

What you said**Key messages are as follows:**

- We need to include a much stronger reference to transport issues - access to public transport is a real issue for everyone, including young people, older people, rural areas and disabled;
- We need to take a more imaginative approach to transport and not just rely on bus companies to address transport needs;
- Affordability of public transport is a key issue;
- More emphasis is needed on employment and what future strategies we will be doing to keep unemployment low;
- Economic growth needs to benefit the local community;
- Need to attract larger businesses to the area;
- Smaller businesses should be encouraged into the area, there should be more emphasis on neighbourhood shopping, commerce and leisure facilities;
- Concerns were expressed that the land around the River Tees would be too built up by 2011. The protection of the Tees should be an ambition within the document (as well as the ambition around developing the river) The proposed projects and developments along the river should be incorporated together and the site should be seen as a single entity;
- The River Tees needs activities to bring it back to life.

Other points include:

- High Street has lost its character - should try and encourage larger stores to open in Stockton;
- Page 24: the bullet point “Stockton is now the second most expensive area in the North East to rent office space” this shouldn’t be promoted like this as it may put businesses off knowing they will have high overheads. Possibly say that we have excellent facilities and office space;
- Transport should be a theme in its own right;
- There should be an ambition around encouraging the use of community transport;
- Offices are being built all over the town, most of them are just standing empty, affordable housing should be built instead

What we did

- Transport issues are already covered as an ambition including a variety of modes, car, bus, the proposed metro and air travel. The need to provide public transport in rural communities is also covered. The need to make public transport more affordable has now been included and is also covered in the Children and Young People’s section. A reference to community transport has been added.
- The need to keep unemployment low, ensuring the employability of local people and encouraging large businesses into the area are all already covered.
- A strengthened reference to neighbourhood shopping has been included.
- Development around the River Tees will be multi-use including commerce, housing and leisure. The Blue Green Heart will ensure open space around the river will remain.
- The reference to the cost of office space has been amended.