

LEADER'S STATEMENT AND ANNUAL REVIEW 2012 - 2013



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Big plans, bright future

LEADER'S STATEMENT

As the second year of this joint administration draws to a close it is timely to look back at the past year and reflect on all that we have achieved, the challenges we face and on the progress we have made in delivering our ambitious plans for the Borough.

There is no doubt we are currently facing unprecedented financial challenges in local government and this has meant we have had to spend a great deal of time during the past year reviewing everything we do and making some difficult decisions about the services we can afford to deliver. Throughout this we have remained resolutely committed to doing all we can to support all our residents and particularly to protecting the most vulnerable people across the Borough.

However despite this I am delighted we have also continued to drive forward our transformation of the Borough by investing in our regeneration schemes and supporting major business investment in the area. We have big plans for the Borough and looking back at the past year we can see impressive progress across all these developments.

As we begin the new financial year our commitment to delivering the very best services we can remains as strong as ever as we grapple with the challenge of significant cuts in funding. We'll continue to approach these challenges with the aim of protecting and supporting our most vulnerable people. We also go into the new financial year with an ongoing commitment to our investment in our major regeneration plans for the Borough and will continue to do so with enthusiasm and determination.



March 2013



Bob Cook
Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

YOUR COUNCIL

In 2012/13, despite challenging times, we've seen:

- Positive results from the 2012 Ipsos MORI Residents Survey. Overall results show:
 - 64% of our residents are satisfied with how we run things (compared to the comparison average of 50%)
 - 62% of people trust us (compared with the comparison average of 53%)
 - 64% of people think we keep them well informed (compared with the comparison average of 57%)
- We've been shortlisted again for the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) National Council of the Year, for the third year running.
- We've undertaken a wide range of public consultations on proposed service changes.
- District Audit have found our financial practice and approach to seeking value for money to be good.
- We've continued to build on our three year review programme which has already delivered over £20m of annual savings to develop an approach which secures a balanced budget for 2013/14.
- We have developed an approach to tackle the £17.8m shortfall in funding over the next three years.



ECONOMIC REGENERATION & TRANSPORT

We've continued to drive projects which will bring economic prosperity and create jobs:

- We've secured £12m to tackle traffic congestion on the A19 and A174.
- We've spent £550k to improve the junction to the new North Shore Academy.
- We've invested £1.7m to improve Eaglescliffe, Stockton, Billingham and Allens West railway stations.
- We've made great progress in the redevelopment of Stockton Town Centre:
 - Work has started on the major redevelopment of the High Street
 - Major bus scheme improvements are being delivered
 - Major private sector investments have been made in Castlegate Shopping Centre and Debenhams improvements
 - A Heritage Lottery Enterprise bid is under development for The Globe
 - More than £600,000 of Heritage Funds have been invested to improve Heritage buildings
 - The £1m Digital City development has been completed
 - The Enterprise Arcade 'incubator' for new retail businesses continues to thrive





- In Billingham we've:
 - Invested £2.35m on improving the town centre and John Whitehead Park
 - Approved the investment of £2.7m in a new library and customer contact centre
 - Billingham Forum had its formal Royal opening after the £18m redevelopment
 - Billingham House has been demolished after we won a long fought legal battle
- We've invested £600k to create 147 additional jobs for 16 - 24 year olds through the Stockton Youth Employment Initiative.
- We've invested £7m to help more than 3,000 residents to improve their skills and 1,950 to find work.
- We've supported the establishment of the Tees Valley Enterprise Zone which has seen business expansion at Belasis Business Park and £380m investment from Air Products into a waste to energy plant.
- We supported Tees Valley Unlimited in securing £15m of Regional Growth Fund money to support business expansion. This has led to major investments such as the £20m investment by Nifco in a new factory at Eaglescliffe and the £116m investment by SNF Oil and Gas in Billingham.



ENVIRONMENT & HOUSING

This year we've continued our hard work to make the Borough an even better place to live:

- We've seen continued progress across all our Housing regeneration schemes:
 - 420 of the 640 new homes in the £70m Hardwick redevelopment have now been built . Aspen Gardens, the 50 unit Extra Care Scheme, opened this year (in partnership with Endeavour Housing) alongside 20 apartments for older people
 - 697 of the 867 new homes in the £80m Mandale redevelopment have now been built. The £1m development of the Alison Trainer Park was completed this year
 - The redevelopment at Parkfield has continued with a planning application for 117 new properties submitted
 - £2m of funding for the redevelopment of Swainby Road has been secured and demolition work has started
 - Residents on the Victoria Estate have begun to move to allow the redevelopment work to begin
- We've secured £8m of private investment to make energy efficiency improvements to 1,700 private homes.
- We've invested £1m in a Local Authority Mortgage Scheme to help support first time buyers.





- We established a policy which requires 20% affordable housing on new housing developments and made policy changes to bring empty properties back in to use.
- We've developed a new policy for allocating social housing across the Tees Valley which gives priority to the most vulnerable.
- We've invested over £900k in our parks and green infrastructure.
- We won gold medals at Britain in Bloom and represented the region in 'champion of champions'. Stockton, Thornaby and Billingham all won accolades in Northumbria in Bloom.
- We only missed four bin collections from the 4.3 million we've collected this year. This is our best ever performance, in spite of floods and severe weather.
- We worked with partners to provide vital support and clean-up after the floods in September and November and invested £100k to support improved flood defences.
- We've installed 34 electric car charging points across the Borough and invested in six electric cars. We're powering these points from renewable energy via photovoltaic panels on roofs of Council buildings.
- We've improved controls to over 8,000 street lights and are now saving over £150k in electricity costs each year.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

We've continued to work to improve the wellbeing of people in our community:

- We've seen a reduction in smoking by 1.8%, that's more than 1,000 quitters.
- Alcohol related admissions to hospital have reduced and are now lower than the North East average.
- We've put in place all the arrangements necessary to take on public health responsibilities from April 2013 following NHS reforms:
 - We've appointed a Director for Public Health
 - Established a new Health and Wellbeing Board and Partnership
 - Approved a Health and Wellbeing Strategy based on a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the Borough
- We've commissioned a Healthwatch service to provide information and sign posting for health and social care services in the Borough.
- The Warm Homes, Healthy People programme has provided support to approximately 1,500 people suffering from cold related health problems.



ADULT SERVICES

We continue to work to ensure everyone in our community is treated with dignity and receives the attention, care and assistance they need:

- We've offered all of our service users personalised budgets. 88% of people are now choosing "self directed" support - giving them choice and control over their own support plans.
- 78% of clients who have received intermediate care have gone home without the need for additional support.
- We've reduced re-admission rates to intermediate care to 6%.
- Over 1000 clients are retaining their independence in their own home rather than in residential care with the support of our Telecare support service.
- We've worked with our partners to deliver information and advice sessions to help our residents understand the Government's changes to housing and welfare benefits.
- We've approved £85,000 additional funding to support those affected by the Government's welfare reform changes including increased support relating to housing options, housing benefits and information and advice.
- We've undertaken major reviews and consultations with users of carers services, services for people with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health services in the Borough. We are now well placed to deliver changes to these services.



ARTS, CULTURE & LEISURE

We continue to offer a packed programme of events to enrich the lives of the people who live here and to attract others here to share the fun:

- The £7m redevelopment of Preston Park Museum and Grounds was completed in July. We've seen more than 100,000 visitors since it re-opened and we've been short-listed for the prestigious Arts Fund Museum of the Year award.
- We delivered an exciting programme of free and affordable events. 2013 saw the 25th Year of SIRF, the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, the Olympic torch relay, the Cycling Festival, the ever popular Fireworks, the first Diwali inspired Festival of Light and our most successful "Stockton Sparkles" Christmas festival. Attracting more than 550,000 visitors and generating additional income into the local economy.
- Our growing calendar of Specialist Markets is going from strength to strength bringing business and people to our Town Centres.
- We've lit the river with a dramatic lighting scheme to provide a backdrop for events and entertainment.
- June saw the official re-opening of the redeveloped White Water course at the Tees Barrage with the excitement of a visit from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- We've continued to develop our financially inclusive charging policies with free internet access at our libraries and low-cost admission to Preston Hall.



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Reducing crime and the fear of crime remains one of our most important aspirations:

- Crime levels and also fear of crime remain the lowest in the Tees Valley.
- Overall crime, criminal damage, re-offending and first time entrants to the youth justice system rates continue to reduce.
- The 2012 Ipsos MORI survey showed that 91% of residents say they feel safe outside in their local area during the day, with 63% feeling safe at night – both improvements on the previous survey.
- We continue to target our services to those most in need. We secured £500k to invest in a 'Troubled Families' programme which targets support for families with multiple problems.
- We ran the elections and established the Police and Crime Commissioner Boards to support the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Our promise is that not one child in the Borough will be knowingly forgotten or let down. This year:

- We've transformed our delivery model for Children's Centres. With a more targeted approach to areas of most need.
- We've developed a £42m schools capital programme. This year saw significant work at Northshore and Thornaby Academies and the start of a multi-million pound redevelopment of Ian Ramsey school.
- We've continued to develop the successful "Campus Stockton" partnership of all schools working together for the benefit of children in the Borough.
- We approved a £2m investment in the redevelopment of the King Edwin School site to deliver a school for looked after children. We'll be able to bring children back to the Borough who are being looked after away from home.
- We've opened two new Children's homes.
- 83% of young people achieved five or more GCSE's A*-C last year – the best ever performance for Stockton.





- We've supported our schools to improve their Ofsted ratings - 83% of primary schools are now rated "Good" or better.
- Our Adoption Service achieved an "Outstanding" rating from Ofsted. Our Fostering Service was rated as "Good", with outcomes for children and young people "Outstanding".
- The GCSE attainment levels and attendance and exclusion rates of our looked after children were better than the national average last year.
- We've continued to support our looked after children into apprenticeships and training.
- We've seen a huge rise in interest in democracy amongst young people with the successful elections for the National Youth Parliament.
- We are working on the creation of a new young residents' consultation network to provide a voice for them on our plans.



STRONG COMMUNITIES

Communities lie at the heart of what makes our Borough so strong and so amazing. This year:

- We've continued a £250,000 investment fund to support voluntary and community organisations. More than 41 local organisations have benefited from this.
- We've signed a Community Covenant to support Armed Forces personnel in the Borough.
- We've delivered a successful workshop programme to support local voluntary and community sector organisations.
- We've secured investment via Catalyst for additional resource to develop the transfer of assets to community ownership.
- We're supporting seven Community First panels.
- We're supporting the £1m Big Local programme in Roseworth, funded by Big Lottery.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2013/14

I hope you've enjoyed reading this review of 2012/13.

We start 2013/14 committed to building on what we've achieved this year and we still have big plans and a determination to see them through.

The Cabinet continue to work together to lead the Council to create a Borough that is even more confident, more vibrant and more successful than ever before.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cabinet (March 2013)



Bob Cook
Leader
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Jim Beall
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member
for Adult Services & Health
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



David Coleman
Cabinet Member for Access & Communities
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Kenneth Dixon
Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure & Culture
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



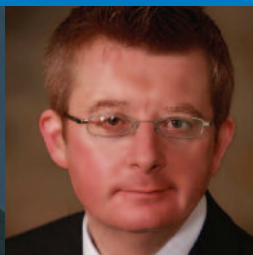
Ann McCoy
Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



David Harrington
Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
& Finance
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Steve Nelson
Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



David Rose
Cabinet Member for Environment
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Mike Smith
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Transport
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

