabinet Member for Health and Welfare.

“The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution has called for a halt to the expansion of new waste incineration plants because of public

health concerns. In his presentation to the group, Prof. Vyvyan Howard found that, even though incinerator filters stop small particulates, they allow ultrafine particulates into the local environment which at scale constitute a significant health hazard. Also, a recent PHE study found “a small potential increase in risk of congenital anomalies for children born within ten kilometres of modern municipal waste incinerators”. Given that some of the wards near the new incinerator already have 20-years lower average healthy-life expectancy than our most affluent wards, what will RCBC do to monitor and control this potential health hazard, and how much will it cost?”

8.03 Councillor Kay replied as follows:

“The all-party Parliamentary Group report does not draw from the larger body of scientific evidence and is in fact outweighed by that evidence and it is this wider body of evidence that underpins the position of the UK regulatory authorities that modern, well-run energy from waste facilities do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health.

The use of energy recovery is subsequently improved by UK Health Authorities. The Environmental Services Association has provided examples of studies which show energy from waste in a more favourable light. It included a 2020 study by air quality consultants of the Greater London Authority which concluded that any potential health risks associated with direct emissions from modern and effectively managed and regulated EFW’s in London were exceedingly low. Furthermore, energy recovery in England is approved by Public Health England and following the results of a major study on waste from incinerators by Imperial College published in 2019 Public Health England stated that well run and regulated municipal waste incinerators are not a significant risk to public health. Whilst it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from these incinerators completely, any potential effect from people living close by is likely to be very small. This view is based on detailed assessment of the effects of air pollutants on health and the fact that these incinerators make only a very small contribution to local concentrations of air pollutants.

Energy from waste plants were among the most heavily regulated industrial installations and must meet strict environmental standards. The Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility will use mature and robust technology to process waste and flue gases will be safely cleaned before being released from the plant. Like all facilities of this type the Tees Valley energy recovery facility will also be subject to stringent permit conditions relating to emissions including particulate matter and it will be closely monitored by the Environment Agency to ensure that it operates well within the limits set by the regulator. Any impact on health from reduced air quality will be negligible. A Council itself does not have any control regarding energy from waste plants as these are regulated by the Environment Agency.

The Council's air quality monitoring station at Dormanstown is well positioned to capture and measure any particulate emissions. Air quality in Redcar and Cleveland consistently meets Government targets. The Energy from waste facility will not alter this situation and we will continue with good returns on any assessment of air pollution that is acquired.

8.04 **Supplementary Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor Kay.**

"Can I just clarify that your position is that there is absolutely nothing for anyone to worry about regarding congenital birth effects, increased asthma, no problems for runners or cyclist or anyone else?"

And secondly if the Environment Agency is monitoring do you know if that monitoring is constant from the monitoring station or intermittent and that if there is a pollution event, because we know that these have to work perfectly 24 hours a day to stop a pollution event, if there is one will this Council be able to pinpoint that to the incinerator without running into any confidentiality, commercial sensitivity any veil of secrecy and that we will know that if there is an event it is from the incinerator?"

8.05 **Councillor Kay replied as follows:**

"The effect will be minimal at most. You mentioned people losing 20 years of active life, this will be minimal in affecting healthy longevity. There are far bigger problems poor housing, low incomes, poor diet, high smoking rates, drinking, drug addiction, inadequate medical services, mental health problems, lack of exercise and obesity. These are the things that are reducing people's longevity not I anticipate very small amounts of particulates from the proposed EFW. I have not got the answer yet about this Council being informed and whether it will be continuous or not, this facility is not in place yet, and I am sure that this will be revealed in the future, and I will certainly be pressing for completely open reports to this Authority.

8.06 **Question 3: Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor Westbury, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Culture.**

"How does RCBC plan to meet its pledge to be a zero-carbon borough by 2030 when the new incinerator will emit between 0.7 and 1.7 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide for each tonne of waste burned? How much of the Carbon Dioxide produced by the new incinerator will be captured and stored?"

8.07 **Councillor Westbury replied as follows:**

"The Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility is designed to treat what is left over after recycling. This is our residual waste the bits we cannot

reuse or repurpose. The Tees Valley Energy from Waste building has the potential to be the first purpose-built facility with carbon capture and storage technology within the UK so we are ground breaking again.

Up to 50% of the carbon omitted from the energy from waste is derived from non-fossil sources, the other 50% from fossil source that makes up your plastics and your other non-recyclables. The carbon capture element of this can capture up to 95% of the carbon emitted from the plant which when we calculate our carbon dioxide omissions means that we can be carbon negative from this from this plant by 2030.

There is no worry about us still emitting carbon from this facility. The carbon capture element of it will be carbon negative. Our alternative to burning our waste at Haverton Hill was to go to landfill which is about 200mgs carbon equivalent average saving by not sending it to landfill. The energy from waste is more efficient than landfill is so this is still the best option of getting rid of and removing our waste. We would like to recycle as much as we can, but this will not effect our recycling we will absolutely be still recycling but there will always be residual waste and we have to get rid of it and this is our best option. With the carbon capture element in place, we will be carbon neutral from this plant.”

8.08 Supplementary Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor Westbury.

“In your report there was a lot of information about carbon capture and de-carbonisation not just covering the period of the report as in the past but about the future as well. The word incinerator is conspicuously missing from the bits about carbon capture and so therefore could I echo Councillor Thomson’s earlier request for a briefing note about how we get to net zero by 2030.”

8.09 Councillor Westbury replied as follows:

“Yes, we will get that briefing note out to you.”

8.10 Question 4: Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor Gallacher Cabinet Member for Economic Growth:

“It was reported that the new incinerator would provide 300 jobs in the construction phase. Have these jobs materialised and how many of the employees are local people?

Also, following construction, the job figure claimed was 40 full-time jobs. Is this still the correct figure? Are local people being trained for these jobs? If so, what is the cost of this training to RCBC?”

8.11 Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:

We remain within the 'Competitive Dialogue' stage of the procurement with all three short-listed bidders (SUEZ, Viridor and Green Recovery Projects) and therefore the construction phase of the project has not yet commenced.

The TV ERF project will create several hundred jobs during the construction period and up to 40 permanent positions once operational, across a range of job roles.

Furthermore, through the procurement process, the partner authorities have asked the three short-listed bidders to consider how their specific proposals will contribute towards social value, sustainability, and regeneration for the seven partner authorities (including such things as the number of jobs and apprenticeships created, the amount that is will be spent each year within the local supply chain, the training that will be undertaken etc). This has been given a significant weighting in the decision-making process and will likely to be a key differentiating factor between bidders.

Any costs relating to the training undertaken in relation to the facility, will be the responsibility of the Contractor, and the Council will not be liable for these.

The granting of the Outline Planning Permission for the development of the Energy Recovery Facility required a Section 106 Agreement to be agreed. It requires the contractor to pay £250,000 pounds to the Council within twenty-eight days of Financial Close being reached between the Councils and the Contractor which shall be used towards the provision of employment and training at the Grangetown Employment Hub (or equivalent centre as agreed).

8.12 Supplementary Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor Gallacher.

"A lot of good news there and it is good to hear about the money going to the Grangetown Employment Training Facility. We received an email earlier about the open day and you had a quote in the communications press release. I think the open day is focussing on the cultural aspect, but the email also mentions that there will be displays of major developments in Redcar. Could I ask that all that good news about the incinerator be shared at the event "?"

8.13 Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:

"I am more than happy to do that."

8.14 Question 5: Question from Councillor Hannaway to Councillor G Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources.

“If the Government introduces an Incineration Tax of £50 per tonne of waste, as recommended by its own Zero Carbon Commission in their 2020 White Paper, would this endanger the financial viability of the new incinerator for RCBC, given the existing funding gap and future increases in the waste management budget?”

8.15 In the absence of Councillor G Nightingale Councillor Westbury replied:

“This is hypothetical still as this tax has not come into place and the consultation is still ongoing, so it is not coming any time soon. Hypothetically, if the tax does come in place on the back of this consultation with the carbon capture on this facility and it being carbon negative, it would not have any charge accrued to it. Without the carbon capture element there would be an element of this tax associated with it but we would be paying that anyway with how we currently dispose of our waste and if we were to go to landfill as stated previously it would be more carbon heavy so this would still be the cheapest option.”

8.16 Question 6: Question from Councillor Sue Jeffrey to Councillor Kay Cabinet Member for Health and Welfare.

“UKActive the membership body for leisure providers recently warned that swimming pools across the UK are at risk of closure with energy cost expected to increase by as much as 150% leading pool owners and managers to consider reducing temperatures, restricting opening times and making staff cutbacks to tackle the issue.

1. In relation to our four operating pools at Saltburn, Loftus, Redcar and Guisborough could you tell me:
 - a. If the Council and Everyone Active are considering these measures or similar, to reduce costs?
 - b. How attendance rates are recovering post Covid, what the monthly swim numbers are for each pool, and how much subsidy is provided by the Council per month to each pool?
 - c. What measures are being put in place to upgrade and improve the efficiency of heating systems at our pools in line with our climate change strategy for all council buildings?
2. At the new pool at Eston, what action is being taken to ensure that the heating system is future proofed to keep operating costs to a minimum and to meet our climate change targets for new development?
3. In total how much subsidy has been/will be paid by the Council to Everyone Active to support our pools and Leisure Centres in 2021/22, 22/23, and 23/24 and what element of any subsidy is/will be

earmarked to secure zero carbon targets.”

8.17 **Councillor Kay replied as follows:-**

The Council and Everyone Active have been working together to ensure that overall energy usage is minimised as part of our drive to become carbon neutral and to mitigate the impact of energy price rises. There is a target to reduce energy consumption by 10%. Measures taken to date include:

- Undertaken extensive LED lighting replacement schemes
- Introduced variable speed drives on pumps
- Ensured all sites have pool covers
- Pool water temperatures have been reviewed and maintained at the same temperature
- EA have serviced all Building Management Systems to ensure maximum energy efficiency
- EA have inspected and reviewed all air handling systems

There are currently no plans to reduce opening hours or make staff reductions.

There continues to be a steady increase in overall usage at our sites:

- Fitness has recovered to around 89% of pre-COVID levels
- Sports Hall usage has recovered to around 70% of pre-COVID levels
- Swimming Lessons have recovered to pre-COVID levels

Information will be circulated separately in relation to monthly swim usage per pool due to the level of detail, but I can confirm that over the last two months, casual swim usage has been as follows:

Casual Swimming Attendance average of April/May

Guisborough	2,525 – 73% of pre Covid average
Loftus	2,320 - 97% of pre Covid average
Redcar	10,525 – 116% of pre Covid average
Saltburn	3,295 – 103% of pre Covid average

The council subsidy is not agreed on a per site basis but on an aggregate level for a time period.

The responsibility and risk for swimming pools / leisure centres in the borough currently rests with the contractor SLM. Whilst there is no commercial link currently in the contract relating to carbon emissions, the nature of the arrangement incentivises SLM to reduce consumption wherever possible to do so. Some of the measures taken to date have been set up in the response to question 1 (a). The Redcar Leisure Centre is an exception to this as it is attached to the Civic Centre and has a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Unit for the benefit of Redcar &

Cleveland House. We have optimised the buildings management system and therefore the way that the CHP operates to the extent that from November last year Redcar and Cleveland House is able to operate solely on heat from the CHP without 'top up' from its own boilers. Therefore, the heating system across the footprint is operating more efficiently than ever before.

We have installed an Automated Meter Reader (AMR) device to monitor water consumption which will allow us to see what water is used at the site and when. Any spikes or erratic usage out of the core hours will be automatically highlighted and will enable us to more effectively regulate consumption.

A similar device providing real time electricity data will shortly be installed. This will identify how much electricity is individually consumed by the component parts of the building such as the pool filtration system, civic centre and leisure centre.

The proposed Northern Gas Networks Hydrogen Community Project would encapsulate Redcar Leisure Centre and the Civic Centre, meaning if successfully awarded funding, the site could be heated by hydrogen rather than gas, thereby eliminating carbon emissions.

We are working with our appointed design team on a specification for the Eston pool which seeks to minimise energy consumption and carbon emissions, taking into account the whole life costs of the facility, rather than simply the capital costs associated with construction. This will include assessment of appropriate means to heat the building as well as the thermal properties of materials and ways in which the building fabric can minimise heat loss. On site renewable energy sources and the means to re-use water will also be considered. The specifics of the scheme are yet to be determined but energy consumption and emissions are at the forefront of discussions.

The COVID-19 outbreak, and subsequent legislation has had a significant impact on the operation of the Council's leisure centres. Everyone Active (EA) therefore instructed the Council of their right to trigger a contractual deed of variation arising from a qualifying change in law (Coronavirus Act 2020). This meant that the Council from that point onwards had to enter into an open book arrangement whereby the Council is liable to support EA with some of their losses. The Council has provided financial support to EA since July 2020, the support has varied depending on the level of covid restrictions in force. The Council has worked with the operator to limit the financial subsidy, whilst still offering as complete a leisure offer as is possible given the restrictions in place at any one time. Discussions and challenge have continued with EA to ensure that the level of subsidy is minimised whilst the maximum service offer is available for the public.

The pandemic has had the dual effect of reducing income and increasing costs. The subsidy support for 2021/22 was £739,000 which was partly offset by £220,000 of National Leisure Recovery Grant funding. The figures for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have not been confirmed as yet, but will be significantly lower.

Currently the subsidy is not linked to zero carbon targets although this will be raised in discussions around governance of the 2023/24 commercial agreement.

8.18 Supplementary Question from Councillor Sue Jeffrey to Councillor Kay.

“In relation to the demolition of the fire damaged Pathways School how that can be construed as the start of the Eston Pool I am not quite sure. My question is about the plans for the Eston Pool and no I am not in the least bit worried about asking you questions about the Eston Pool because what we did was we kept the pool open for people to be able to swim and it has become quite clear from the figures that you quoted that swimming is an important activity for all our communities and we have no access to swimming in Greater Eston at the moment.

Given that you have had all this time to plan for Eston Pool why have you not consulted with the residents about the facilities that are to be provided? Why have you ignored resident’s requests for a learner pool and why are there not sufficient resources to secure a system which will future proof the pool or deliver zero carbon targets.”

8.19 Councillor Kay replied as follows:-

“You spent zilch on Eston Pool we are spending £9m. The money is guaranteed for the Eston Pool and to get levelling up on both the sites you mentioned but we are not taking money away from the Eston Square Project. The priority is Eston Pool and that is going ahead no matter what. It is a disgrace the state you left it in with the boiler room getting flooded ever so often. What were you doing about carbon reduction then? There was nothing installed in there for carbon reduction purposes and then you say you would like a learner pool. We are spending £9m on a competition pool and the swimming club are in favour of what we are doing. We are going to get it finished soon and the EOTAS building had to come down because we need space to operate. Construction will start before Christmas.”

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Council

ATTENDANCE RECORD - 2022/23

Surname	First name	19.05.22 (AGM)	09.06.22	14.07.22	08.09.22	13.10.22	24.11.22	12.01.23	16.02.23	30.03.23	27.04.23	25.05.23 (AGM)	Total Meetings Attended / total possible
Ayre	Billy	✓	✓										/11
Baldwin	Neil	✓	✓										/11
Barnes	Alison	✓	✓										/11
Berry	Peter	✓	✓										/11
Brady	Charlie	✓	✓										/11
Brook	Adam	✓	Apols										/11
Brown	Alec	X	✓										/11
Cawley	Ceri	✓	✓										/11
Clark	Robert	Apols	✓										/11
Clarke	Bill	✓	✓										/11
Cook	Carrie	✓	Apols										/11
Craig	Julie	✓	Apols 4										/11
Cutler	Graham	✓	✓										/11
Davies	Wayne	✓	Apols										/11
Dowson	Deborah	✓	Apols										/11
Fisher	Dave	✓	✓										/11
Fletcher	Martin	✓	✓										/11
Foggo	Cliff	✓	Apols 1										/11
Foley	Chris	✓	✓										/11
McCormack	Chris	✓	✓										/11
Gallacher	Chris	✓	✓										/11
Gray	Tim	✓	✓										/11
Griffiths	Malcolm	Apols (3)	✓										/11
Hannaway	Craig	✓	✓										/11
Head	Malcolm	✓	✓										/11
Hixon	Andrew	✓	✓										/11
Holmes	Craig	X	Apols										/11
Holmes	Lee	X	Apols										/11
Holyoake	Shelagh	✓	✓										/11
Hunt	Barry	✓	✓										/11
Jeffery	Graham	Apols	Apols										/11
Jeffrey	Sue	Apols (3)	✓										/11
Jones	Chris	✓	Apols										/11
Kay	Steve	✓	✓										/11
King	Karen	✓	✓										/11
Lanigan	Mary	✓	✓										/11
Lax-Keeler	Yvonne	✓	Apols										/11
Lockwood	Mike	✓	✓										/11
Massey	Chris	✓	✓										/11
Moody	Shaun	✓	Apols										/11
Morgan	Carole	✓	✓										/11
Nightingale	Glyn	✓	Apols										/11
Nightingale	Irene	Apols	✓										/11
Ovens	Mary	✓	✓										/11
Pallister	Lynn	✓	✓										/11
Quartermain	Carl	Apols	Apols										/11
Quartermain	Leah	✓	✓										/11
Rees	Dan	✓	Apols										/11
Rider	Vera	✓	✓										/11
Smith	Sandra	Apols	✓										/11
Smith	Stuart	✓	✓										/11
Smith	Vince	✓	✓										/11
Thomson	Philip	✓	✓										/11
Turner	Andrea	Apols	✓										/11
Waterfield	Stephen	X	✓										/11
Watts	Anne	✓	✓										/11
Wells	Billy	✓	✓										/11
Westburny	Louise	✓	✓										/11
Williams	Geraldine	✓	✓										/11
Wilson	Margaret	✓	✓										/11

Key	
✓	Attended
RA	Apologies Submitted (replacement attended)
Apols	Apologies Submitted (no replacement)
X	Did Not Attend (no apologies received)
C	Cancelled Meeting
n/a	Not a Member

Reason for Absence (NB Full details may not be provided for reasons of confidentiality)	
1	Personal Commitment
2	Work Commitment
3	Illness/Medical
4	Conflicting Council Commitment
5	Other

Lead Member for Children's Services

Annual Report September 2022



To: Borough Council

Date:

From: Councillor Alison Barnes, Lead Member for Children

Ref:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It is time for my annual report and once again, I am happy to report the positive developments and progress we have made since my last report.
- 1.2 One of the most important aspects of a councillor's role is that of Corporate Parent. It is a fundamental part of our duty towards our care experienced children and young people. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care was launched in March this year and it does not shrink from stating that the disadvantage faced by the care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time. The report goes on to describe how children in care are often invisible and powerless and they face some of the greatest inequalities that exist in England today.
- 1.3 Very powerful words - which should act as a catalyst and spur us on to even greater efforts to advocate for our care experienced children and young people and support them as much as we can via our Corporate Parenting Board and as individual councillors.
- 1.4 This annual report is in a slightly different format than previous years as it reflects the areas of responsibility of the senior management team – Performance, Quality and Partnerships (Linda Bulmer), Early Help and Safeguarding (Vicky McLeod) and Education Services (Clare Mahoney) – overseen of course by our Director of Children and Families, Kathryn Boulton.
- 1.5 All the management team and our service providers are passionate in their commitment to continuous learning and improvement, and I believe this report is evidence of this.
- 1.6 This commitment will be tested even more by the proposed Bills which will be enacted in the coming months and beyond – the Education White Paper, the SEND Green Paper, the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and the creation of Integrated Care Systems. This new legislation will shape the future policy landscape and will have a huge influence on children's services moving forward.

2.0 PERFORMANCE, QUALITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

2.1 **Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting**

- 2.1.1 As many of you will be aware, the quality of our Children & Families Safeguarding Service is regulated by Ofsted through the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) statutory framework. The framework not only includes a full graded inspection visit every 3 years, but it also includes regular monitoring 'focused visits' and an annual engagement meeting with the lead regional inspectors and our senior

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

leadership team.

- 2.1.2 This year's annual engagement meeting (AEM) took place in March, where we were able to share with the inspection team details of our improvement activity over the last 12 months and our overarching commitment to continuous learning and development. Amongst other things, we provided updates on the progress around our Quality Assurance processes, our positive work to support our unaccompanied children, and our peer review outcomes for children in our care and virtual school. We had open discussions about our challenges, including recruitment and caseload management, and we shared the plans we have in place to manage any areas of concern going forward.
- 2.1.3 The Regional Director of Ofsted captured the main points of the meeting in an outcome letter and confirmed our next regulatory activity as a standard 2-week inspection. This has been delayed significantly due to the COVID lockdowns, with our last full inspection taking place in January 2017. The inspection is a rigorous and demanding process for our teams to negotiate, whilst maintaining a position of 'business as usual' and moving our improvements forward.

2.2 Partnerships

- 2.2.1 Our Children and Families Service enjoys strong partnership engagement and commitment. I am an active member of many strategic multi-agency forums and governance boards to support our developments, including among others, the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and the No Wrong Door Strategic Board.
- 2.2.2 We refreshed our Children and Young People's Partnership Board in 2021, developing new terms of reference, reviewing membership and agreeing new priorities under four overarching outcome areas: Ensuring Children & Young People are Influential in our Communities; Keeping Children & Young People Safe; Improving Children & Young People's Health and Wellbeing; and Helping Children & Young People Succeed. We have excellent attendance at the meetings, with useful and informative agendas covering the breadth of partnership services for all children living across the Borough.
- 2.2.3 In the summer of 2021, we took the lead within the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership to develop a peer challenge session around our Section 11 Audit (an audit designed to challenge all partners around the robustness of all their safeguarding policies and procedures). I attended the challenge session, which was extremely productive, and we have since been approached by colleagues from another Safeguarding Partnership to share good practice around this process and are currently progressing discussions to consider mechanisms for shared learning.
- 2.2.4 Another invaluable piece of work led recently by the Safeguarding Partnership has included the development of an overview report on all safeguarding learning reviews undertaken from across the South Tees area. Even if serious incidents of harm do not meet the criteria for a formal practice review, we continue to consider all learning opportunities that arise from such circumstances. The learning is shared with practitioners through newsletters, briefings and large-scale events across the Tees region. We have held four such events over the last year on Early Help, Exploitation, Neglect and Safeguarding Vulnerable Babies. A further event on Teen Suicide will take place in July 2022 and a Hidden Males event is planned for September 2022.
- 2.2.5 I believe this is all good evidence of our ongoing commitment to continuous learning and improvement.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

2.3 Practice Weeks

- 2.3.1 We held our second social care practice week in March this year, on the theme of 'permanency for children and young people.'
- 2.3.2 Our newly appointed Principal Social Worker introduced practice weeks in September last year, and they have been a great opportunity to celebrate the positive work we do to support children, young people, and their families; to share good practice and learn from each other. The week includes a varied and comprehensive programme of workshops, designed, and led by our own staff, as well as job-shadowing exercises across the whole of the Children and Families Service area. The senior leadership team take time out of their normal schedule during the week, to spend invaluable time alongside social care staff in 'Back to Practice' sessions. This gives everyone the chance to experience a day in the life of a busy children and families practitioner, so that we can all build our understanding of the demands as well as the rewards of our work and keep a line of sight on practice.
- 2.3.3 The week was overwhelmingly positive, with nearly 170 people, including some of our foster carers, attending one or more workshops or activities across the 5 days. Feedback demonstrated the value of this approach to staff engagement and development, with just a few of the comments telling us how much they enjoyed the week, how insightful it was, and how it provided a wealth of information from across all areas of the service to support our practice to improve.
- 2.3.4 As part of the evaluation, all participants were asked what they would like to see for future practice weeks, so plans are already in place for our next event in November.

2.4 Signs of Safety: Our Practice Model

- 2.4.1 During the last year we have worked to further embed Signs of Safety as our model of practice across the children's workforce, which is strengths based and relationship based. To do so we have introduced Signs of Safety Practice Champions into every team and re-established monthly practice leader sessions to support managers and champions to share learning, building their knowledge and skills to mentor and support their teams.
- 2.4.2 Managers and practitioners have reported that Group Supervisions are taking place regularly; a collaborative exercise to help progress cases and share Signs of Safety learning through practice. Similarly, a culture of Appreciative Inquiry is developing across our practitioner teams supporting learning through reflection, with some excellent examples being filmed and shared.
- 2.4.3 Feedback via the Annual Signs of Safety Practitioner Survey 2022 shows that all services feel more confident at using the practice framework compared with the 2020 baseline. The qualitative feedback shared through the survey exemplifies how our workforce have used their Signs of Safety Practice to make a difference to children and young people. I have selected a quote that I think helps to demonstrate some of their skill and passion:

"Running a network meeting helped the family to work together to care for the children. We saw the family work together and devise their own plan where they could support one another in their network without the involvement of services. Creating Words and Pictures with parents really allowed them to reflect on the experiences that have led them to be in this current situation and really understand worries. It allowed them to explain things in a child friendly way and

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

be 'on the same page' and help their children to understand why certain things are happening/ not happening."

Feedback from Safeguarding Social Worker.

3.0 **EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING SERVICES**

3.1 **Independent Review of Children's Social Care**

3.1.1 In 2019, the government's manifesto committed to reviewing the children's social care system to make sure children and young people get the support they need. After over a year of research, Josh MacAlister's Independent Review of Children's Social Care was published in March this year. The government hailed this as 'a once in a generation opportunity to transform the children's social care system and provide children with loving, safe and stable families.'

3.1.2 The final report details transformational change for the system, with key headlines around:

'A revolution in Family Help'; 'A just and decisive child protection system'; 'Unlocking the potential of family networks'; 'Fixing the broken care market and giving children a voice'; and 'Realising the potential of the workforce'.

3.1.3 The detail beneath these overarching themes includes some radical proposals such as introducing one category of "Family Help" to replace "targeted early help" and "child in need" work. The report proposes that this new service would be delivered by multidisciplinary teams made up of professionals such as family support workers, domestic abuse workers and mental health practitioners - who, alongside social workers, would provide support and cut down on referring families onto other services. This would provide a good opportunity for us to build on our already strong early help offer.

3.1.4 The report also introduces a new 'Expert Child Protection Practitioner', to focus where concerns about significant harm of a child emerge. They will be experienced social workers, to co-work alongside the Family Help Team with responsibility for making key decisions. These 'Expert Practitioners' will have demonstrated their knowledge and skills through time in practice, and in the future by completing a newly developed, five-year Early Career Framework.

3.1.5 The report recognises that there are many children living in children's homes today who would be better suited to living in a family environment with a foster carer if there were enough foster carers in the right places, with the right parenting skills to meet the varying and complex needs of children. In order to improve this, the report tells us they require a "new deal" with foster carers, focusing on training and support. The proposal is that there will be a national fostering recruitment programme launched immediately by government to approve 9,000 new foster carers over three years. I welcome this central government support for our already highly successful fostering campaign and ongoing drive to build the number and skills of our own foster carers.

3.1.6 There is one part of the report that really resonated with me, as a committed Corporate Parent. As mentioned in my introduction, it speaks boldly about how the disadvantage faced by the care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time. It describes how children in care are powerless, are often invisible and they face some of the greatest inequalities that exist in England today. The outcome of the review looks at how we should address this through five ambitious missions so that care experienced young people secure: loving relationships; quality education; a decent home; fulfilling work and good health as the foundations for a good life. As a Corporate Parent, I am

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

looking forward to meeting these challenges as an advocate for our care experienced young people.

- 3.1.7 This is just a very brief summary of the review, with clearly some very interesting times ahead. The implementation plan is looking for pace, with a 5-year reform programme outlined, and a case for investment, so we can anticipate some changes at a local level as some point in the near future.

3.2 Child Safeguarding Practice Review

- 3.2.1 You will all be sadly aware of the terrible circumstances of the deaths of little Arthur Labinjo-Hughes from Solihull, and baby Star Hobson from Bradford, which resulted in the nationally commissioned review to explore why the public services and systems designed to protect them were not able to do so.
- 3.2.2 The report, published in June this year, highlights some failings that feature regularly in other serious case reviews and thematic practice reviews, including weaknesses in information sharing and lack of critical challenge within and between agencies and a need for sharper specialist child protection skills and expertise.
- 3.2.3 The Panel makes one core recommendation which is to develop a new approach to child protection work, and a further eight more specific recommendations around multi-agency working, improvements to practice around domestic abuse, and strengthened local safeguarding partnerships. It also includes proposals to change inspection processes around multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.
- 3.2.4 With the recommendations presented in the final report, along with those outlined in the previous section on the independent review of children's social care, it is clear we are moving towards a period of great change in respect of our services to safeguard children. I am proud to support the service and stand alongside them to meet the challenges and opportunities these changes bring, and I look forward to being part of the reforms that will improve the lives of our vulnerable children.

3.3 Early Help Family Hubs

- 3.3.1 I continue to be proud of our Early Help Offer for families who don't need the complexities of statutory social care support, but without some additional help available to them when facing particular difficulties, their situation may worsen, and their needs escalate. Our Family Hub provision is delivered as a Hub and Spoke model with a main family hub located in the east, central and western parts of our Borough and satellite hubs where services can be deployed into communities as needed. Each of the Family Hubs brings together a range of services and teams, including family hub support staff, health visitors, school nurses, Child & Family Intervention Officers and Careers and NEET Advisors.
- 3.3.2 Despite not being able to offer face-to-face groups and activities in our universal Family Hub centres for the first half of the year due to lockdown, we continued to offer targeted interventions such as parenting support or early literacy programmes for families identified as most in need. Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, the Family Hub service registered 1734 children and their families. Despite not registering similar figures to January-December 2019 when there were 2700 children and families registered, this is an increase of approximately a third since 2020/2021 and demonstrates an excellent recovery within the service since the height of the COVID-19 lockdown from the previous year. I am also pleased to share that our Family Hubs quickly increased their offer of support through small group work to children and families in need, as soon as they were

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

able to recommence this level of service, noting that 1200 individual families received a direct intervention from April 2021 to March 2022.

- 3.3.3 Our new Parents' Groups were particularly popular, providing support for those who are isolated, struggling with low mood, or just needing some interaction with their peers. The group covers topics such as home safety, breastfeeding support, baby brain development, the importance of reading to your baby, weaning advice and child development. I am always pleased to be able to read the positive comments from parents. The comment below was received from a new Mum and sums up how vital these groups can be to some parents in their baby's first year:

"Attending the new parent group has helped build my confidence by meeting new mums and sharing experiences and advice with them. I've learned how to interact and play with my baby to maximise her development with a range of different activities. I've had people to talk to, just to vent or share my worries to make me feel less alone. At the end of lockdown, it also helped me get out of the house rather than being stuck inside which has helped W interact with other babies and meet different people. Overall attending the group has been a key part in the first year of motherhood and has been great for W who enjoys going every week. Thank you!"

- 3.3.4 I reported last year that we had consulted with families on our proposal to develop a new family hub at the Skelton De Brus site. I am pleased to say that this facility has now been redeveloped with help from property services colleagues, includes a training room, clinic/therapy room, office space and a lovely children's room with outside soft fall play area. Some services have started to be delivered from the centre from this May 2022 and a launch event is being planned for September 2022 when we will invite local families and colleagues to come and see the new family hub and we can promote the range of services available to them.

3.4 Family Hubs development

- 3.4.1 A report by Andrea Leadsom was published in March 2021 – 'The Best Start in Life, A Vision for the 1001 days'. This outlined the importance of the first two years of a child's life in terms of their development, particularly the development of their brain and how this affects their future life as growing children and adults. This supports the work we are involved in with the South Tees Health and Well Being partners focussed on whole system change to ensure the very best start in life for all our children.
- 3.4.2 The Department for Education (DfE) also published their Vision for Family Hubs, including launching a framework for Local Authorities outlining a model in which family hubs will provide a central access point to a wide range of early help services and support. I am delighted to be able to share that we have been confirmed as one of just 75 local authorities who will receive specific funding to develop our local Family Hubs model over the next three years. We are currently awaiting further details about the budget allocation and grant conditions over the summer period, but it's certainly an exciting time for our Family Hubs and Early Help Offer.
- 3.4.3 Further positive news in terms of attracting external funding, in September 2021 we submitted a regional bid that led to £64,000 of funding from the Department of Education to develop our digital offer, our Family Hub branding and to develop clinic rooms in 3 of our hubs to support midwifery clinics and with achieving the new 0-19 family hubs vision. We worked in partnership with Northumberland County Council and over the next few

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

years we will also be developing an improved digital offer using their expertise, so that more families can receive information via a range of methods to suit their lifestyle, their preferences and changing needs. As a result of the project, some short advice and information films have already been created for parents and hosted on our new Family Hubs YouTube channel, covering a range of topics including weaning, ICON (normalising babies crying), parental conflict, infant massage techniques for colic and making play dough at home.

3.5 Early Help Intervention and Assessment Teams (Inc Supporting Families)

- 3.5.1 During October 2021, we undertook a re-branding exercise to change the name of our Early Help Prevention team to the 'Children and Family Intervention Team.' The change was in recognition that their work is complex and not really at the prevention stage in terms of the continuum of need.
- 3.5.2 At this time, an Early Help Assessment Team was also created within our Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH), to both screen our early help referrals and also undertake initial Early Help Assessments (EHAs), working in a similar way to the social work assessment team and sitting alongside them in the MACH base. During 2021, the Early Help Coordinators screened 3,273 early help referrals and responded with a range of support services.
- 3.5.3 A key indicator of the success of the support that our Child & Family Intervention Workers provide to children and young people is whether those supported by an early help assessment and plan are re-referred for a social care assessment within 12 months of closure to the early help teams. I am pleased to report that over the last year, on average approximately 80% of children supported by an Early Help Assessment did not require a social work intervention within 12 months of closure to early help support. This is excellent performance and a strong indicator that the support offered at an early help level is providing families with the skills and resilience they need to maintain safe and stable family lives.
- 3.5.4 As you may be aware, we are given a target each year by the Ministry of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in respect of the Supporting Families Programme (previously known as the Troubled Families Programme). Last year's target was to work with at least 225 individual families and to be able to demonstrate significant and sustained progress against the specific identified needs for each of them by 31st March 2022. I am proud to be able to share that we once again successfully achieved 100% of our target. This work is externally audited to verify that our own evaluations are robust and evidence-based, so we can be assured that the outcomes for families are significant. It was confirmed in the Autumn 2021 spending review announcement that the programme will continue for the next 3 years (2022-2025), with a slight uplift in the total funding we can claim within the next financial year, so excellent news for our children and families.

3.6 Youth and Community Services

- 3.6.1 The Youth service is a key part of the local authority's early help and prevention service and provides safe, stimulating and diversionary activities for young people across the borough. Set against the context of a worrying rise in poor adolescent mental health and increasing anti-social behaviour, youth crime and violence; it is a real credit to this council that we have maintained our universally accessible youth provision across our nine youth and community centres. The service helps identify young people who are starting to cause concern and youth workers signpost to internal support services such as our Early Help Intervention Teams and specialist external agencies, as well as providing targeted support themselves or instigating safeguarding referrals where

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

appropriate.

3.6.2 In April 2021, the Youth Offer Consortium was established with partner agencies who deliver open youth provision across the borough. The aim was to bring agencies together at both a strategic and operational level to discuss our Youth Offer for children and young people in the borough. This six-weekly forum seeks to enable the joint-delivery of activities, collaborative funding bids, workforce development and is also exploring a joint quality assurance scheme. In addition, the group have mapped out the existing youth clubs so we can understand the gaps in provision across the borough. In 2021, the group consulted with young people about what they would like the published boroughwide 'Youth Offer' to include and how they would like to find out about it. The 'Your Future, Your Say' survey had responses from 321 young people aged 8-19 years old (and up to 25 years with SEND).

Some key findings were that:

- When asked what is most important to them when attending youth activities, 193 answered to have fun and 152 stated being able to socialise safely with friends.
- 75% said currently it takes up to 10 minutes to get to their youth activity with equal amounts walking and getting lifts from family. 90% said they would walk up to 20 minutes to get to an activity they are interested in, but generally young people want to be able to access youth clubs within their own community.
- 61% said they find out about youth activities through friends, 15% through schools and 12% through parents/carers. Only a small percentage of young people find information through websites or on social media themselves.
- 59% think it is reasonable to pay up £1 for a youth session, 12% think it should be free, 12% said they would pay between £1 - £2 and 11% would pay £2 - £3.

3.6.3 As a result of this consultation, the Youth Consortium will continue to look at how to address geographical gaps in provision and explore joint working and the sharing of spaces and venues available. A kite mark system will also be explored to show young people and parents/carers that the services on offer follow a safe practice code as well as the development of a joint website showcasing all the youth services on offer in Redcar & Cleveland, allowing easy access to this information for young people and their parents/carers.

3.6.4 From 1st April 2021 to end of March 2022, our open access Youth Service engaged with 1,023 members, with 9485 attendances across 716 sessions. Although we have not yet reached pre-pandemic figures (1234 young people becoming members in 2019/20), it has been a positive return by young people to our youth club provision which was only allowed to re-open properly from September 2021 due to ongoing COVID restrictions prior to that time.

3.7 Youth Work Plus

3.7.1 In March 2022 we appointed a new team of Youth Work Plus officers to work with young people aged between 10 to 16 years who are showing early signs or indicators that make them at risk of becoming Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked (VEMT). The team receive referrals via the weekly VEMT panel when support is required for a young person who has not met the threshold yet to be considered VEMT, but has started becoming involved in low level crime, Anti-Social Behaviour or is considered at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. The small team of a Coordinator and 3 part-time practitioners

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

work intensively with those identified, as well as any younger siblings or friends within their peer-group. They complete whole family Early Help Assessments where appropriate as well as doing direct work with individual young people. Small group work is also undertaken if there are a number of young people of concern around those referred within a particular community/school. Within the first month, they had received 7 referrals for young people.

3.8 Streetz and new Streetz Plus

- 3.8.1 Up until the end of March this year, our externally funded Streetz team delivered 100 detached youth work sessions, reaching 5,512 young people out in the community by responding to areas with high incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB). This work is directed by the Community Safety Group through multi-agency intelligence sharing.
- 3.8.2 From 1st April 2022, a new model of service delivery has been commissioned by the Police Crime Commissioner. Our Youth and Community Service was successful through a competitive bidding process to provide this new service. The new 3-year contract is to provide a detached youth work service over two nights a week in one targeted hot-spot area identified by the police neighbourhood teams for a six-month period, before moving on to another area the police identify. Detached youth work will be offered to young people over those 2 nights for a 2-hour session. A new Streetz Plus Coordinator will also provide 1:1 and small group work with vulnerable young people identified out in the community through this project. We will also maintain one small team of three Streetz workers to do responsive outreach on a Friday night funded by our youth service base budget, as we recognise that being able to move around and target ASB hot-spot areas in a more responsive way is also beneficial to the communities. The first area chosen for us is Kirkleatham ward and during April the team has been busy recruiting to the Co-ordinator role as well as having Streetz Youth Workers visit the area to talk to young people, local businesses and community groups about the existing issues and what activities they would like to happen.

3.9 The Fostering Team & Mockingbird Model

- 3.9.1 Over the past year there has been a continued strong focus on recruiting foster carers with an additional 16 new carers recruited, creating a total of 23 placements for our children. Throughout the year the fostering service has continued with an ambitious recruitment drive and raised the profile of the service through sponsored events. I particularly enjoyed the creativity and innovation of their recent 'empty bed' campaign, which involved putting an empty bed in different parts of the Borough as a symbol of our need for more people to consider providing a home to some of our young people. A number of our current foster carers were proactive in their support of the campaign, to represent the diversity of fostering families across the Borough.
- 3.9.2 The fostering service has developed its training offer to foster carers this year, including a strong approach around therapeutic parenting. The children we are placing with our foster carers have often experienced significant trauma and they need carers who can meet their needs not only on a practical level but also on an emotional level. We have sourced training for members of the fostering team that has focussed on therapeutic support as well as attachment. The team also delivers virtual reality training using headset devices which supports foster carers in their understanding of a child's lived experience and how childhood trauma can impact throughout a child's life which is often the greatest cause of placement breakdowns. It is a priority of the fostering service to equip our foster carers with the tools to support and meet the needs of the children in our care.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

3.9.3 The fostering team has been fortunate to be part of a funded trial of the Mockingbird model in the region, supported by The Fostering Network. The model is a global award winning and pioneering programme, which delivers sustainable support to foster carers to support placement stability for children. It is an evidence-based model, structured around the support and relationships an extended family provides. The model nurtures the relationships between children, young people and foster families, supporting them to build a resilient and caring community. A central fostering hub home is identified, with other fostering families linked to the hub, as part of a 'constellation'. We have appointed the hub home carer, an experienced foster carer, who understands the challenges of fostering and the support that is required. It is anticipated that we will have the first constellation in place by the end of August 2022, so this is incredibly positive for the most vulnerable of our young people in care.

3.10 Children in our Care and Leaving Care Peer Review

3.10.1 We invited our colleagues from Hartlepool Borough Council to conduct a peer review of our Children in our Care (CIOC) and Care Leaving service in February this year. The purpose was to explore the quality of services for our young people with a clear focus on transitions into our Care Leaving team. Over the 2 days of the peer review they had the opportunity to speak to 25 people, including our young people. The review was not a formal inspection, but was a supportive, 'critical friend' review, designed to assist in celebrating our strengths and identifying areas for improvement.

3.10.2 The headline strengths identified by the peer team included:

- Workers know and support their children well, there is a passionate and committed workforce who are open to reflection and learning.
- Leaders are accessible, visible, responsive and supportive.
- The Lead Member is proactive in her role.
- Care leavers are well supported, safe, engaged and feel valued, listened to, and understood.
- Development of services in response to Unaccompanied Young People is innovative, responsive and developing significant expertise. Future plans are ambitious for our Unaccompanied Young People.

3.10.3 The peer review was enormously helpful, and the findings were welcomed by the service. Several actions have already been put in place to improve services, including a joint working protocol between the social work teams and consultation with young people about strengthening their voice in the pathway plan.

3.11 Unaccompanied Children & Young People Support Team

3.11.1 Our new team to support our unaccompanied young people, both those in our care and care leavers, went live in January this year. The team consists of a number of skilled practitioners who have an interest and expertise in the needs of our unaccompanied children and young people. Within a very short time they have built a good reputation regionally as knowledgeable and helpful. They have been leading on the development of a regional forum to share best practice and learning on issues such as how to provide a consistent response to those young people who go missing.

3.11.2 The development of the team has allowed us to improve our response when we have a young person arrive unplanned into our Borough, as well as meeting the mandatory requirements of the national transfer scheme, to provide permanent placements for young people who are fleeing their home country. The service is to be further

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

strengthened through the development of a reception centre that will consist of an accommodation hub to welcome new arrivals, alongside office space for the team. We are currently supporting 22 unaccompanied young people in our care, and 25 unaccompanied care leavers.

3.12 Children Vulnerable to Exploitation

- 3.12.1 I continue to have concerns regarding the number of children who are vulnerable to exploitation. As with previous years, we persevere in our desire to drive forward our VEMT (Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked) agenda. The past year has evidenced that we are now identifying earlier, those children that are vulnerable to or are being harmed by exploitation. The exchange of information that we have established with the neighbourhood policing teams and with the MACH by way of early screening and daily triage meetings means we are alert at the earliest opportunity to those children where there may be indicators of exploitation. We then ensure they are referred to the VEMT Practitioners Group (VPG) as soon as possible to consider the plan to establish safety and to reduce risk.
- 3.12.2 There has been close working with Early Help teams who have recently developed a Youth Work Plus team, as explained in Para 3.7.1. We have commenced data collation so that we can track the success of these interventions and will provide feedback in future reports.
- 3.12.3 In 2020 we rolled out a child criminal exploitation toolkit across the workforce and subsequently sought feedback as to its content and effectiveness. In 2021 we undertook a complete revision of the toolkit, and this was launched through our VEMT newsletter in November 2021. This year, during Child Safety Week we have delivered a series of workshops to raise awareness around what exploitation currently looks like in Redcar and Cleveland and have revisited the toolkit with practitioner and partners so this can be utilised most effectively with children and families.
- 3.12.4 The number of children and young people who are open and active to VEMT continues to fluctuate on a month-to-month basis dependent upon the volume of new referrals and those who are recognised as being exploited. At the end of March 2022, there were 24 young people open and active to our VPG (Vulnerable Person's Group) for targeted support around their risk to exploitation; 2 of them for sexual exploitation risks, 16 for predominantly criminal exploitation and 6 due to their missing episodes and associated risks. Whilst the numbers of children who are known to be sexually exploited remains low, we also recognise that a high level of potentially dangerous activity takes place on the Internet and we pro-actively address this with children through our work with schools and partners. For every child who is known to VPG and for all children who are referred, we explore with our partners the most creative ways of engaging a child and their family to deliver direct work to increase safety and reduce risk. This also includes working robustly with our partners to consider disruption and prosecution activity, this has included actions such as increasing Police Community Support Officer presence in hotspot areas and doing letter drops to communities to encourage more proactive reporting of concerns and higher level of police activity such as issuing Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWNs) to known perpetrators

3.13 No Wrong Door

- 3.13.1 We were finally able to launch the edge of care service aspect of our new 'No Wrong Door' (NWD) model in September 2021 to support those children most at risk of needing long-term residential care. We spent much of last year recruiting and training a dedicated, multi-disciplinary team to work from the hub and although there was a change

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

in the residential manager in December last year, which has caused some delay in the progression of Ofsted registration, we have recently appointed a manager who brings with her a wealth of experience from the residential sector. We are now well on the way with our registration process and anticipating a visit from Ofsted in the coming weeks to enable us to open as a fully regulated residential setting. Despite this delay in opening the residential element of the model, we have supported 28 young people with complex needs through our edge of care and outreach intervention programme, many of whom have been able to remain with their family when they might otherwise have required alternative care.

3.13.2 The model has a team inclusive of; the hub manager and two deputies, along with a team of residential support staff, business support and data analysts, a speech and language specialist, a life coach and specialist police roles who all work from the hub. We are also finalising our offer to engage hub community families to offer foster homes, high need supported lodging hosts and two other properties as move on accommodation from the hub. We have purchased one property to date and are in the process of securing the second, hopefully with a completion date pending very soon. I am really looking forward to seeing how our young people reap the benefits of this exciting initiative in the years to come.

3.14 Care Leavers' Covenant

3.14.1 Over the past year there has been significant work on implementing the Care Leavers' Covenant across our Council. Through the implementation it has been hoped to address some of the disadvantages that our care leavers face and help create a 'level playing field' for them. As we are all aware, we gave approval from Cabinet in June last year to take forward the Covenant as a Council. There has been a lot of work to raise awareness of the difficulties often faced by our Care Leavers and to implement the Covenant, not just in our Children and Families Services, but across the full Council and with partner agencies, businesses, and the voluntary sector.

3.14.2 To implement the Covenant in Redcar & Cleveland, we requested that all departments of the council consider what offers they could make to Care Leavers. This generated an excellent response from colleagues across the Council and the work is now being taken forward by a Care Leaver Covenant Working Group, with representatives attending from across all directorates. The Group has responsibility for overseeing an action plan to take forward the range of offers which are being delivered via four subgroups: Ambition for Children (Employment, Education and Training); Safe and Healthy Living; Independent Living; and Procurement.

3.14.3 Delivery of the plan is in the early stages, with longer term projects starting to develop. Developments include an arrangement in place to help Care Leavers access the Council's Handyperson Scheme for assistance with home maintenance tasks when moving into a tenancy; access to support and advice for Care Leavers via the South Tees Affordable Warmth Partnership; and an agreement with Public Health and Everyone Active to enable all Care Leavers to access 3 months gym membership.

3.14.4 Other plans in place include putting a programme of mentors and mock job interviews in place to help care leavers get work ready; the creation of more apprenticeships, work experience and job opportunities for Care Leavers; Incorporating the Care Leaver Covenant within our Social Value Charter; and working with our Empowering Communities colleagues to identify and train community safe spaces so that every care leaver knows where they can go in a crisis or if they feel isolated in their community.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

3.14.5 The Care Leaver Covenant will continue to be shaped by the views of our Care Leavers who provide feedback through regular consultation via our care experienced young person representative on the group.

4.0 EDUCATION SERVICES

4.1 SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper

4.1.1 The SEND Green Paper was published in March this year and sets out the findings of the SEND review, which is open for consultation until the end of July. The findings can be summarised as:

- Children and young people with SEND and those in alternative provision (AP) have consistently poorer outcomes than their peers.
- Experiences of the SEND and alternative provision system are negative.
- The SEND and alternative provision system is financially unsustainable.
- There is too much inconsistency across the SEND system in how and where needs are assessed and met.

4.1.2 The Green paper therefore proposes that there should be a single national SEND and AP system; that the code of Practice should be reviewed and updated, that there should be new local SEND partnerships to help streamline the process as well as introducing standardised and digitised EHCPs.

4.1.3 It also proposes that there should be excellent provision from early years to adulthood by; increasing funding, introducing a SENCo qualification, improving mainstream provision and all school to become part of a multi academy trust.

4.1.4 In addition, it further outlines that there should be a reformed and integrated role for alternative provision; it proposes making AP an integral part of local SEND systems, giving AP school better funding stability, develop a framework for AP and delivering greater oversight and transparency around pupil movement.

4.1.5 It is proposed that there will be a new Regions Group to take responsibility for holding LAs and MATs to account for the delivery of SEND, setting out clear responsibilities for how SEND should be discharged, introduce an inclusion dashboard and a new national framework for banding and pricing.

4.2 Education White Paper

4.2.1 The Schools' White Paper was also published in March this year and has within it four main priorities which are outlined below:

1. **An excellent teacher for every child** - focussed on staff development, a new Leadership qualification in Literacy and Early Years, a starting salary of 30k with additional funding for Maths and Science teachers.
2. **Delivering high standards of curriculum, behaviour and attendance** – developing a new curriculum body, embedding English and Maths Hubs, introducing Literacy and Numeracy tests at Year 9, setting the expected standards for reading, writing and maths at Key Stage two as 90%, introducing a new leadership qualification in Behaviour and Culture, revising the Behaviour in Schools guidance, bring in new guidance on attendance and introducing a register for all children not in school that the LA will keep.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

3. **Targeted support for every child** – introducing a parent pledge that all children falling behind in English and Maths will receive extra support, embedding tutoring in every school, providing additional high needs capital funding and supported links with colleges and universities.
4. **A stronger, fairer school system** – the expectation that all schools to be in a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by 2030, no single school Trusts will be allowed, LAs can start a MAT, introducing a new MAT/CEO development programme, a focus on inclusive education, the LA to be at the heart of the system as a champion for children and all schools will have an Ofsted inspection by 2025.

4.2.2 There is still much to be worked through in relation to new ways of regional working and we look forward to be part of the development.

4.3 Education of Children in our Care

4.3.1 In January this year, our Virtual School took part in a National Association of Virtual School Heads (NAVSH) peer review. The visit was undertaken remotely, and reviewers looked at a range of evidence, including interviewing over 70 colleagues and partners across a wide range of services over 2 days. They also looked at data and performance management reports, as well as quality assurance, Personal Education Plan documentation, pupil premium plus policies and procedures and a range of case studies.

4.3.2 Feedback received in February was extremely positive in all 4 areas of scope with actions being to “further strengthen” or “expand” current procedures. There were two overall recommendations:

- Further strengthen the Virtual School training offer to extend opportunities for foster carers, residential social care staff, IROs (Independent Reviewing Officers); and
- Involving stakeholders external to the VS (IRO, DT (Designated Teacher), SW (Social Worker), Schools) within the PEP QA process will further enhance quality assurance. (Acknowledging there has been some work with Middlesbrough VS).

4.3.3 I am pleased to share highlights from the report that included, " The Virtual School has...played a significant contribution in its effectiveness in securing good outcomes for children." VS were described as, "championing the position of children in your care and promoting high ambitions. We heard examples from stakeholders of support but also significant challenge on behalf of children in your care." "The strategic leadership and governance of the VS are good. The significant improvements by the local authority in this area since the last peer review are palpable.

4.3.4 I have reported previously that since the lockdown periods, school attendance is a concern in general. For the children in our care, the overall school attendance has decreased only slightly this current academic year to 91.5% in March this year, which includes the period of increased COVID transmission rates in our local area over this last quarter (Jan to March 22).

4.3.5 However, there continues to be additional support to schools to ensure secondary attendance remains as high as possible, primarily for key stage 4. From a relatively steady 89% attendance rate for secondary pupils since the beginning of the academic year, this has dipped to 85% across the secondary cohort. Our Virtual School will continue to monitor and provide support and guidance around this for each individual child. Primary attendance rate remains high at 97.6%.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

- 4.3.6 Also reported previously, the Virtual School remain concerned about the growing number of children who are persistently absent (those who have an overall school attendance of below 90%). However, there are some early signs that our work to mitigate this is having some effect. The percentage of pupils who are persistently absent from school has decreased from 29.5% of the Virtual School cohort, at its peak, in January this year, to 18.0% of the cohort by the end of March which is really positive.
- 4.3.7 The various strategies that have been introduced, such as the increased information sharing of attendance data between Virtual School and social workers, targeted workshops for social workers, IROs and foster carers will continue. Bespoke interventions such as providing access to extra curriculum activities and therapies, for example, art therapy that can support Art GCSE specifications and aid mental health issues, will also continue
- 4.3.8 I am pleased to report that there have been no permanent exclusions for the children in our care over the past 12 years; however, we do remain concerned about the rise in suspensions. The number of days our children have received in suspensions continues to grow (when comparing period from Sept to end of March 21, with same time this year), from 66 suspensions to 122 suspensions, a total of an additional 56 days lost to suspensions.
- 4.3.9 However, the number of children receiving these continues to remain static in comparison with the same period last year; only two more pupils receiving suspensions (from 23 pupils to 25 pupils). This reflects the effective ongoing bespoke interventions and work with our individual young people. The Virtual School also continues to discuss, and at times challenge, each suspension decision with the individual schools, Headteachers and Trust Leaders, as well as highlighting at our headteacher groups. We continue to offer alternative approaches based on recent research and are delivering training to school governors in the coming term and this topic will be a focus.

4.4 Extended Duties of the Virtual School

- 4.7.1 Work continues around the extended duties for the Virtual School regarding the strategic overview of the cohort of children who have a social worker or who have ever had a social worker, led by our new Senior Inclusion Officer. A strategy document and Virtual School offer has been formulated and disseminated to all partners. The offer included weekly drop-in surgeries and training sessions for social workers and school staff, to upskill and further understanding of each other's practice. For example, training sessions for social workers on school attendance, what questions to ask school, strategies to help, etc. and vice versa with social care issues for those within schools. The funding has been agreed and confirmed by the DfE for another two years.
- 4.7.2 The successful joint Virtual School conference with Middlesbrough Virtual School in February proved a great platform to launch our Trauma and Attachment training. Considerable progress has been made and following this, a high uptake amongst professionals across all our offers, including weekly surgeries for social workers and teachers, access to an app, and training offer.
- 4.7.3 Further to the above, the use of our virtual reality (VR) headset training programme continues to support the delivery of trauma informed, child-centred practice, and is ongoing across the directorate and with our partners. Colleagues within Inclusion, Early Help, Social Care (inclusive of Fostering and Adoption) and Foundation for Jobs are all developing and delivering bespoke VR sessions intended for a range of audiences.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

4.7.4 Feedback and evaluations from training sessions are extremely positive. In addition, six schools have completed the whole school training so far. Three schools have signed up to complete full Trauma Accredited status over the next year. From both peer review feedback and regular regional and national groups, we are assured that we are on track with regards to our progress around our duties for all children with a social worker.

4.5 Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

4.8.1 The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities local area, (SEND) re-inspection successfully took place in November 2021. The local area SEND leaders worked together effectively to ensure that evidence of impact and positive outcomes were clearly provided for the OFSTED and CQC inspectors. The inspectors focussed on the written statement of action which highlighted each of the areas of weakness from the full inspection in April 2018. My Cabinet Report presented on the 15th February shared details of the findings from the inspection, which were positive in respect of the progress made against all four areas previously found to require action to improve.

4.8.2 The SEND team are working with the place planning team to support the opening of the new Tees Valley Free School for Social, Emotional and Mental Health need. This project has been delayed from an opening date of September 2022 to December 2023. There are other projects underway to improve Kirkleatham Hall special school, to develop provision for the Early years at Kilton Thorpe special school and to increase the SEND places within the secondary schools. The first enhanced support base at Freebrough secondary school for children with ASD has worked very well. The team are also talking to leaders across the Tees Valley about the possibility of another Free School or Alternative Provision school.

4.6 Foundation for Jobs

4.9.1 Our Foundation for Jobs (FFJ) Careers and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Team works within our education service and has delivered some excellent work to improve the future prospects of those young people at risk of becoming NEET.

4.9.2 The team has worked hard over the past year to increase participation of our young people in education, employment and training (EET) There are no young people who have left statutory school provision, and whose whereabouts are unknown to us. The team has used WhatsApp, telephone, text and online meetings to maintain a consistent service for young people. However, the majority of meetings are now face to face and young people are being supported to visit college and training providers.

4.9.1 Gaps in provision are identified and addressed through the NEET Provider Forum and this year we have commissioned two specialist post-16 programmes for social, Emotional and Mental Health needs with Prior Pursglove College and Redcar and Cleveland College, targeted at young people with complex needs who would have otherwise been NEET.

4.9.2 In respect of our ongoing work to support Children in our Care and Care Leavers to participate in education, employment, or training after year 11, we have secured additional funding through Anglo American to deliver bespoke employability skills programmes and independent living skills to our young people and to expand the Young People's Mentoring Programme, linking them to a Business Mentor to develop their social capital and support their access to employment.

4.9.3 In relation to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Careers - funding has been secured through the Dogger Bank Windfarm to expand the Building Our Future

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

Primary STEM careers programme to all forty-four Redcar and Cleveland primary schools and to embed into our Initial Teacher Training Programme. A Primary Careers Coordinator will be employed to move this work forward.

- 4.9.4 We continue to work in partnership with North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership to deliver the Successful STEM Futures programme across secondary schools and colleges which is funded through Sirius Section 106 monies.

4.10 Inclusion

- 4.10.1 As has been previously reported, there has been an increase in the number of suspensions and permanent exclusions across the borough. At the same point last year there were 2300 suspensions, but the current total is 3651. Similarly, there were 15 permanent exclusions at the same point last year but there have been 55 to date. With the schools only being partially opened I expected to see a reduction in suspensions and permanent exclusions in the year 2021-22 but this current rate is much higher than predicted. We continue to work in partnership with schools and outside agencies to best support the young people to remain in school and I am a member of the improvement and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group looking at inclusion and exclusions. We are visiting a number of schools to compare their approaches to this difficult problem, and we are also intending to speak to young people who have been excluded to explore their lived experience.
- 4.10.2 We have seen an increase in the number of Electively Home Educated children (EHE). The current total stands at 249. The team continues to offer support and guidance to EHE families and now have a half termly newsletter giving additional information on special educational needs, resources to support home education and all other information that would normally go to parents through the school system. The new Education Bill will place further responsibilities on the LA to ensure the quality of education, to further support parents when asked and to keep and share a record of all children who are EHE.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 In conclusion – it has been a year of successes and challenges. We celebrated our achievements in our favourable peer reviews on the Virtual School and Children in our Care and Leaving Care. We also welcomed the successful OFSTED and CQC re-inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in November 2021 as well as the annual engagement meeting (AEM) which took place in March 2022.
- 5.2 Our Supporting Families programme was particularly successful. We worked with our target families and demonstrated significant and sustained progress against the specific identified needs for each of them, achieving a 100% success rate. This work is externally audited so we can be assured that the outcomes for families are significant, and our evaluations are robust and evidence based.
- 5.3 However, the aftermath of COVID is still affecting the landscape of our schools, highlighting and exacerbating problems that were already present, including mental health issues, attendance, exclusions and suspensions.
- 5.4 We are facing complex challenges regarding the recruitment of social workers and the high number of children in our care continues to concern us.
- 5.5 There are important changes in legislation which will affect us in the coming year as a result of the Education White Paper, the SEND Green Paper, the Independent Review of

GOVERNMENT PROTECTIVE MARKING SCHEME

Children's Social Care, The Child Safeguarding Practice Review and the creation of Integrated Care Systems.

- 5.6 We welcome some of the proposals – but worry about the financing of them, as well as the effect of the increases in the cost of living and inflation on our services.
- 5.7 Finally, I would like to thank Kathryn Boulton, the Assistant Directors and all of the Staff in Children and Families. Everyone always puts the welfare of our children and young people at the heart of everything they do. You show total commitment and dedication, and I am privileged to work alongside you.



Member Report

Decisions Taken Under Urgency Provisions

Public

To:	Borough Council	Date:	14 July 2022
From:	Leader of the Council	Decision type:	For information
Portfolio:	Leader of the Council	Forward Plan reference:	
Priority:	All priorities		
Ward(s):	All wards		

1 What is the recommendation?

1.1 Council Members are requested to note the following decisions that have been taken recently using urgency provisions as set out in the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules and that require reporting to Council:

- To approve the extension of the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 for a further three years with the proposed "leads by direction/order" and "dogs on leads" variations.

2 Background

2.1 The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Constitution set out procedures to be followed in respect of executive decision making, including delegated decisions. Notice of key and/or confidential decisions must be given in a Forward Plan and published on the Council's website at least 28 days before the decision is taken. Where a decision needs to be taken for which the required notice period cannot be given, it can still be made if certain tests are met.

2.2 **General Exception** - If the 28 day forward plan period cannot be complied with for a key decision, then the decision may still be taken if it is impracticable to defer the decision for compliance with these arrangements. If this test is met, then the decision can still proceed but the following actions must also be taken:

- The chair of the relevant Scrutiny and Improvement Committee (or if there is no chair, the whole committee individually) must be informed by notice in writing of the decision to be taken, and this notice must also be published, with reasons for the urgency, at least 5 working days in advance of the decision being taken.

2.3 **Special Urgency** – If a key decision is so urgent that it is not possible to comply with the general exception urgency rules, by virtue of the date on which it must be

taken, then there are some further special urgency provisions which can be used if the following actions are taken:

- The agreement of the chair of the relevant Scrutiny and Improvement Committee that the decision cannot reasonably be deferred must be obtained (or if there is no chair, or the chair is unable to act, the Mayor, or in their absence the Deputy Mayor);
- A notice setting out this position and detailing the reasons for the urgency must be published.
- The use of the special urgency provisions must be report to the Council by the Leader on a quarterly basis.

2.4 **Urgency and Call-in** – Where it is the application of the call-in procedure that will give rise to issues, then there is a separate urgency provision which applies if it is considered that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. If that test is met, then the decision maker may give notice, in publishing the decision, that call-in does not apply and the reasons for the urgency. However, this decision must then be reported to the Full Council at the next available meeting with reasons for using this procedure.

3 **Summary of decisions taken using urgency provisions**

3.1 A summary of the decisions taken using urgency provisions, including links to the associated published decision records, are set out in the appendix to this report.

4 **Contact Officer**

Name:	Alison Pearson
Position:	Governance Manager
Address:	Redcar and Cleveland Civic Centre
Telephone:	01642 444063 / 07500 606934
Email:	Alison.pearson@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

Summary of decisions taken using urgency provisions

Details of the individual decisions can be accessed by clicking on the decision title

Decision	Decision Maker and date of decision	Reason for Urgency	Scrutiny Consultation
<p>Special Urgency - Call-in disapplied</p> <p>To approve the extension of the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – Cllr Cliff Foggo</p> <p>27 June 2022</p>	<p>The Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 was due to lapse 1 July 2022 unless the council exercised powers, available under the public spaces protection provisions of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing (2014) Act, to extend the Order for a further three years – until 30 June 2025 – with the proposed variations including a borough-wide “leads by direction/order” and “dogs on leads” requirements at seven formal parks and gardens within Redcar, Marske, Saltburn and Loftus, in order to tackle dog fouling and other forms of irresponsible dog ownership.</p> <p>In error, the decision was not published in the Forward Plan therefore it was not possible to comply with the usual requirements for the 28 days forward plan period. However, all other notification, publication, and consultation requirements for the making, renewal or varying of a public spaces protection order have been complied with. If the council were to pause the decision-making process to comply with the 28 day key decision forward plan period, the Order would lapse meaning the council would not be able to carry out any enforcement action to tackle dog-fouling and dog control issues.</p>	<p>Councillor Shelagh Holyoake – Chair of Adult & Communities Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.</p>



Member Report

Review of Proportionality and Distribution of Seats

Public

To:	Borough Council	Date:	14 July 2022
From:	Managing Director (Head of Paid Services)	Decision type:	Committee
Portfolio:	Resources	Forward Plan Reference:	
Priority:	All Priorities		

HEADLINE POSITION

1 Summary of report

- 1.1 This report seeks confirmation of the revised proposed distribution of seats resulting from revisions to the Tees Valley Combined Authority proportionality calculations following recent elections/by-elections and changes to political compositions in neighbouring Tees Valley local authorities in addition to local changes to political composition.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council confirms the distribution of seats to the different political groups as set out in the report so that the appointments of Members to Committees and other bodies can be subsequently made.

DETAILED PROPOSALS

3 What are the objectives of the report and how do they link to the Council's priorities?

Review of Proportionality and Distribution of Seats

- 3.1 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to periodically review its political composition and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.
- 3.2 This review is required as a result of a change in the overall sub-regional political balance upon which allocations to some joint committees are based. Following elections/by-elections in May and changes to political balance in neighbouring constituent authorities, the Tees Valley Combined Authority has now recalculated its own proportionality and communicated those requirements to the Council so that we may make appointments accordingly.
- 3.3 It also takes account of a change in the Council's own political composition following notification to the Monitoring Officer from Councillor Billy Wells that he no longer

wishes to be a Member of the Independent Group and wishes to be treated as an ungrouped Independent instead.

- 3.4 The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
- 3.5 The Council is under a duty to:
- (a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable;
 - (b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established;
 - (c) Allocate seats on the committees to the political groups in proportion to their numerical strength on the Council, as far as practicable;
 - (d) Accept nominations made by the groups for the filling of seats allocated to them.
- 3.6 In determining the allocation of seats, the Council must also apply the following four principles, as far as reasonably practicable:
- (a) Not all seats to be allocated to the same political group;
 - (b) If a political group has a majority on the Council, it must have a majority of seats on committees;
 - (c) Subject to (a) and (b) above, the total of all seats on ordinary committees be allocated to the groups in proportion to their respective strengths on the Council and
 - (d) Subject to (a) to (c) above the number of seats on ordinary committees or sub-committees to be allocated to each political group in proportion to the number of all the seats on the committee or sub-committee in proportion to their respective strengths on the Council.
- 3.7 Since the application of these rules individually can produce slightly different results, the figures have to be reconciled by applying the rules in descending order of importance.
- 3.8 Any seats left unallocated after the application of these rules go by default to any members who are not members of any political group.
- 3.9 The legislation provides that the Council may make alternative arrangements to the proportionality principles but only by unanimous vote. However, a political group may decide to offer a seat to another political group. This does not affect the proportionality principles as it remains within the gift of the political group to determine how it wishes to exercise that discretion, if at all.
- 3.10 As a result of the changes outlined in paragraph 3.2 and 3.3, the overall political composition of the Council, and associated % share of seats remains as follows:

Group	Seats	% of Seats
Cleveland Independents	2	3.39%
Conservatives	5	8.47%
Independent Group	15	25.42%
Labour	14	23.73%
Liberal Democrats	14	23.73%
Ungrouped Independents	9	15.25%
Total	59	100.00%

- 3.11 Not every seat available is required to be filled in accordance with political balance rules. Certain Committees and Boards are exempt as they are established under separate legislation whereas some positions may be reserved for particular members by virtue of the position or responsibility. It has generally remained the case, however, that insofar as is reasonably possible, the principles of political balance are still applied in determining the distribution of seats.
- 3.12 The following tables set out the proposed distribution of seats following the application of the political balance rules. There is inevitably a small degree of variation in some cases due to rounding, whilst still achieving the closest possible allocations to groups in proportion to their respective strengths on the Council.
- 3.13 Where appointments are being made to outside organisations who are also subject to proportionality requirements, then it is for those organisations to allocate and seek appointments accordingly, taking into account the overall political make-up of all the relevant authorities who are asked to identify members. Therefore, there may, in some cases, be some disparity between our own proportionality and that of these external bodies.
- 3.14 In relation to Committees to which political balance rules apply, there are a total of **127** places to be allocated.

Group	Committee places
Cleveland Independents	4
Conservatives	10
Independent Group	33
Labour	30
Liberal Democrats	31
Ungrouped Independents	19
Total	127

- 3.15 The proposed distribution of seats for Committees where political balance rules apply is as follows:

Committee	Places	Cleveland Inds	Con	Ind Group	Labour	Lib Dem	ungrouped Inds	Vacancies
Governance	11	0	1	2 3	3 2	3	2	0
Employment Health and Safety	13	0	1	4	3	3	2	0
Regulatory	13	1	1	3	3	3	2	0
Resources Scrutiny & Improvement	15	1	2	4 3	3	3	2 3	0
C&F Scrutiny & Improvement	13	1	2	3	3	3	1	0
A&C Scrutiny & Improvement	13	1	1	3	3	3	2	0
GEE Scrutiny & Improvement	13	0	1	3	3	4	2	0
Cleveland Fire Authority	4	0	0	2	1	1	0	0

Police and Crime Panel (*Allocation determined on force wide basis)	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
TVCA Overview and Scrutiny (*Allocation advised by TVCA)	3	0	0	2 1	0 1	1	0	0
TVCA Audit and Governance (*Allocation advised by TVCA)	1	0	0	4 0	0	0	0 1	0
Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
South Tees Joint Health Scrutiny	5	0	0	2	1	1	1	0
Durham, Darlington and Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Joint Health Scrutiny Cttee	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Shared Appointments Panel with Middlesbrough	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
Appointments Panel	7	0	0	2	2	2	1	0
Veritau Shareholder Board (*to include Cabinet Member for Resources, Chair of Resources Scrutiny and Chair of Governance if possible)	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Totals	127	4	10	33	30	31	19	0

3.16 In relation to Committees to which political balance rules do not strictly apply, there are a total of **28** places to be allocated. There is no change required to these committees therefore the distribution of these seats remains unchanged.

Group	Committee places
Cleveland Independents	1
Conservatives	2
Independent Group	8
Labour	7
Liberal Democrats	7
Ungrouped Independents	3
Total	28

3.17 The distribution of seats for these Committees remains as follows:

Committee	Places	Cleveland Inds	Con	Ind Group	Labour	Lib Dem	ungrouped Inds	Vacancies
North York Moors National Park Authority	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
River Tees Port Health Authority	5	1	0	2	1	1	0	0
Freedom of the Borough Advisory Committee	9	0	1	2	3	2	1	0
Corporate Parenting Board	12	0	1	3	3	3	2	0
Totals	28	1	2	8	7	7	3	0

3.18 In summary, the resulting changes to be made to Committees are that:

- One seat will move from the Independent Group to the Labour Group on the TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- One seat will move from the Independent Group to the ungrouped Independents on TVCA Audit and Governance Committee

- One seat will move from the Labour Group to the Independent Group on Governance Committee
- One seat will move from the ungrouped Independents to the Independent Group on Resources Scrutiny & Improvement Committee

Following endorsement of the revised political balance and distribution of seats, changes to Committee membership will be confirmed at the relevant item on the agenda.

4 What options have been considered

- 4.1 The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990. The requirements and considerations are set out in section 3 of the report.
- 4.2 The legislation provides that the Council may make alternative arrangements to the proportionality principles but only by unanimous vote. However, a political group may decide to offer a seat to another political group. This does not affect the proportionality principles as it remains within the gift of the political group to determine how it wishes to exercise that discretion, if at all.

5 Impact assessment

Type of Risk/ Implication	Details
Climate Emergency Impact	There is no direct impact on the climate emergency associated with the recommendations within this report.
Health and Safety	There are no direct health and safety implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
Social Value	There is no direct impact on social value associated with the recommendations within this report.
Legal	The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Council to periodically review its political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.
Financial	There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
Human Resources	There are no direct human resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report.
Equality and Diversity	The recommendations within this report will not adversely affect any protected group. Members are elected by local residents to represent their views. The application of political balance rules supports the representation of population as a whole.
Other (please specify)	N/A

6 Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan	Comment
Timetable for implementing decision.	Following confirmation of the revised distribution of seats, committee memberships will be updated.
Lead officer	Governance Director
Reporting progress	N/A
Communications Plan	Details of committee memberships are published on the Council's website. Where changes relate to joint Committees or Outside Bodies, Democratic Services will inform the relevant parties of the changes to membership.

7 Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1 The Council is required to determine the constitution and political balance of the Committees and Boards that have been set up for discharging its functions. The allocations have been determined through the careful application of the political balance principles as set out in paragraph 3.4 and 3.5 of the report by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Managing Director.

8 Appendices and background papers

- 8.1 There are no appendices and no background papers other than published works were used in writing this report.

9 Contact officer

- 9.1 Name: Alison Pearson
Position: Governance Manager
Address: Civic Centre
Ridley Street
Redcar
TS10 1TD
Telephone: 01642 444063
Email: Alison.pearson@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk