



Notice of a Meeting of the

# **REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

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**February/March 2023**

**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 30 March 2023 at 2pm in the Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar and all and several Members of the said Council are hereby summoned to attend.

### **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 16 February 2023 and the Special Borough Council meetings held on 23 February and 9 March 2023.**
- 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 consider and agree any Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees.**

	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Committee</u></b>	<b><u>Minute No</u></b>	<b><u>Report Title</u></b>
<b>A.</b>	30.03.23	Council		Children in our Care & Care Leavers Update Report

- 9. To receive Reports from Portfolio Holders.**

**A) Report of the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing (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).

**10. To consider Reports.**

Report of the Leader of the Council:

**A) Decisions Taken Under Urgency Provisions (HEREWITH)**

**11. To consider Motions.**

**12. 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.

**13. 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.



**JOHN SAMPSON**

Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)  
Civic Centre  
Ridley Street  
Redcar  
Yorkshire  
TS10 1TD

22 March 2023

16 FEBRUARY 2023

**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Borough Council was held on 16 February 2023 in the Civic Centre, Redcar.

**PRESENT** His Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Stuart Smith), Councillors Ayre, Baldwin, Barnes, Berry, Brady, Brown, Cawley, Craig, Cutler, Dowson Fisher, Fletcher, Foggo, Gallacher, Gray, Griffiths, Hannaway, Head, C Holmes, L Holmes, Holyoake, Hunt, S Jeffrey, Kay, King, Lanigan, Lockwood, Massey, Morgan, G Nightingale, I Nightingale, Ovens, Pallister, Rees, Richardson, Rider, Salvin, Sandra Smith, V Smith, Thomson, Turner, Waterfield, Watts, Wells, Westbury, Williams and Wilson.

**OFFICIALS** B Archer, K Boulton, D Boville, E Dale, S Newton, P Rice, C Styles and P Winstanley.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brook, R Clark, B Clarke, Davies, Hixon, G Jeffrey, Jones, Lax-Keeler, Moody, C Quartermain and L Quartermain,

50. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Councillor Holyoake declared an interest in all matters relating to Health Visitors as a relative was a Health Visitor.

51. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

52. **ATTENDANCE MATRIX**

That the attendance matrix be noted.

53. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

53.01 **Mayor's Announcements:**

"Could I remind Councillors they need to have their nominations in for the Mayor's Community Achievement Awards by today, so if you have not already done so please could you get them to Jane Holmes as soon as possible."

**53.02 Leader's Announcements:**

"Last month saw the launch of our new Children's Social Work Academy. The academy offers newly-qualified social workers the best start in their careers, through support and guidance, which will lead them to become highly skilled in supporting children and families.

The new approach will allow our Council to develop our social workers of the future and help address a national shortage of experienced staff in that area.

We already have three new recruits who are progressing well and I look forward to many more coming through the ranks.

Families across our borough will receive extra support after our Children and Families staff were successful in securing funding for our Family Hubs.

The additional funding will improve the range and availability of services at our hubs, including health visiting and maternity services.

A new 'Start of Life' offer is also being developed which will provide parents with a guide about what to expect through the first 1,001 days of a child's life a time when so much important development takes place.

You will all be aware about the significant funding we have secured for Guisborough Town Centre.

A great deal of work went into preparing both this bid and the one for Eston which was not successful and I would like to thank everybody involved for all their efforts.

More hard work starts now to make the Guisborough plans a reality but we will hopefully soon see real change around the town centre.

It was heartening to see the reopening of the library and community hub in Ormesby at the end of last month.

The interior has been redesigned to create a place for people to meet, learn, play explore and connect. We hope residents, businesses and community groups will now make full use of our great new facility.

Now we would like residents' views on our library provision, as a whole, in the future.

We would like to know how users would like to see our service develop and for those who do not currently use our libraries, what would encourage them to do so.

I would ask all members to publicise this consultation to encourage as many people as possible to take part.

Finally, it was lovely to see young people from across the borough coming up with some great names for our new street sweepers. Now you will see the likes of Sweepy Jean, Trusty Dusty and Orlando Broom keeping our borough clean. You might have seen announced in the paper that Freebrough College got an outstanding Ofsted report which is amazing for the East Cleveland children.

Tees Flex bus seems to have had a lot of cover on social media. I have been in touch yesterday with the Mayor as the Tees Flex bus should have stopped next week. They cannot do that as the meeting to make that decision with the Combined Authority Leaders is not until the 14 March 2023. As yet, the Tees Mayor has nothing in place to extend it beyond next week but what they are trying to do is make sure the service is extended as we cannot have a break in service. From my point of view, I will be voting to keep the Tees Flex as East Cleveland and some of our outlying areas rely on the service. We have to make sure we have cover as our transport system is appalling in some of our areas with Arriva buses not even turning up. Stockton and Middlesbrough have buses coming through every few minutes but in Redcar and Cleveland some of our residents are quite isolated. I will make sure we fight our corner when I go to the Combined Authority.”

54. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR.**

Just a reminder for Members about next weeks series of budget meetings starting on Monday 20 February 2023 at 10am when we have a Resources Scrutiny Committee to look at the budget. On Thursday 23 February 2023 at 10am we have a Special Cabinet Meeting which will consider the budget proposals and come up with recommendations to Council. Later that day there will be a Special Borough Council at 2pm. The Council meeting will have a single focus on the budget proposals for 2023/24 with none of the usual procedural items. The debate on the budget will result in a recorded vote being taken from all eligible Councillors in attendance.

55. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS.**

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

56. **REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.**

Members were requested to endorse the proposed changes to the distribution of seats on Committees and Boards as a result of recent changes in political proportionality.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed distribution of seats to the different Political Groups as set out in the report be agreed.

57. **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS.**

**MOVED by Councillor King and duly seconded by Councillor Barnes that:**

**That this Council Notes:**

1. That many people who experience long-term homelessness and transient housing may have multiple and complex needs, including mental health difficulties, family breakdown, trauma, past criminal offending, and substance dependency. Homelessness (in particular street homelessness) has serious adverse effects on mental and physical health.

2. That "Housing First" is a nationally and internationally proven approach to help such people maintain tenancies, improve their health, and avoid offending over the long term. Housing First providers offer long-term and intense support to clients, with a track record of improving engagement with support services and 80-90% rates of sustaining tenancies.

3. That investment in "Housing First" is good value-for-money for tax-payers, our communities, and people with multiple and complex needs. A study by the charity Crisis suggests that every £1 spent on Housing First saves tax-payers £1.24 in the long term, reducing demands on the NHS, policing, benefits, and local government – as well as improving individuals' lives. A cost-benefit analysis of a pilot in Greater Manchester suggested more than £2.50 would be saved from public services for every £1 invested in Housing First.



**That this Council Believes:**

1. That access to good quality housing is a human right and offers people a chance to engage with support for multiple and complex needs.
2. That 30 years of evidence demonstrates how the provision of well-managed housing for people with multiple and complex needs increases their engagement with support services, compared to making housing dependent on existing engagement with such services.

**That this Council Resolves:**

1. To ask the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods & Housing to instruct Officers to identify the scale of need for “Housing First” for people with complex and multiple needs in Redcar & Cleveland borough.
2. To encourage Officers to seek advice and support from national and local partners in adopting the Housing First model of support for people with multiple and complex needs with the aim of ensuring that services provide fidelity to the seven “Housing First” principles as published by Homeless Link.
3. To invite the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods & Housing to report back to Council on whether and how this authority intends to seek and use funding available from the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25.
4. To write to local MPs and to the Secretary of State to ask for additional funding to support local authorities in delivering a joined-up policy of increasing Housing First provision.

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor King and duly seconded by Councillor Barnes the following motion was put to the vote and declared carried:-

**That this Council Notes:**

1. That many people who experience long-term homelessness and transient housing may have multiple and complex needs, including mental health difficulties, family breakdown, trauma, past criminal offending, and substance dependency. Homelessness (in particular street homelessness) has serious adverse effects on mental and physical health.
2. That “Housing First” is a nationally and internationally proven approach to help such people maintain tenancies, improve their health, and avoid offending over the long term. Housing First providers offer long-term and intense support to clients, with a track record of improving engagement with support services and 80-90% rates of sustaining tenancies.

3. That investment in “Housing First” is good value-for-money for tax-payers, our communities, and people with multiple and complex needs. A study by the charity Crisis suggests that every £1 spent on Housing First saves tax-payers £1.24 in the long term, reducing demands on the NHS, policing, benefits, and local government – as well as improving individuals’ lives. A cost-benefit analysis of a pilot in Greater Manchester suggested more than £2.50 would be saved from public services for every £1 invested in Housing First.

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4. To write to local MPs and to the Secretary of State to ask for additional funding to support local authorities in delivering a joined-up policy of increasing Housing First provision.

58. **TO APPOINT MEMBERS**

**RESOLVED** that on the successful motion of Councillor Lanigan and duly seconded by Councillor King that the following changes to Committee membership be agreed:

**Regulatory Committee**

Councillor S Jeffrey to replace Councillor Richardson

Councillor R Clark to replace Councillor Ayre

**Governance Committee**

Councillor Ayre to fill the vacant position

**Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Watts to fill the vacant position

**Nominations for a substitute were requested from the Ungrouped Independents**

**Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.**

Councillor R Clark to remain on the Committee as the Labour member.

59. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

59.01 **Question from Councillor Vince Smith to Councillor Lanigan, Leader of the Council.**

“With no further rounds of Public Realm funding being proposed, I seek clarification as to whether any unspent funding remaining in each ward will be rolled over into the next financial year, and retained solely for use in the relevant wards or will it be reallocated into the Capital Programme?”

59.02 **Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:**

“It is the intention that Public Realm will cease at the end of this financial year. Any contractual commitments in place before the year end will be honoured, but any unspent and uncommitted balances will not roll over into the next financial year. Therefore any planned schemes should be progressed before the end of March.

The current round of Public Realm is funded by council borrowing. Therefore any unspent balances will not be reallocated into the Capital

Programme, rather they will reduce the amount of borrowing required to be taken, thereby helping to mitigate the rising cost of borrowing the Council is facing.”

**59.03 Supplementary Question from Councillor Vince Smith:**

“Planning Permission has been given for our art sign and our money will be spent but I am not sure about other wards and whether they can carry forward any unspent money?”

**59.04 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:**

“This is not actually going forward into the next financial year but I am quite sure you have your project in hand but if you don’t use it you will lose it. The money will then come back into the Council to try to get our borrowing costs down, as it was borrowed money. So that is a reminder to all the Councillors here if you want to get something off the ground. I know it has been difficult with Covid as sometimes some of these schemes have been delayed but this money will not be going forward into the next financial year.”

**59.05 Question from Councillor Watts to Councillor Gallacher, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth.**

“Guisborough Town Hall was bought by this Council but a group was set up in Guisborough to prepare a Plan for the building and apply for Lottery funding to complete the work in addition to funding from the Combined Authority and RCBC. It is now completed and there are 3 x leases set up in the building.

1. The Gin Bar
2. The Accommodation
3. A Community Interest Group which is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the building

Can the Cabinet Member please explain to Members

1. How the CIG raise funding to do their job
2. How was the CIG able to sponsor another project in Guisborough - the Opera Nova on its first return to Guisborough after Covid ,last October
3. Does the money from the other 2 leases go to the CIG or to RCBC?”

59.06 **Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:**

“The Council only has involvement with the CIG solely relating to the role it plays as landlord to their occupancy in the building; so a landlord-tenant arrangement only. Any information regarding how the CIG raise funding to undertake their duties is not known by the Council acting as the landlord. It would be up to the CIG to provide any relevant information; should they desire to do so.

The Council merely acts as the landlord. Therefore, it would be up to the CIG to provide any relevant information as to how funding/sponsorship is utilised; should they desire to do so.

The Council is the landlord of the Guisborough Town Hall and any lease/licence agreements are to the Council.”

59.07 **Supplementary Question from Councillor Watts:**

“I ask these questions because many years of time and money were put into restoring this building. The landlord that you refer to is Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and what we would hate to see now that it is up and running is a mismanagement that means we have no money to address the ongoing maintenance. The project initially started to encourage visitors with bikes to Guisborough as there is a huge bike store. What we have ended up with is a party place where all 17 beds have to be booked by a party. We don't want to waste this building we are looking to the landlord, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, to get this sorted out?”

59.08 **Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:**

I am not aware of any mismanagement. The operation of the lease is up to the Council as long as the tenant is operating within the leasing terms. There is no mismanagement. As far as we are concerned it may not be operating the way you had perceived it would but it is the perception of the lease holder who has custody of the building as long as it does not conflict with the lease.”

59.09 **Question from Councillor Watts to Councillor G Nightingale, Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources.**

“How often is the Procurement list reviewed in relation to locality and value for money?”

59.10 **Councillor G Nightingale replied as follows:**

“It is a continual process and does not have to be reviewed at set intervals, that is not how it works.

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules govern how goods, services and works are procured and how value for money is achieved through contracts.

The Rules have three main purposes

- to comply with the obligations governing the spending of public money;
- to achieve value for money in the way the Council spends money and delivers its corporate priorities; and
- to protect Officers of the Council who follow the Rules.

For each contract on the register, the Contract Owner is responsible for considering locality of supply and obtaining value for money as part of the procurement process undertaken.

For Works contracts valued at £10,000 - £1,000,000 and for Goods and Services valued at £10,000 up to the Public Contract Regulation threshold, the Contract Procedure Rules allow for a closed quotation process to be undertaken with a minimum of three local suppliers being invited to bid.

A 'Local supplier' is defined as 'A supplier located in the borough of Redcar and Cleveland, or if an appropriate supplier cannot be located within Redcar & Cleveland then a supplier located in the Tees Valley'.

When a contract is awarded, the Contract Owner is responsible for continually monitoring and managing the contract continuously throughout its duration, including ensuring value for money is being achieved.

Contract Review reports are sent to Contract Owners on a quarterly basis. If the contract has an optional extension periods available, value for money and availability of alternative supply is considered as part of the decision-making process to extend the contract, re-procure, or look for other alternatives if the goods, services or works are still required.

I hope this gives Councillor Watts a better understanding of the Councils procurement practice.

I can supply a table which shows the procurement threshold value and which process should be undertaken."

**59.11 Question from Councillor Richardson to Councillor Gallacher, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth.**

“It has been over six months since I was assured the council was pressing ahead with the land transfer of Havelock Park Estate in Redcar. It has been 8 years since any of us moved in and we still can’t get safer streets packs assessed because the land transfer has not taken place. Last week I asked the council and was told transfer is imminent however there are duplicate lighting columns still to be removed and at least 10 street lights not working at present. What are we doing to push the land transfer forward please?”

**59.12 Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:**

“The site benefits from planning permission spread over 3 planning applications determined through 2011 to 2013. The planning permission which established the 288 dwellings and estate layout was R/2012/0829/FFM determined in 07/02/2013. As customary with most cases, the application and permission did not include details with regard to road markings and/or bins as this is dealt with through separate mechanisms. The housebuilder has since implemented the planning permission.

Outside of the planning process the appropriate time during or post completion of the development the Council can formally adopt public highway depending upon agreement with the developer. This issue has now essentially moved out of the sphere of Planning and into the Highways area of the Council.

I can confirm that the Council’s Highway Officers are liaising with the developer to undertake the outstanding remedial measures in order to adopt; these are ongoing. I can further confirm that the Council’s Unadopted Highways Inspector is actively on site inspecting the works at this moment. I am informed that we aren’t far away from adoption with just some minor issues still to be put right before the Council can be satisfied.

After checking with Officers, they are not aware of duplicate street lighting columns to be removed nor street lights not working. If Councillor Richardson could please provide the column identification numbers for the ones not working, then I will pass that onto Officers who will instruct Keepmost to subsequently repair.”

**59.13 Supplementary Question from Councillor Richardson:**

“Firstly, they don’t have column identification numbers as they have not been adopted by the Council and therefore, they are just street lights. When I am asked to submit photographs, I am submitting photographs of

non-working streetlights. Remedial works have been going on for 8 years and I am asking what the Council is doing to push that forward, I've been told for 3 years that we are taking legal action? What is going to be done in future, how are we going to stop builders doing this again and again? There are currently 11 streetlights not working on my estate and there are only about 10 streets. When it is signed off we are going to have to invest a lot of money to put right the whole system that does not work and how are we going to prevent this in future?"

59.14 **Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:**

"The questions you have are more related to highways but I will pass them on to the Inspector to deal with those without column numbers. I agree that it is difficult to deal with those without column numbers and it does seem an awful long time that this has dragged on. Unfortunately, these are the gaps within the planning system and the developers use these to their advantage because once we take on the adoption they have a payment to make and clearly they want to hold onto that money as long as they can and therefore they will delay. I will try to instigate some sort of action. I am led to believe we are close, we were close six months ago when I told you the same story. I am sorry for that but hopefully we are closer now and I will get some sort of definitive answer for you and press them but we are in a sort of legal minefield. Hopefully they will be happier to move on but the point of the serviceability of these lamp posts needs to be addressed. I am sure that Councillor Foggo will have made a note of that and ensure we take over fit and proper and serviceable street lighting which we do not have to spend any additional monies on."

59.15 **Question from Councillor Richardson to Councillor Lanigan, Leader of the Council.**

"With the rapid increase in dog ownership we have seen an increase in dog attacks in Redcar and Cleveland. Since the Council introduced the Dogs on Leads requirements in parks this has diverted people to other areas and particularly Haweswater field because it is one of the only enclosed and gated fields in Redcar. This has increased the amount of fouling around Newcomen and people using the smaller inside children's play area for small dogs. Dog parks with segregated areas for small and large dogs are a firm favourite in many other countries and allow for proper socialisation and training and can be hired out to training clubs and for private sessions. Will this Council commit to fund and create some enclosed and secure dog parks/exercise area please?"

I have received requests for an area of the beach to be included in the dogs on leads requirements because people are frightened to walk there and Julian is looking into this since the attacks which have taken place in recent weeks?"



59.16 **Councillor Foggo replied as follows:**

“In response to the first part of the question the Council will commit to scoping the feasibility of such a scheme.

I have received requests for an area of the beach to be included in the dogs on leads requirements because people are frightened to walk there.

The Council recognises the control of dogs by dog walkers in public spaces as an emerging issue the last few years and that this requires a robust enforcement response, in common with that taken by many other local authorities across England & Wales.

Reports of persons allowing their dog to be “dangerously out of control in public place injuring any person” have increased 273% (an almost four-fold increase) during the last four years (from 19 to 71: 1 April 2018-31 January 2019 Vs 1 April 2022-31 January 2023).

The Council’s starting point when exercising the powers it has under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing (2014) Act’s public spaces protection order provisions is to seek to ensure everyone can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from antisocial behaviour.

That’s why the Council, when it reviewed its Dogs public spaces protection order. Redcar and Cleveland ([redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)) last year, having secured public support to do so, the council renewed the order for another three years, and introduced new dog control powers, including a “leads by order/direction” provision, which will have borough-wide effect, and targeted “dogs on leads” requirements for some formal parks and gardens in the borough, including Locke Park. The consultation exercise, by gathering information concerning people’s experience of these issues, has also added considerably to the evidence base justifying the council in introducing these new provisions.

The Council is committed to exploring all legislative options, including by exercising its PSPO powers, to address antisocial behaviour, including activities related to dogs in public spaces.

The Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these new provisions in tackling dog related antisocial behaviour, including dog fouling and dogs being dangerously out of control.

However, our approach remains a cautious one: taking an evidence-based approach applying the legally prescribed tests; striking an appropriate balance between the need to tackle dog-fouling and uncontrolled dogs against the desire and entitlement of members of the public to use a public space; taking care to test public support for any new provisions; and monitoring the effectiveness of new provisions.”

**59.17 Supplementary Question from Councillor Richardson:**

“As you are investigating the feasibility of a dog park I would like to propose the old Sacred Heart field as it is not designated for building on and is close to Locke Park. The businesses in Locke Park have suffered as a result of the dogs on leads regulation as a lot of people are just not using it anymore and going somewhere else. Having such a dog park close by would benefit them as well. We do have a huge problem, our rescue is full and attacks are on the increase as well. This would be something proactive and very cheap. It would be rentable as we have a lot of trainers in the area who cannot rent an outside area on which to conduct socialisation training which was not possible during Covid. Would you please take these factors into consideration when doing your feasibility study?”

**59.18 Councillor Foggo replied as follows:**

“Obviously we will take into consideration any factors that will affect the operation of any areas. I understand that Middlesbrough Council had two areas one in Stewarts Park and one off Dixon Bank which they then closed down so we will look at that to see why they closed. There are lots of issues we have to look at for the feasibility so yes, we will look at all issues as well as how we enforce these areas.”

**59.19 Question from Councillor Massey to Councillor Gallacher, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

“I have previously asked many questions in this Chamber about the redevelopment of Eston Precinct. Given Central Government’s recent refusal of the Council’s Levelling Up Bid which covered this area, what are the Council’s plans for Eston Precinct?”

**59.20 Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:**

“The Council is obviously very disappointed that the Government did not support the Levelling Up Fund bid for the Greater Eston area; including proposals for the redevelopment of the Eston Precinct.

As the Levelling Up funding is now not on the table, sufficient funding to deliver the LUF envisaged project is not available. The Council is actively exploring other external funding opportunities to subsidise the project costs and these will progressed over the coming months. As the Leader has already alluded to promises were made during her visit to London but these were not worth the papers they were not written on. This is not unusual as we all know the nature of Government and promises made by individuals.

In terms of the future project scope, it is important to consider a future funding package which is financially sustainable and crucially deliverable on the ground; which is tailored to meet the needs of the local businesses.

It is anticipated that these discussions with external funding partners will continue beyond May 2023; therefore, the funding landscape and project scope will be reconsidered in the new financial and municipal years. We are still looking at what we could possibly do but without the money to do it, it is very difficult but we have not given up we are still striving to achieve something.”

**59.21 Supplementary Question from Councillor Massey:**

“I thank Councillor Gallacher and the Leader for trying with the Government but it seems that we are not going to get anywhere with Central Government with Eston. When I last asked this question on the 13 March 2022, I read the Gazette item earlier, the Cabinet Member at the time said it is the intention of this Council to commit to Eston precinct so I ask will the Cabinet Member consider committing £5m previously in the budget, taken out by this Cabinet, back into the next budget and commit £5m back into Eston Square?”

**59.22 Councillor Gallacher replied as follows:**

“We are committed to the project the problem is finding the resources to do it. We all understand the situation we find ourselves in although we are somewhat better off than some of the Councils in the South East of England. We are being careful in what we are doing, and we are trying to deliver the more important projects and those that people will enjoy like the swimming pool renewal in Eston.”

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

## SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

23 February 2023

### SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of the Borough Council was held on 23 February 2023 at the Civic Centre Redcar.

**PRESENT** Her Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Smith),  
Councillors Ayre, Baldwin, Barnes, Berry, Brady, Brook,  
Cawley, R Clark, B Clarke, Craig, Cutler, Dowson,  
Fisher, Fletcher, Foggo, Gallacher, Gray, Hannaway,  
Head, Hixon, C Holmes, Holyoake, Hunt, G Jeffery,  
S Jeffrey, Jones, Kay, King, Lanigan, Lax-Keeler,  
Lockwood, Massey, Moody, Morgan, G Nightingale,  
I Nightingale, Ovens, Pallister, C Quartermain,  
L Quartermain, Rees, Richardson, Rider, Salvin,  
Sandra Smith, V Smith, Thomson, Turner, Waterfield,  
Watts, Wells, Westbury and Wilson.

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors  
Brown, Davies, Griffiths, L Holmes and Williams

#### 60. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Holyoake declared an interest in all matters relating to  
Guisborough Town Hall and Health Visitors as her daughter was a Health  
Visitor.

Councillors Craig and Ovens declared an interest in all matters relating to  
the Fire Authority Precept as a Member of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

#### 61. **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023/24.**

The Council received and considered a report presented by Councillor G  
Nightingale and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan which set out  
Cabinet's budget proposals for the forthcoming 2023/24 financial year  
along with an indicative medium term financial plan through to 2027/28.

The draft budget proposals published by Cabinet in December had  
been reviewed in light of the subsequent provisional local government  
finance settlement provided by Government, and the feedback  
received from key stakeholders during the consultation period. This  
had helped to inform these final proposals.

**MOVED** by Councillor G Nightingale and duly seconded by Councillor  
Lanigan that the recommendations as outlined in the report be approved.

## SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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23 February 2023

The voting being as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Baldwin, Barnes, Berry, Cutler, Dowson, Fletcher, Foggo, Gallacher, Gray, Head, Hixon, Hunt, G Jeffery, Jones, Kay, King, Lanigan, Lax-Keeler, Moody, Morgan, G Nightingale, I Nightingale, Ovens, Rider, Salvin, Stuart Smith, Thomson, Waterfield, Westbury and Wilson.

**AGAINST:** Councillors B Clarke, Craig, Fisher, Hannaway, C Holmes, Lockwood, V Smith, Turner, Watts and Wells

**ABSTENTIONS:** Councillors Ayre, Brady, Brook, Cawley, R Clark, Holyoake, S Jeffrey, Massey, Pallister, C Quartermain, L Quartermain. Rees, Richardson, and Sandra Smith.

### 62. **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24.**

The Council received and considered a report presented by Councillor G Nightingale and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan which sought approval for a revised Pay Policy Statement for the year 2023/24 to ensure the Council's compliance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. This legislation required local authorities to prepare an annual Pay Policy Statement for publication which sets out their policies on:

- the remuneration of its senior executives;
- the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees; and
- the relationship between:
  - (i) the remuneration of its senior executives, and ,
  - (ii) the remuneration of the remainder of the workforce.

The report also sought agreement for an uplift to the Council's Redcar and Cleveland Minimum Wage Supplement, approval to equalise annual leave entitlement for Officers due to disparities within recent pay negotiations and included a report on the current position in terms of the Council's gender pay gap.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) The draft Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 be approved for publication; and,
- b) An uplift of the Redcar and Cleveland Minimum Wage Supplement from £9.90 to £10.90 per hour with effect from 1 April 2023 be approved;

## SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

9 March 2023

### SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of the Borough Council was held on 9 March 2023 at the Civic Centre, Redcar.

**PRESENT** His Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Smith),  
Councillors Ayre, Baldwin, Barnes, Berry, Brady, Brook,  
Brown, Cawley, R Clark, B Clarke, Craig, Cutler, Fisher,  
Fletcher, Foggo, Gallacher, Gray, Griffiths, Hannaway,  
Head, Holyoake, Hunt, S Jeffrey, Kay, Lockwood,  
Massey, Morgan, G Nightingale, I Nightingale, Ovens,  
Pallister, L Quartermain, Rees, Richardson, Rider,  
Sandra Smith, V Smith, Thomson, Watts, Wells and  
Williams.

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors  
Davies, Dowson, Hixon, C Holmes, L Holmes, G Jeffery, Jones, King,  
Lanigan, Lax-Keeler, Moody, C Quartermain, Salvin, Turner, Waterfield,  
Westbury and Wilson.

#### 63. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor B Clarke declared an interest in the following item as he sat on both the Assessment Sub Committees.

Councillor Craig declared an interest in the following item as a witness at the hearing and Cabinet Member at the time.

Councillor Cutler declared an interest in the following item as a witness at the hearing.

Councillor Hunt declared an interest in the following item as a witness at the hearing.

Councillor Holyoake declared an interest in the following item as Chair of the hearing.

Councillor Morgan declared an interest in the following item as a member of the Assessment Sub Committee.

Councillor I Nightingale declared an interest in the following item as a Member of the Hearings Panel.

Councillor Rider declared an interest in the following item as a Member of the Hearings Panel.

9 March 2023

Councillor Wells declared an interest in the following item as a witness at the hearing.

64. **HEARING PANEL RECOMMENDATION – CENSURE OF COUNCILLOR LANIGAN.**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which set out the recommendations of the Hearing Panel held on 21 and 22 February 2023 which considered a complaint against Councillor Mary Lanigan.

A copy of the Hearing Panel's decision notice was attached to the report (not reproduced). In summary, the Panel found that there had been several breaches of the Code of Conduct by Councillor Lanigan as follows:

- Paragraph 1.1 – You must treat others with respect
- Paragraph 1.3 – You must not conduct yourself in a manner which is contrary to the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct of Members.
- Paragraph 1.4. – You must not conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or the Council into disrepute.
- Paragraph 1.10 – You must not use or attempt to use your position as a Member improperly to confer on or secure for yourself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage

The Hearing Panel found that Councillor Lanigan did not breach the code of conduct in respect of the following:

- Paragraph 1.5 – You must not bully or harass any person etc

Paragraph 1.7 – You must not do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Council.

The Hearing Panel decided to publish its findings and recommended to the Borough Council that Councillor Lanigan be censured which was a formal expression of severe disapproval.

The report therefore sought a decision from the Borough Council on the Hearing Panel's recommendation.

SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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9 March 2023

**MOVED** by Councillor Holyoake and duly seconded by Councillor Rider that the recommendation as outlined in the report be approved.

The voting being as follows:

**FOR:** Councillors Ayre, Barnes, Berry, Brady, Brook, Brown, Cawley, R Clark, B Clarke, Fisher, Hannaway, Head, Holyoake, S Jeffrey, Massey, Morgan, G Nightingale, I Nightingale, Ovens, Pallister, L Quartermain, Rees, Richardson, Rider, V Smith, Thomson, Watts and Williams.

**AGAINST:** Councillors Baldwin, Craig, Cutler, Fletcher, Foggo, Gallacher, Gray, Griffiths, Hunt, Kay, Lockwood, Sandra Smith, Stuart Smith and Wells.



**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	23.02.23	09.03.23	25.05.23 (AGM)	Total Meetings Attended / total possible
Ayre	Billy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols 4	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓		/11
Baldwin	Neil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Barnes	Alison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Berry	Peter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	✓		/11
Brady	Charlie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Brook	Adam	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓		/11
Brown	Alec	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓		/11
Cawley	Ceri	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Clark	Robert	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓		/11
Clarke	Bill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	Apols	✓	✓		/11
Craig	Julie	✓	Apols 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Cutler	Graham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Davies	Wayne	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols		/11
Dowson	Deborah	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Fisher	Dave	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓		/11
Fletcher	Martin	✓	✓	Apols2	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓		/11
Foggo	Cliff	✓	Apols 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Foley McCormack	Chris	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		/11
Gallacher	Chris	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Gray	Tim	✓	✓	Apols	Apols5	Apols 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Griffiths	Malcolm	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols (3)	✓	Apols	✓		/11
Hannaway	Craig	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Head	Malcolm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Hixon	Andrew	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols2	✓	Apols3	Apols	✓	Apols		/11
Holmes	Craig	X	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Holmes	Lee	X	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols		/11
Holyoake	Shelagh	✓	✓	Apols1	Apols5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Hunt	Barry	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Jeffery	Graham	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols		/11
Jeffrey	Sue	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Jones	Chris	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols		/11
Kay	Steve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
King	Karen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Lanigan	Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Lax-Keeler	Yvonne	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	Apols		/11
Lockwood	Mike	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Massey	Chris	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Moody	Shaun	✓	Apols	Apols2	✓	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols		/11
Morgan	Carole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Nightingale	Glyn	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Nightingale	Irene	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Ovens	Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Pallister	Lynn	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Quartermain	Carl	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols5	Apols5	✓	Apols2	Apols2	✓	Apols		/11
Quartermain	Leah	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓		/11
Rees	Dan	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Richardson	Carrie	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓		/11
Rider	Vera	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Salvin	Paul							✓	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Smith	Sandra	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Smith	Stuart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Smith	Vince	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Thomson	Philip	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Turner	Andrea	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Waterfield	Stephen	X	✓	Apols5	✓	Apols	Apols5	✓	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Watts	Anne	✓	✓	Apols3	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Wells	Billy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		/11
Westburny	Louise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols2	✓	✓	Apols		/11
Williams	Geraldine	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	✓		/11
Wilson	Margaret	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	Apols		/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
6	Civic Duties



# Member Report

## Children in Our Care & Care Leavers Update Report Quarter 3

<b>Report to:</b>	Council
<b>Report from:</b>	Cabinet Member for Children & Families
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Children & Families
<b>Report Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Executive
<b>Council Priority:</b>	Meeting Residents' Needs

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### HEADLINE POSITION

#### 1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Members of the Council about the work undertaken by the Children & Families Service in respect of Children in Our Care and Care Leavers for the third Quarter which includes October, November and December 2022.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on activity within the Children in Our Care and Care Leaving Service; Our Virtual School Service around the work we do to support the educational needs of Children in Our Care; and information in relation to our Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) young people.
- 1.3 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated document: Lead Member Briefing: Children in Our Care Performance Data. It presents the key dataset pertinent to this area of service, along with analysis as appropriate.

#### 2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Children in Our Care & Care Leavers Update Report and the Performance Data, are noted by members.

### DETAILED PROPOSALS

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

- 3.1 The objective of the report is to provide a quarterly update on activity within the Children in Our Care and Leaving Care Teams, our Virtual School and the work they have done to support the educational needs of children who are in our care as well as information in relation to our young people who are Vulnerable,

Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT).

3.2 This quarterly report links to the Council priority of meeting residents' needs.

#### **4.0 What options have been considered**

4.1 The report and performance data are to be noted only, decision/options are not required.

#### **5.0 Impact Assessment**

5.1 Social Value – The Services detailed provide support to some of our most vulnerable children in Redcar and Cleveland. They seek to provide them with a service that gives them the best opportunities to thrive and develop within our communities.

5.2 Legal – The work undertaken within this area are governed by Statutory requirements.

5.3 Financial – By providing our children and young people with the right support, education and homes we will reduce the number of moves while they are in our care, we will reduce a reliance on external costly placements and support our children and young people to achieve and reach their full potential as adults.

#### **6.0 Service Updates**

6.1 Fostering

6.1.1 In Quarter 3, the fostering team have had 82 Initial Inquiries, 12 of which have led to initial assessment. We have 5 households who are scheduled to attend the Skills to Foster training in January and should commence their fostering assessments following this. Fostering Panel have 7 families booked into panel for approval prior to April 2023 with 2 scheduled to attend in January 2023. There are also 8 fostering assessments ongoing. The fostering families will offer a range of placements for our children and young people including respite only carers, as well as those carers looking for short term, long term, and sibling placements. Despite our robust recruitment activity, we have limited availability within our foster placements due to an increase in demand and need to support more complex care placements.

6.1.2 Recruitment activity since the Autumn has utilised social media, with a campaign around a fictitious infant, "baby George". George was developed to portray a typical example of the type of placement that the fostering team would be searching for. This was hugely successful, with 79 initial inquiries from people making contact to find out more about fostering and led to 4 initial assessments being completed with 2 of the couples progressing to Skills to Foster Training.

6.1.3 Requests to undertake assessments for Connected Carers, (those who provide

homes for children who are known to them) have continued throughout the Quarter. A Connected Carer approved under the Fostering Regulations 2011, is entitled to the same support and services as our foster carers. Since October 2022 we have had thirty requests for connected carer assessments, showing that wherever possible we are seeking to keep children and young people when it is appropriate and safe to do so within their family or close network.

6.1.4 We know from experience that although many people tell us they would like to foster they are not currently in a position to progress a formal application. Bearing this in mind, we have continued to ensure the profile of the Redcar and Cleveland fostering service is promoted regularly. Examples of this are the recent interviews we had with BBC Tees and BBC Newcastle Radio in December 2022, where we talked about fostering and working in this area.

6.1.5 The fostering team, colleagues from the Independent Reviewing Service and some of our own foster carers were involved in the Boxing Day Dip to raise awareness of the fostering service and the demand for foster carers. We also managed to raise a total of £956 which we will use to support summer activities for children in our care and fostering families. This has been discussed at foster carer support groups and foster carers are researching activities that can take place throughout the year.

6.1.6 In December the fostering team held a Christmas movie party at TunedIn! where the children, young people and their carers got to meet Santa, watch a movie and eat hotdogs and popcorn. It was a great event with positive feedback from those that attended.

## 6.2 Mockingbird

6.2.1 Within the Quarter we sadly saw our Hub Home Carer make the decision that she could no longer continue in the role. Although it was disappointing, the constellation has remained intact and they continue to support each other, with the deputy Hub Home Carer stepping up to lead the constellation. The group continue to develop the support to one another and meet on a regular basis for social activities which strengthens placement stability. The hub will be maintained into the future as the deputy Hub Home Carers do wish to step into the Hub Home Carers role, however, due to some unforeseen family circumstances, this will not happen until the end of April 2023. We are not alone in experiencing a setback whilst implementing Mockingbird as other local authorities have also experienced challenges during the initial setting up period and beyond.

## 6.3 Unaccompanied Young People

6.3.1 During the reporting Quarter, the Asylum Seeking Through Care Team have provided services to 15 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and

46 care leavers. There are 3 unaccompanied young people and 33 care leavers who have their right to remain. Two Unaccompanied young people have recently been refused asylum, 1 from Albania and 1 from Morocco. They will lodge an appeal against this decision, we also have 2 active appeals from our care leavers, one from Algeria and the other from Iraq. We have 1 unaccompanied young person who has been missing since his arrival in the Borough, we hold regular meetings with the police and home office staff however, there has been no sightings of him.

6.3.2 During this Quarter we have accepted responsibility for 5 unaccompanied young people who originate from Afghanistan. This has been done through the National Transfer Scheme as part of supporting those young people who have been residing in hotels in Kent. We are concentrating on their health needs and supporting with educational provision and immigration status.

6.3.3 The Nationality and Borders Act (“NBA”) received royal assent on 28th April 2022. It has come into force to streamline the complex UK immigration age assessment process. There will now be a ‘designated person’ assigned to conduct age assessments and a National Age Assessment Board (“NAAB”) is to be established and will have a number of functions including expediting age dispute cases.

6.3.4 Throughout Quarter 3 there has been work to developed strong links with the Mosque in Middlesbrough and in particular a positive working relationship with the Iman. He has used his influence through Facebook to reach out to the community and as a result our Unaccompanied young people and asylum-seeking care leavers can use the rooms in the Mosque, which have facilities such as table tennis and pool. As a result, we have seen our young people grow in confidence and there are plans for them to start a cricket team.

6.3.5 There are 11 of our asylum-seeking care leavers who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) this is made up of the following: -

- 1 travelling.
- 2 are missing and suspect that they may have left the country.
- 2 have had their asylum refused and say they cannot concentrate on their studies whilst they are appealing.
- 1 is in Birmingham and not accessing education, employment or training due to their current mental health.
- 1 moved with the young person above to provide support.
- 2 moved to Birmingham.
- 1 Awaiting Home Office decision.
- 1 due to their mental health.

## 6.4 Care Leavers & Support

6.4.1 Within Quarter 3 there were 123 care leavers accessing support by Target Leaving Care team. The numbers are made up of 90 who are age 16 to 20 years

(Relevant & Former Relevant Care leavers) and 33 young people who are aged over 21 years old. In addition, Target leaving care team provide a service to 36 CIOC who are 17 years old which is designed to achieve early preparation to support transition to adulthood.

6.4.2 The majority of our care leavers (93.5% -115/123) have a Pathway Plan. The team have looked at the remaining 6.5% (8 young people) and have discovered a problem in the computer software. This is being resolved.

6.4.3 We are pleased to note that we are in touch with 98% (121/123) of our care leavers with only 2% (2 young people) choosing not to engage with the team. However, the door always remains open and there are continued attempts to re-engage these young people.

6.4.4 We continue to strengthen the work with the commissioning service around suitable accommodation for care leavers, but this is challenged by the limited availability of affordable single occupancy properties. Nevertheless 89.4% (110/123) of our care leavers are in suitable accommodation. Of those who are not in suitable accommodation:

- 3 young people under 21 who are in prison
- 1 person who is 21 + and in prison
- 2 in temporary accommodation
- 4 young people staying with friends or family
- 1 young person recently released from prison and placed in approved premises
- 2 care leavers who has chosen not to stay in touch with the service.

6.4.5 As of the 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec 2022, there were 55% of care leavers accessing a service through Target who are in education, employment, or training. This is an 11% reduction from the same time last year. Positively we have 7 care leavers attending University with 5 others working with their Personal advisors and EET development officer to apply for university places in 2023. There are 2 care leavers who have completed apprenticeships and secured full time employment, one with the council and the other as a bricklayer with a private company.

## 6.5 Virtual School Update

6.5.1 Whilst the Virtual School continues to make positive progress with regards to school attendance for Children in our Care, we always aim for more aspirational attendance; if children are not in school, they cannot gain the best academic

outcomes. At the end of 2021-22 school attendance stood at 91.6%. When comparing this to the last school year unaffected by the pandemic, attendance in 2018-2019 was 75.2%. This highlights that the impact of the Virtual School strategies and bespoke intervention with more positive outcomes being achieved. This improved level of attendance has continued over Quarter 3 and at the end of the Autumn term stood at 91.3%.

- 6.5.2 Individual work with all our young people who are persistent absentees (those with attendance of less than 90%) is ongoing. The number of pupils who are persistently absent decreased significantly in Autumn 2022 to 23.9% of the cohort (58 out of 243 pupils) in comparison to 29.5% in the previous academic year at same point. Although this is improving, work will continue to ensure all children attend school regularly and Virtual School will continue to strive for further improvements.
- 6.5.3 Positive progress has been made with regards to suspensions (previously fixed term exclusions). During the Autumn term in 2022 there were 25 less suspensions compared with the same time in the previous year. At the end of the Autumn term there were 46 suspensions in total, in comparison to 71 at the same time last year. In addition, the amount of learning time lost has also decreased by 44.5 days, from 128 days (at the same point the previous year) to 83.4 days this year. It was previously reported that there had been a decrease in the numbers of children gaining suspensions and this is also continuing. There has been 2 less pupils gaining a suspension with 7.2% (17 out of 237 pupils) of the cohort receiving suspensions, this is down from 9.4% (19 pupils out of total of 202) at the same point in the previous year.
- 6.5.4 We are very pleased to report that 100% of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) were completed within timescales over the course of the Autumn term in 2022, in total this was 338 PEPs. First initial PEP timescales are continuing to reduce from 25.6 days last academic year to 20.8 days in Autumn term. The quality of the PEPs remains strong with 90.8% good or outstanding and the Virtual School officers attended 224 out of 230 (97.4%) PEP meetings of statutory aged school children over the course of the Autumn term. This supports the young person, social worker and designated teacher and ensures our robust process remain in place.

## **6.6 Children in Our Care Vulnerable to Exploitation**

- 6.6.1 In Quarter 3, a total of 98 young people were discussed at our Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked meeting (VEMT), 80 (82%) were males and 18 (18%) were females. Within the 98 young people discussed 42 were deemed as being vulnerable to criminal exploitation, 7 were deemed as being exploited, meaning there was a known incident of exploitation and the remainder (49 out of 98) continued to be supported by their social worker on a child in need, child

protection or a child in our care plan. At the end of Quarter 3, there were 23 children who were active within our VEMT monitoring / tracking process, 8 were children in our care.

6.6.2 In September 2022 we were successful in securing funding to work with a nationally recognised lead in contextual safeguarding, Professor Carlene Firmin. This work has launched, with a pathway being developed within our current process to work with children, young people and their families where there are risks outside the home (ROTH). This trial has been positively received and will run throughout the first Quarter of 2023.

## 6.7 No Wrong Door

6.7.1 We are very pleased to advise that our No Wrong Door Hub is now registered with Ofsted, this was done in January 2023 and our first young person has moved to live in the Hub during the first 2 weeks of February.

6.7.2 The team at No Wrong Door have continued to provide an Edge of Care service supporting 54 young people through edge of care provision in Q3. We have completed work with the fostering team, attending foster carers support groups and shared information regarding becoming a No Wrong Door Hub Community Family. We commenced the recruitment process for one family who are felt to be excellent for the role.

## 6.8 Work in January 2023

6.8.1 In January 2023 we have worked with both Hartlepool and North Yorkshire. Hartlepool have spent time with our Assessment Team, undertaking audit work as well as talking to staff about the work that they do and the impact it has for our children and young people. This provides us with assurance around our work and also challenge on areas that we could strengthen further. They have further supported by moderating our audit activity and will be providing feedback on the process and quality of the activity that we have undertaken. This will allow us to further develop and strengthen the work that we have already done in this area. Further feedback in this area will be provided in the Quarter 4 report.

6.8.2 North Yorkshire have supported a number of practitioners to access Family Finding training (pioneered by Kevin Campbell). This has included a training 'bootcamp' that Kevin Campbell leads – his ethos being that Family Finding 'acknowledges the critical importance of parents, relatives and other caring people' and that 'healing is always possible'. We will be further developing the practitioners in Family Finding over the first Quarter of 2023 to strengthen the work we do to keep children safe within their family network.



## **7.0 Consultation and Engagement**

7.1 The attached report and performance data provides a review of Quarter 3.

## **8.0 Appendices and Background Papers**

8.1 Appendix 1 – Lead Member Briefing: Children in Our Care Performance Data Q3

## **9.0 Contact Officer**

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# Lead Member for Children & Families

## CIOC Performance Briefing – Quarter 3 (2022/2023)



### Appendix 1

#### 1.0 Purpose

1.1 To update Members of the Council with key performance data that supports the work undertaken by the Children & Families Service in respect of Children in Our Care and Care Leavers to the end of the Quarter 3 reporting period, December 2022.

1.2 This Appendix Report accompanies the Children in our Care & Care Leavers Update Report.

#### 2.0 Summary

2.1 This report provides a summary update on performance within the Children in Our Care service.

2.2 It presents the key dataset pertinent to this area of service, along with analysis as appropriate.

#### 3.0 Children in Our Care

##### 3.1 Table A

31.03.2020		31.03.2021		31.03.2022		Q1 at 30.06.2022		Q2 at 30.09.2022		Q3 at 31.12.2022	
No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
348	126.0	316	114.6	341	123.5	354	128.2	362	131.1	379	139.4

3.2 The number of Children in Our Care at the end of December 2022 was 379, which is an increase of 17 children from the end of September 2022 figure. Between April and December 2022, 140 became children in our care and 102 children left care. The number of children becoming children in our care has continued to increase over the last year, leading to the overall increase in the total number.

3.3 Of the 379 Children in Our Care at December 2022, 21 were Unaccompanied Children, which is an increase of 2 children on the June 2022 figure.

3.4 National published figures relating to children in care at March 2022 highlight that the average rate of children in care per 10,000 amongst our statistical neighbours was 108.1; the North-East per 10,000 was 109.5 and National per 10,000 was 69.8. This has shown an increase in children in care nationally. At the same point (March 2022) we recorded a rate of 125.1, which has increased over the last 9 months to the rate shown above as 139.4 in December 2022.

3.5 We do have access to more current data through our regional network, although not formally ratified or published. This data does provide some indication of local trends and the latest data shows us that despite increases between 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 across

the region, the average rate has remained the same at 110 per 10,000 between June 2022 and September 2022. This compares with our rate of 131.1 at the same point (September 2022), placing us 3rd highest in the North-East region of 12 Local Authorities.

#### 4.0 Children in Care Placement Categories

4.1 **Table B** \*All categories given as a number and % of the total number of CIOC.

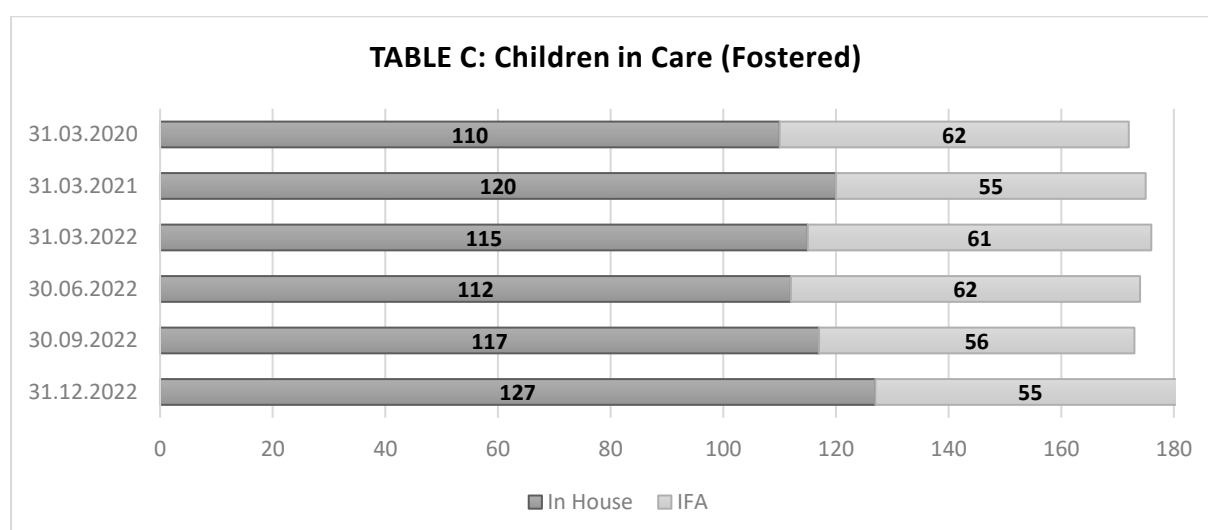
	31.03.2020	31.03.2021	31.03.2022	Q1: 30.06.2022	Q2: 30.09.2022	Q3: 31.12.2022
<b>Placed with in House Foster Carers</b>	130 37.3%	120 37.9%	115 33.7%	112 31.6%	117 32.3%	127 33.5%
<b>Placed with Family &amp; Friends Carers</b>	66 18.9%	64 20.3%	73 21.1%	75 21.2%	81 22.4%	79 20.8%
<b>Placed with Independent Foster Carers</b>	70 20.1%	55 17.4%	61 17.9%	62 17.5%	56 15.5%	55 14.5%
<b>Placed in Residential Settings</b>	33 9.5%	27 8.5%	27 7.9%	29 8.2%	30 8.3%	34 9%

\* Residential figure includes those in Residential, Secure Units and NHS/Health Trusts.

4.2 The table above shows that the number and percentage of children in our care placed with an in-house fostering family has remained fairly static since March 2022, with an increase seen in the number placed with family and friends, and a decrease in the number placed with independent fostering agencies. This is a positive trend.

4.3 We have seen an increase in the number of children placed in residential placements, from 27 at the end of March 2022, to 34 at the end of December 2022. In the quarter, two children moved from residential placements to Independent Living, and four children moved into residential placements, three from in-house foster placements and one from Supported Living.

4.4 **Table C** below relates to children in our care who are fostered, either by an in-house provider or through an independent fostering agency. It continues to demonstrate the positive difference our fostering recruitment campaign is having on our performance with 127 children (70%) living with an in-house carer at December 2022, which continues to exceed our target of 65%.



## **5.0 Number and % of Children in our Care placed within Redcar & Cleveland Borough and outside Borough**

**5.1 Table D**

	<b>31.03.2020</b>	<b>31.03.2021</b>	<b>31.03.2022</b>	<b>Q1: 30.06.2022</b>	<b>Q2: 30.09.2022</b>	<b>Q3: 31.12.2022</b>
<b>Children in our Care placed within the borough of Redcar and Cleveland</b>	198 56.3%	193 61.1%	212 62%	226 / 354 63.8%	234 / 362 64.6%	245 / 379 64.6%
<b>Children in our Care placed outside of our Borough</b>	154 43.8%	123 38.9%	129 38%	128 / 354 36.2%	128 / 362 35.4%	134 / 379 35.4%
<b>Total</b>	352 100%	316 100%	341 100%	354 100%	362 100%	379 100%

5.2 In December 2022, 134 children were placed out of Borough with 5 in adoptive placements awaiting final Legal Orders. Of the remaining 129, 96 (74.4%) are placed either within or very near to the boundary of the Tees Valley area so therefore still able to maintain close links with their family and friends in Redcar and Cleveland.

5.3 The number placed outside of Tees Valley boundary in December 2022 has slightly increased to 33 from 28 in September 2022. The table below shows the placement type for these 33 children:

<b>Placement Type</b>	<b>Number of children</b>
Family & Friends	11
Parent	1
In-House Foster Placement	2
Independent Fostering Agency	4
Residential Homes	11
Secure Units	1
Semi-Independently	1
Mother & Baby Setting	1
Prison	1

5.4 For these children, placements include Sunderland, Newcastle, Sheffield, Cumbria and Birmingham. As reported previously, these placements are identified for each child based on suitability and best match to meet their individual needs.

## **6.0 Children becoming children in our care by age between 01.04.2022 and 31.12.2022**

### **6.1 Table E**

<b>Age at admission</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
0	29	20.7%	49 = 35%
1	5	3.6%	
2	10	7.1%	
3	5	3.6%	
4	5	3.6%	25 = 17.9%
5	8	5.7%	
6	8	5.7%	
7	4	2.9%	
8	5	3.6%	26 = 18.6%
9	7	5%	
10	7	5%	
11	7	5%	
12	5	3.6%	26 = 18.6%
13	9	6.4%	
14	5	3.6%	
15	7	5%	
16	11	7.9%	14 = 10%
17	3	2.1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>	

6.1 The table highlights that children under the age of 1 continue to represent the highest category of children entering our care by age, with 29 in total between April and December this year, equating to over 20% of the total cohort.

6.2 When the data is sorted into age bandings, it is shown that the youngest age group (0-3 years) equates to 35% of the total number of children becoming children in our care in the quarter.

6.3 We have seen a slight increase in the number of 16 to 17 years old who have come into care from 7.4% at September 2022 to 10% in December 2022 (from 6 children at the end of September 2022 to 14 at the end of December 2022).

6.4 At December 2022, there were 50 young people aged 17 in our care who will either be leaving care or transferring to the Leaving Care Team over the next year, which should positively impact on overall children in our care figures (subject to numbers entering the system at the same time).

6.5 Between April and December 2022, 102 children have left our care, with 32 (31.4%) aged 0 to 3 years and 28 (27.5%) aged 18+.

## **7.0 Children in Our Care Subject to Exploitation**

7.1 Table F

	<u>30.09.2021</u>		<u>31.12.2021</u>		<u>31.03.2022</u>		<u>Q1:</u> <u>30.06.2022</u>		<u>Q2:</u> <u>30.09.2022</u>		<u>Q3:</u> <u>31.12.2022</u>	
Number of CIOC *VEMT	10		12		12		11		9		8	
**CCE - Female	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CCE - Male	2	20%	3	25%	6	50%	7	64%	4	44.5%	5	62.5%
***CSE – Female	1	10%	1	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	0	0%
CSE – Male	0	0%	1	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missing – Female	0	0%	0	0%	1	8.3%	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%
Missing – Male	6	60%	7	58.4%	5	41.7%	3	27%	4	44.5%	3	37.5%

\*VEMT=Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked; \*\*CCE=Child Criminal Exploitation; \*\*\*CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation

7.1 There has been little movement in the number of children in our care subject to VEMT over the last year. The greatest area of shift is the number of missing episodes per quarter, as per the table below.

7.2 Table G

	<u>30.09.2021</u>	<u>31.12.2021</u>	<u>31.03.2022</u>	<u>Q1:</u> <u>30.06.2022</u>	<u>Q2:</u> <u>30.09.2022</u>	<u>Q3:</u> <u>31.12.2022</u>
Number of CIOC Missing	27	29	22	28	34	43
Number of Missing Episodes	65	93	106	140	186	157
Average no. of missing episodes per CIOC	2.4	3.2	4.8	5	5.5	3.7

7.3 **Table G** provides a summary of the number of children in our care who go missing from their home (usually a foster placement or residential home), and the number of individual missing episodes across the year. The number of individual children in our care to experience a missing episode has increased in Quarter 3 by 9 children, with a decrease in the average number of episodes to 3.7 per child. Despite the decrease in the average number of episodes over the last quarter, this is still an increase on the same period last year when the average was 2.4. This is partly due to the increasing number of teenagers in our care discussed earlier.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that the content of this report is noted.

## **9.0 Contact Officer**

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# Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing Annual Report for 2022/2023

**To:** Borough Council

**Date:** March 2023

**From:** Councillor Barry Hunt, Cabinet Member for  
Neighbourhoods and Housing

**Ref:**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides the Borough Council with an update on progress, developments and key issues from the Neighbourhoods and Housing Portfolio following the last report in June 2022 and sets out the plans for future service developments and improvements.

1.2 The Portfolio provides a number of frontline services, which are not only a statutory requirement, but also services that affect the day to day lives of every resident in the Borough. These services include housing advice and support, waste collection and recycling, street cleansing, parks and open space maintenance, cemeteries, children's play areas, trees and woodlands and countryside management.

1.3 Having worked through the challenges posed by Covid over the last two years, we were hoping that a degree of stability would return to enable the council to focus on improving service delivery and planning for the future. We now have a new set of challenges resulting from significant inflationary increases and securing and retaining staff in some areas of the service. This will require a redoubling of efforts to make services as efficient as possible, to consider new ways of working, and longer term resource planning.

## 2 WASTE AND RECYCLING

2.1 The collection of household waste is an important frontline service that affects every household in the borough, requires significant levels of resources to provide, and is subject to continual change due to housing growth, government legislation, disposal arrangements, economic activity, resident participation, and attitudes to recycling.

2.2 The Governments Environment Bill 2021 set out a number of proposals that would enable councils to deliver a step change in recycling rates, although, the implementation timescales, detailed requirements and available funding are still to be determined. However, from recent discussions with Defra, it is envisaged that the time scale for the implementation for the separate collection of food waste will be in 2026. This will require the purchase of additional waste receptacle (caddies), additional waste collection vehicles, new waste processing arrangements, and an effective communications campaign. It is anticipated that any additional costs



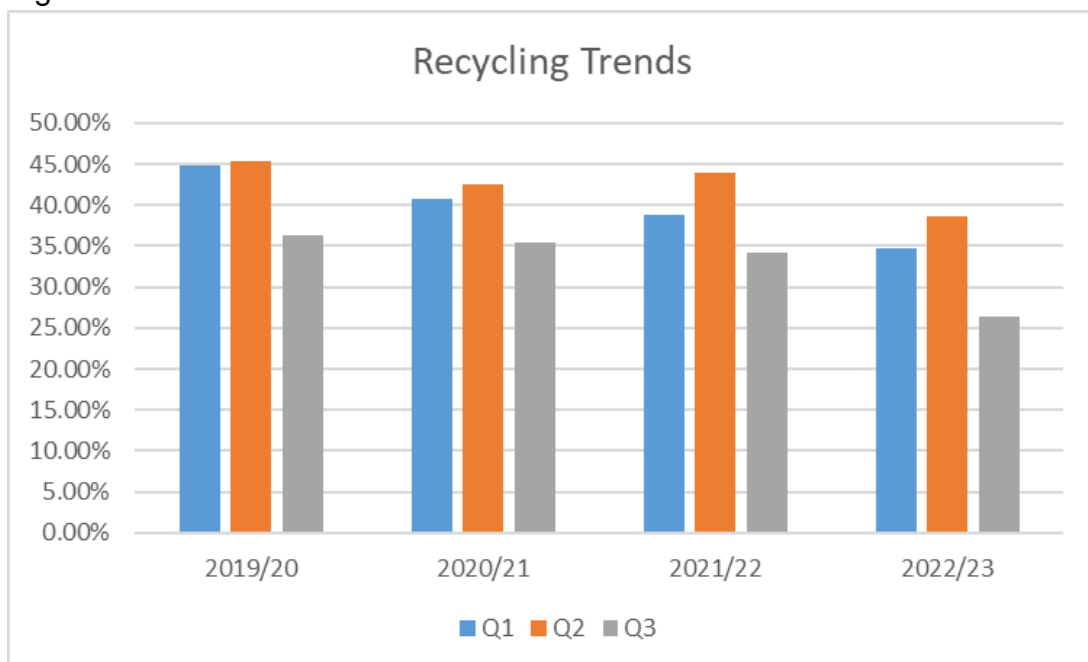
associated with the implementation and operation of this service will be covered by additional government funding. The other proposals within the Environment Bill included the separation of some recyclable materials, a deposit return scheme, full producer responsibility for material recycling and a review of garden waste collection services.

2.2 Until these proposals are implemented it is likely that recycling rates will remain relatively static, although the council does continue to try and promote recycling in a number of different ways. These include: -

- Presentations and activities in local schools.
- School competitions.
- Information stickers placed on recycling bins.
- Social media posts.
- Information on the council’s website.
- Leaflets and promotional materials.
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling banks.

2.3 The graph in Figure 1, shows the recycling trend over the last four years for each quarter. Although we will need to see the data for 2022/23 quarter four, there is a clear downward trend in our recycling figure.

Figure 1.



2.3 The council has continued to promote recycling through the provision of free additional/larger recycling bins, to provide more capacity for residents wishing to

recycle more. In the last 12 months 684 additional recycling bins have been provided free of charge to residents.

- 2.4 The dry recyclable waste collected by the council is processed locally following a successful tendering exercise undertaken last year. This has delivered considerable savings for the council, although there are unfortunately still high levels of recyclable waste contamination that is impacting on recycling levels and processing costs.
- 2.5 In another initiative, 261 compost bins have also been provided free of charge to encourage residents to home compost with the aim of reducing the amount of green waste that needs to be collected, transported, and processed.
- 2.6 As mentioned in the last Portfolio Holder report, the residual waste that has not been presented for recycling or cannot be recycled will still need to be collected and disposed of. The council is currently working with six other councils to procure an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) to be able to generate power from the processing of residual waste. Cabinet have recently agreed to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the other local authorities to oversee the construction and operation of the ERF. The tenders for the ERF are due in at the end of March, followed by a detailed evaluation, contract award and financial close by the end of the year.
- 2.7 Investment in the Dunsdale Household Waste Recycling Site and Warrenby waste transfer station are also planned for the coming months as part of the ongoing investment into the council's infrastructure.
- 2.8 The improvements at Dunsdale HWRC will include better welfare facilities for staff, improved security, a passing lane by the skips, an increase in the size of the operational footprint, better access around the skips, and general infrastructure improvements.
- 2.9 At Warrenby waste transfer site, new welfare facilities have recently been installed with further improvements planned to better segregate waste streams and enable materials to be recycled more effectively.
- 2.10 The council continues to promote the use of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) recycling bins to reduce the risk of fires in refuse collection vehicles. There are now 14 WEEE banks across the borough which have collected a total of 16,000 kgs since their implementation in 2021. Although the scheme has been very successful it is necessary to continually remind residents of the hazard caused by disposing of electrical items containing batteries, as this was the cause of a refuse collection vehicle (RCV) fire a few weeks ago.
- 2.11 The Council is continuing to look at emerging technology to assist with the challenges of climate change and is monitoring the advancements in both electric

and hydrogen powered vehicles. HVO (hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) has been used successfully in the council's small street sweepers and has now been trialled in a larger diesel vehicle. The cost of HVO is greater than that of diesel although it does give significant environmental benefits due to reduced emissions. If it is proven that HVO can be used throughout the council's diesel fleet, then a decision will need to be taken as to whether the additional expenditure could be justified for the environmental benefits.

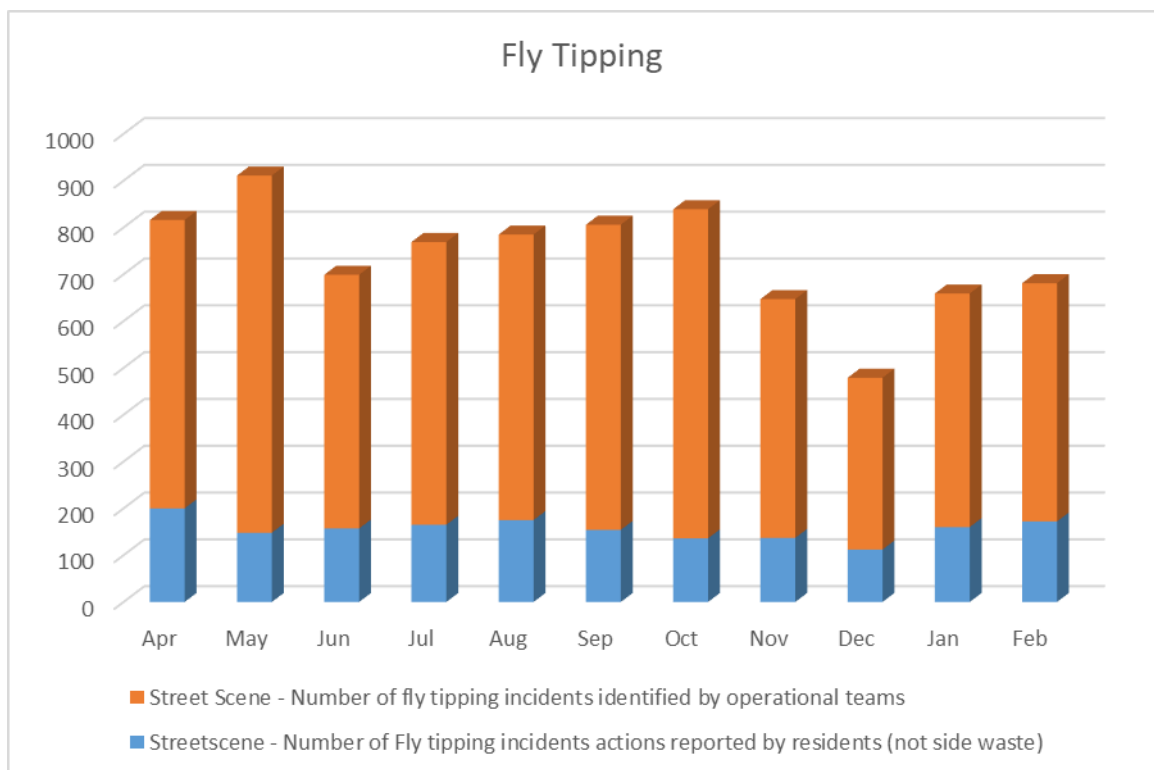
- 2.12 The Council is in the process of procuring a new ICT system that can make waste collection routes more efficient and improve workflows and communications using in cab technology. This system will also help to plan for future service changes, such as the introduction of separate food waste collections, housing growth, or the impact of material segregation.

### **3 CLEAN AND GREEN**

- 3.1 The "Clean and Green Teams" are responsible for street cleansing, removal of fly tipping, pest control, grounds maintenance, cemeteries maintenance, burials, formal parks, and children's play areas.
- 3.2 The Clean and Green Team works every day to help to keep the borough as clean and tidy as possible, often supported by numerous volunteers and community groups. The Council has provided 100 litter pickers and over 30,000 bags to volunteers in the last 12 months to assist the council with the removal of litter from beaches, open spaces, areas of the countryside and residential areas. The council is continually trying to encourage more groups or individuals across the borough to become involved with advice and support from their Local Community Development Team. The Clean and Green Team have purchased an additional 100 litter pickers are also providing operational resources to support volunteers and remove any litter or fly tipping that is collected.
- 3.3 High profile signage has been in place for a number of months on the borough's major roads, to remind residents that littering is a criminal offence. New signs are being designed to refresh this message as part of the ongoing work relating to the Cleaner Borough Strategy. As part of the broader communication plan the council also launched a name the sweeper competition with local school children which prove very popular, we will continue to highlight enforcement successes for littering, fly tipping and dog fouling, and link in with national campaigns such as the Great British Spring Clean.
- 3.4 The council and a number of community groups have planted 350 thousand bulbs at various locations in the borough which not only add colour and interest but also have a beneficial impact on insects and biodiversity levels.

3.5 Fly tipping continues to be a blight on the borough despite a range of services being available to collect and dispose of waste responsibly and sustainably. Figure 2. shows the level of fly tipping over the last 12 months and indicates how many of these were reported by residents. Most of the fly tipping in the borough is identified and collected by the council’s operational teams as part of their day-to-day duties. Although this ensures that issues are dealt with quickly and effectively it takes them away from other more productive duties and is an unnecessary drain on resources. The council also has an agreement with Beyond Hosing to remove fly tipping from areas of open space under their ownership for a resource-based payment.

Figure 2.



3.6 The council will continue to investigate all cases of fly tipping in order to gain evidence that can result in a prosecution or fine for perpetrators. Other initiatives are also planned including the use of covert cameras and vehicle stops to check that anyone carrying waste has the appropriate waste carriers licence.

3.7 A review of service review is currently underway to establish the level of resources required to provide a more localised offer of street scene maintenance, in addition to being able to respond to a number of new pressures and challenges for the service. The council has continued to deliver its ambitious capital programme to improve community, leisure and cultural facilities throughout the borough, and a plan to increase tourism levels and the number of events held each year. There are significant economic benefits that can be derived from these activities due to the

increase in visitors to the area, although this also adds additional pressure on the street scene maintenance teams due to the increased levels of litter clearing required and the desire to show that Redcar and Cleveland at its best. For that reason, for each capital programme that is being delivered there is an estimate as to the revenue implications and the associated resources required.

3.8 Two posts within the Environment Service Support and Improvement Team are focused on securing additional money through bids and grants to fund improvement in parks, open spaces, and cemeteries. Successful bids include: -

- Lottery/GU Community Shed £10,000
- Borough Park £19,830
- Bolckow Road £42,500
- Locke Park £42,500
- RDT/Restore Stage £10,000
- Redcar Cemetery / Themed Path £24,500
- Solar Path £10,383
- Sculpture £5,000
- Zetland Park £1,000

## **4 COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES**

4.1 The Countryside Service Team carries out a range of duties with a small, dedicated team, supported by numerous volunteer groups who have delivered a number of improvements in woodlands, open spaces and public rights of way. The team also manage the countryside centres at Flatts Lane and Guisborough Forest Walkway, which are extremely popular facilities and help to support educational activities in relation to conservation and climate change.

4.2 Tree maintenance is an important element of the team's work, ensuring that the Council's tree stock is inspected and maintained, ensuring that trees are safe and regularly checked for defects and diseases.

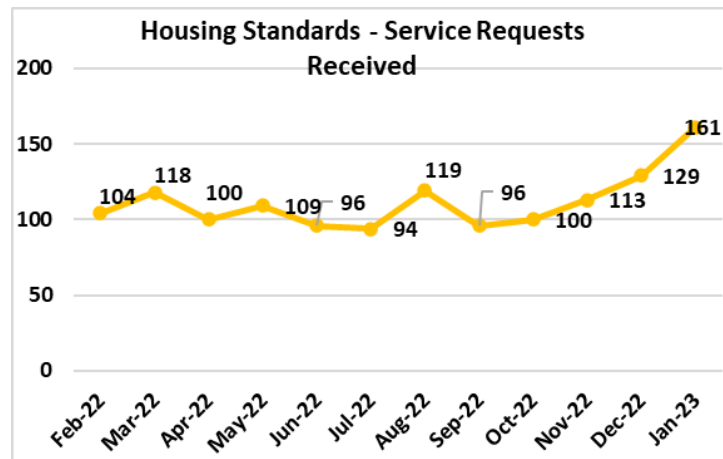
4.3 Members are reminded of a new threat to the tree population in the form of a disease called Ash Dieback. This has been present in the UK for a number of years and has been slowly moving from the south to the north and has now been found across Redcar and Cleveland. Unfortunately, this disease kills mature Ash trees very quickly and therefore can be a significant health and safety risk in certain locations such as those adjacent to the council's highway network. The Council is increasing its expenditure on tree works to be able to deal with the increased workload over the next two years and is using an external contractor due to a shortage of internal resources. Briefing sessions have been held with various officers within the service to enable them to identify the disease, and report concerns to the council arboriculture teams or private landowners. The council's Communications Team

have also been asked to run ongoing awareness campaigns for residents to explain why the council is cutting down mature (diseased) trees, which may be perceived as contrary to the commitment to increasing tree numbers in the borough.

- 4.3 The annual tree planting programme continued this year with a further 19,000 trees planted at 25 sites throughout the borough in addition to the 4000 trees planted last year.
- 4.4 The management of the Council's Public Right of Way (PROWs) now sits within the Countryside Services Team, with a new post being created to coordinate works, manage the budget provided and support the work of volunteers and community groups. Unfortunately, due to staff shortages within the team and the recruitment freeze, other safety critical works have had to be prioritised, therefore not as much progress as expected has been made on improving PROWs. We are still aiming to develop a long-term plan for PROWs that will set out the aims, objectives and priorities to maintain and improve this important infrastructure.
- 4.5 The importance of biodiversity has been known about for some time and has been highlighted in the Government's Environment Bill 2021. The council is working with the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust to develop a new biodiversity strategy to help shape its maintenance activities, tree planting strategy, pesticide usage and educational and promotional activities. Two member sessions were held in March to discuss the underpinning principles of the strategy that will help to inform an action plan that will deliver the work stream required to make a tangible difference to biodiversity levels within the borough.

## **5 HOUSING STANDARDS TEAM**

- 5.1 The service offers a comprehensive housing advice service to all residents and property owners of the Borough, as well as the enforcement of housing statute, where appropriate, which contributes to the delivery of Redcar & Cleveland's Housing Strategy.
- 5.2 The team continues to enforce existing legislation including the licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation, delivery of selective licensing within the designated area of the older street housing area of South Bank, investigation of illegal evictions and harassment, encouraging empty property owners to return their property back into use, inspection of privately rented accommodation to ensure properties are free from unacceptable risks and are fire safe and working with landlords and agents to drive up the standard and management of rented accommodation.
- 5.3 In 2022-23 we have seen an increase in the number of service requests received by the team:



5.4 A significant proportion of the work undertaken by the Team relates to dealing with public health, statutory nuisance, and pest control issues within the Borough. Examples of this work includes reports of accumulations of household waste, rats on land and private drainage problems.

5.5 Between 2016-2020 the number of requests related to vermin activity/infestations were relatively consistent however we have seen the number increase steadily post pandemic, during 2022/23 the team has received nearly three times as many requests than they had seen pre-pandemic. With a significant number of these requests relating to rat activity within the home.

## 6 Selective Licensing

6.1 95 properties within the designated area (older housing area of South Bank), are currently licenced. We are not currently aware of any properties operating without a licence.

6.2 An inspection programme began in Autumn of 2022, to ensure that licence conditions are being adhered to and relevant certification has been renewed since the license was approved. To date 46 of the licensed properties have been inspected, the remaining licensed properties will be inspected by May 2023. No significant housing standards issues have been found and conditions are being adhered to in all properties inspected to date. Review of all non-licensable properties will be undertaken in summer 2023 to ensure circumstances have not changed.

6.3 An evaluation and exit strategy for the designated area will be developed in autumn 2023 in preparation for the end of the current scheme in March 2024. To designate a new scheme for a further 5 years this must be supported by a robust evidence base that determines licensing is the proportionate response to the current local conditions. Any proposed scheme is also subject to a comprehensive consultation prior to any approval and implementation.

## 7 Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing

7.1 Houses in Multiple Occupation licenses run for 5 years. There are currently 29 licensable Houses in Multiple occupation operating within the borough, six of which were issued in 2022/23.

## 8 Enforcement Activity

8.1 Enforcement activity by the Housing Standards Team is a proportionate, stepped response in line with the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy.

8.2 198 enforcement Notices have been served by the Housing Standards Team since 1 April 2022.

Type of Notice served	Number served
Intention or decision to grant a licence (Housing Act 2004)	98
Notice of Entry (Housing Act 2004)	60
Request for documentation (Housing Act 2004)	3
Informal disrepair (Housing Act 2004)	16
Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Accumulations)	16
Open to Access (Local Government & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982)	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>

8.3 In May 2022 the Civil Penalties (Housing and Planning Act 2016) Policy was approved by Cabinet. This procedure outlined the process for the use of civil penalties as an alternative to prosecution for specified housing offences. The civil penalty powers complement the existing enforcement tools that local authorities have.

## 9 Dampness and Mould Growth

9.1 In November 2022, in response to the tragic death of two-year old Awaab Ishak, as a consequence of high levels of damp and mould growth in his housing association home, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing & Communities, wrote to all local housing authorities in November 2022 requesting an assessment of damp and mould issues which were affecting privately rented properties in local authority areas.

1. Based upon our most recent stock model data, officers contact with landlords and tenants and our local knowledge of the housing stock, it is estimated that



less than 2% of the private rented sector properties in Redcar & Cleveland have category 1 damp and mould hazards\*. With less than 10% of the private rented housing stock estimated to have category 2\*\* damp and mould growth hazards.

2. Analysis of the service requests received by the local authority over the last 3 years, relating to damp and mould growth in the private rented sector.

Year	No. of complaint received relating to Damp & Mould in the private rented sector	No. of damp & mould complaints that resulted in an inspection	Following inspection No. of Category 1* Hazards identified	Following inspection No. of Category 2** Hazards identified	No. of informal Notices served
2019/20	44	32	0	15	15
2020/21	107	70	0	42	42
2021/22	100	75	0	40	40

\*&\*\*--as assessed by the Housing Act 2004 Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

- 9.2 The Government is currently reviewing the responses returned by all local authorities, they have committed to undertake a rapid review of existing guidance on the health impacts of damp and mould, followed by new guidance tailored to the housing sector, to be published by Summer 2023.

## 10 Rogue landlords

- 10.1 I have been in communication with Simon Clarke MP around concerns I have with rogue landlords operating in the borough. A meeting with a government minister is proposed for the near future when I will be sharing my concerns and lobbying government to provide more powers to local authorities to deal with rogue landlords.

## 11 Affordable Warmth

- 11.1 The Housing Standards Team also operate a dedicated advice service for our residents, 'Warm & Well', delivered primarily through our Energy & Affordable Warmth Officer. We offer tailored advice and signposting to grants and assistance to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty for residents across the borough.
- 11.2 In July 2021 Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council secured funding from the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (**LAD2**). Further funding was secured in January 2022 resulting in a total funding pot of £2,179,926.
- 11.3 Upon completion of the scheme in June 2022, 258 energy measures had been installed in 195 homes across the borough.
- 11.4 The local authority was also able to secure new private sector housing stock data during the scheme, in respect of both the energy efficiency of dwellings, estimates of fuel poor households, together with wider housing standards information,

including levels of disrepair boroughwide. The data will be used to assist future targeted work for both energy efficiency and housing condition within the private housing sector.

- 11.5 In April 2022 the Government launched £350M ‘Sustainable Warmth Competition for local authorities in England’. Combining two schemes into one competition; £200M (3rd phase of the Local Authority Delivery LAD3) and £150M (**HUG1**) Homes Upgrade Grant. A consortium bid led by TVCA, and all Tees Valley Local Authorities was successful in receiving funding in relation HUG 1.
- 11.6 HUG works are available in off gas areas, solutions being air source heat pumps. This funding was due to end in March 2023 however a proposal has been requested to extend the scheme until Summer 2023, to maximise funding and complete all measure installs, the scheme has received sufficient enquiries to commit all funding secured. We are awaiting further information in relation to the number of properties improved and measures installed to date in our area.
- 11.7 A further round of HUG funding was announced in November 2023 (**HUG2**). A consortium bid between Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Redcar & Cleveland and Darlington Borough Council was submitted at the end of January 2023. In February 2023 we were informed that this bid was successful. It is anticipated that the outcome of the bid will be announced shortly. If successful it is anticipated that 300 homes across the four local authority areas will be improved during the lifetime of the scheme. It is anticipated that works would begin in Autumn 2023 and would run until March 2025.
- 11.8 **ECO Flex Funding** forms part of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme. Under ECO energy companies must provide funding for energy efficiency improvements to eligible households who are in receipt of particular benefits. ECO Flex allows individual local authorities to declare additional households as eligible for ECO funding, meaning that more households can receive support. In essence households don’t have to be on a qualifying benefit as long as they live in one of the qualifying ‘fuel poverty’ wards or meet one of the other extended eligibility criteria.
- 11.9 The Government launched the fourth round of its Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme in 2022. ECO4 introduced changes over the previous round (ECO3) and has removed some types of measures from the offer but added others, whilst also narrowing the criteria for eligibility. Measures available under ECO Flex include loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, low carbon heating (e.g., air source heat pumps), solar PV panels and window glazing). The measures to be installed are determined by the installer based upon Energy Performance Certification (EPC) recommendations and the level of funding available.

- 11.10 An owner-occupied property must have an energy efficiency rating of D, E, F or G to be eligible.
- 11.11 A property rented from a private landlord must have an energy efficiency rating of E, F or G to be eligible and the owner's permission is required to do the work.
- 11.12 The installer must demonstrate that the proposed energy efficiency measures will increase the EPC rating of a property by two whole bands (e.g., from E to C, D to B, etc).
- 11.13 The ECO4 Flex Statement of Intent for Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council has been recently published, installers can find householders across the borough who are eligible under the local ECO4 Flex criteria as well as the current national criteria. The local authority approves the application submitted by the contractor and confirms that the household is eligible. The process for approving ECO Flex applications has also altered with additional administrative auditing and reporting burdens being placed on local authorities. An approval fee of £55 per application will be charged to the contractor. The local authority is not involved or responsible for issuing the funding, appointing contractors or installing the works.
- 11.14 It is currently difficult to estimate the number of applications we will receive under ECO4 Flex due to the new requirement that installed measures result in a two-grade EPC rating improvement.
- 11.15 Under ECO3Flex the local authority approved 2087 applications submitted by contractors between March 2019 and April 2022.

## **12 Refugee Resettlement Team**

- 12.1 Since 2016 the Housing Standards Team in partnership with Thirteen Housing has supported refugees who have arrived in Redcar & Cleveland as part of the Government's resettlement programmes. We have a further 2 households to arrive to complete the pledge made prior to the pandemic. No new commitment has yet been made by the local authority in relation to UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) arrivals.
- 12.2 In the Autumn of 2022 following a request by the UK Government the local authority advised the Government that we would also support 5 Afghan refugee households as part of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) & Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). One household from this pledge arrived in October 2022. We are awaiting arrival dates for two proposed households, with the remaining households yet to be confirmed. No new commitment has been made to accept further Afghan refugee households.

- 12.3 The Refugee Resettlement Service, delivered with our partner Thirteen Housing, is fully funded by the local authority tariff, which is awarded by the Home Office, for each person who arrives and remains living in the borough for the support period related to each resettlement scheme. We are currently supporting 214 refugees under the above two schemes.
- 12.4 In February 2022 we saw the start of the Ukraine war. In response to the refugee crisis the UK Government introduced the new Homes for Ukraine Scheme where residents within the UK could offer to host Ukraine refugees in their own home.
- 12.5 The local authority is funded to support the host and the refugee for the first year, following arrival into the UK. This support includes assisting the Ukrainian refugees to integrate into the community, access school places, access English (English for speakers of other languages, ESOL) classes, find employment and find alternative accommodation, should the host/refugee relationship break down or when the refugee is ready for independent living.
- 12.6 In Autumn 2022 the Refugee Team along with colleagues in the Housing Advice and Information Team held an advice session for Ukrainian refugees around housing options beyond the host accommodation which they all access upon arrival. Assisting and mediating with hosts and guests has reduced the number of approaches by households in housing need, resulting in households undertaking planned moves to live independently in accommodation.
- 12.7 Since the first arrival in April 2022, we have supported 59 hosts and 112 Ukrainian refugees. We continue to support, 28 households (61 people) who remain with hosts and 8 households (15 people) who live independently within Redcar & Cleveland. Of the 22 households (36 people) who have left Redcar & Cleveland 10 people have returned to the Ukraine, 8 people have moved to other countries and 18 have moved elsewhere in the UK.
- 12.8 We continue to receive applications from hosts, currently 9 hosts are awaiting the arrival of their guests.

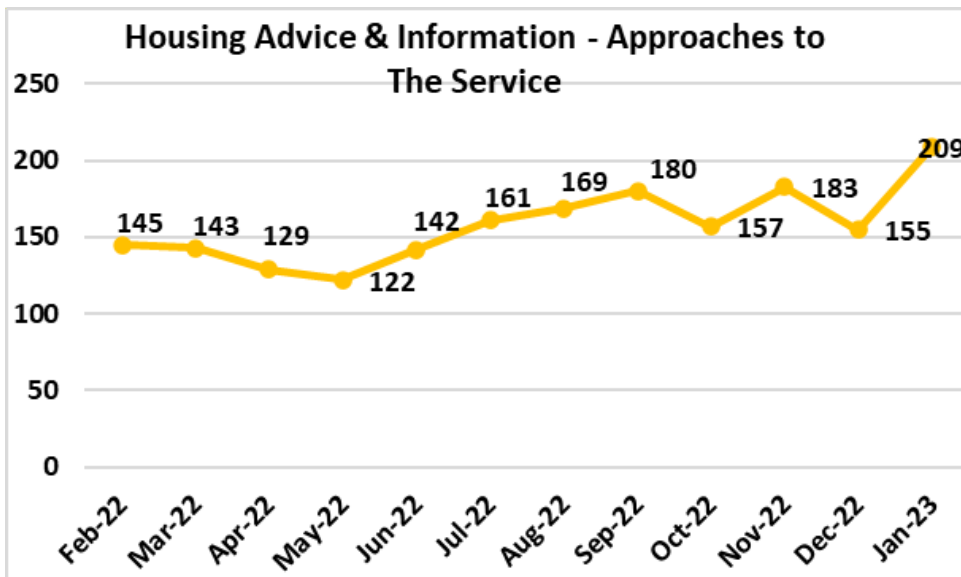
### **13 Housing Advice & Information Team**

- 13.1 The team has continued to respond to clients who find themselves in housing need or threatened with homelessness. The team provides advice and guidance to clients who find themselves at risk of homelessness following serving of a notice seeking possession. The team provide advice to landlords where notices are incorrect and seek to work with them to resolve any issues that may have initiated the notice being served, or where remaining in the property is not possible a planned move to suitable alternative accommodation can be arranged. The team continues to work

closely with partner agencies and other services to reduce the number of people who are at risk of becoming homeless.

13.2 Service demand has increased significantly since February 2022, by 44%, this can be attributed to a number of factors including the cost-of-living crisis, landlords selling properties and exiting the lettings market and some landlords who have increased rents, which unfortunately many tenants are not able to afford and are therefore issued with a notice of possession by the landlord. We have seen a 52% increase over the last year compared to the previous year, the reason for approach to the service due to a tenant being served notice by their landlord.

13.3 We continue to work with customers to ensure properties are affordable by maximising income and completing affordability checks before they enter into tenancy agreements, especially for those that are struggling financially. Whilst liaising with landlord and letting agents to source/secure affordable properties.



## 14 Rough Sleepers

14.1 We have seen an increase in cases comparing the 2021 annual count number which was nil to the 2022 count number which was 6. This is a pattern which has been seen across the North East region and the wider UK. The reasons for the increase in rough sleepers vary. People from out of area have exhausted options in their local area and move to new areas, more people are being asked to leave accommodation due to their behaviours/damage to property which are associated with mental health issues, criminal behaviour, ASB, substance misuse issues and the subsequent risk they pose to others within the accommodation, staff who manage accommodation and residents in the surrounding area.

- 14.2 The team secured Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding from the 2022-25 programme of £135,000. This funding is supporting our targeted work with those who are at risk of rough sleeping or found to be rough sleeping in this borough. A floating support service is available to assist in the verification of rough sleepers, making first contact and supports clients who move off the street and then onto settled accommodation. Funding is also used to assist clients to access services which they may have disengaged with, to move into independent accommodation and to reconnect to home areas, outside of this borough, where they can be helped by family, friends and local services to flourish.

## **15 Asylum Seekers**

- 15.1 The Home Office has appointed contractors who deliver the accommodation and support contracts, across the North East, Yorkshire, and Humberside. The Local Authority has no responsibility for Asylum Seekers, the contractors (Mears) are looking to increase the number of properties they use to deliver the accommodation contract on behalf of the Home Office.
- 15.2 We currently have 220 asylum seekers accommodated in 52 properties across the borough, a mix of family and HMO properties for single male and females. The cluster limit for this borough is 676.
- 15.3 We continue to work closely with the North East Rise, a support service for asylum seekers who have been given leave to remain, to support them to access accommodation, work and educational training programmes after securing a positive outcome from their Home Office asylum application.

## **16 Housing First**

- 16.1 In response to the motion which was proposed at Borough Council in February I confirm that officers have been requested to identify the need for Housing First in this borough, and to explore the support by local partners to participate in the implementation of such schemes in the future. In the meantime, I have written to the government to request additional funding is made available to support local authorities to increase provision of Housing First in areas where it is needed.



# Member Report – For Information

## Decisions Taken Under Urgency Decisions

**Report to:** Borough Council

**Report from:** Leader of the Council

**Portfolio:** Leader of the Council

**Report Date:** 30 March 2023

**Decision Type:** For Information

**Council Priority:** All Priorities

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## HEADLINE POSITION

### 1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of 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.

## DETAILED PROPOSALS

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

- 2.1 This report aims to inform Members of any urgent decisions taken by the Council during the last quarter and since the last report to Borough Council on 12 January 2023.

### 3.0 Background and detail

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

#### **4.0 Appendices and Background Papers**

4.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of decisions taken using urgency provisions, including links to the associated decisions records.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 Council Members are requested to note the following decision that has been taken using urgency provisions:

- a. Approval of the use of the Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24.

#### **6.0 Contact Officer**

**6.1 Name:** Alison Pearson

**6.2 Position:** Governance Manager

**6.3 Email address:** Alison.pearson@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

**6.4 Telephone Number:** 01642 444063



## 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><a href="#">Approval of the use of the Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24</a></p> <p>Value: The Council's funding allocation is £361,113</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources – Cllr Glyn Nightingale</p> <p>2 March 2023</p>	<p>In December 2022 Government announced £100M discretionary funding to be used by local authorities during financial year 2023-2024 to mitigate council tax increases for lowest income households. Government guidance recommends that the funding is used to make one off reductions of up to £25, allocated against the council tax liabilities of Council Tax Support recipients. The amount of funding received by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is £361,113.</p> <p>Proposed use of the discretionary fund: Households that qualify for and Council Tax Support and still have some council tax to pay after support has been applied to their account will receive the reduction. The reduction will be a maximum of £25 and will be shown on their annual Council Tax Bill for 2023/24. An analysis of the current Council Tax Support caseload has identified that circa 13,600 households will receive a discretionary reduction in 2023/24 which will utilise the funding provided by government. In the event that funding is not allocated at predicted levels, the Council may, at a later date, decide to use any remaining fund on a discretionary 'case by case' basis to reduce council tax liabilities for residents that are in hardship and</p>	<p>Councillor Chris Massey – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny &amp; Improvement Committee.</p>

Decision	Decision Maker and date of decision	Reason for Urgency	Scrutiny Consultation
		<p>are struggling to pay their council tax. Call-in was disapplied due to the urgency of applying council tax reductions at the same time of council tax annual billing and the imminent issuance of council tax demands within legally binding timescales for payment, a call-in process delaying the decision would not be in public interest as some residents would not receive the reductions to council tax liabilities that they are entitled to.</p>	