

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....15th October 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

Investing In Our Town Centres

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered an update on progress with transformational change across the Borough's six town centres.

In February 2020 Cabinet approved a vision for Stockton town centre which focused on the reduction of retail space and the redevelopment of the Castlegate site linking the High Street to the River and providing the opportunity for commercial development. This was considered by Cabinet as part of the Council's accommodation review which identified the need for two new modern low carbon buildings in Stockton and Billingham to replace the costly, inefficient ten existing administrative buildings.

The Council remained committed to investment across all town centres in the Borough and in January 2020 concluded the consultation programme 'let's talk about our towns'. Over the past seven months the Covid-19 pandemic had had an unprecedented impact on the lives of residents across the Borough and the country and the world. As well as the devastating health impacts, the damage to the economy had also been unprecedented and the vulnerable viability of town centres before the pandemic was now more challenging than ever.

Recognising the economic challenges, the Council remained committed to investment across its town centres and strengthening its resolve to ensure they have a vibrancy for future generations. The report set out the opportunities for investment across the six town centres and outlined the next steps including some early opportunities.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet note the consultation responses from 'Lets Talk about our Towns', which concluded in January 2020 and delegate the forward engagement strategy for each Town to the Director of Town Centres Investment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

2. Cabinet approve the emerging priorities for the Thornaby Town Investment Plan as detailed in paragraph 21 of the report and delegate final approval of a final submission document to the Director of Town Centres Investment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.
3. Cabinet approve use of £750,000 Towns Fund funding to support delivery of priorities identified for inclusion within the Thornaby Town Investment Plan.
4. Cabinet approve the recommendation as set out in paragraph 2 of Appendix A.
5. Cabinet approve the principle of developing a masterplan for Billingham and full business case that will explore large scale commercial investment opportunities with the owners of the Centre, St Modwen, including routes to delivery, shareholding and joint venture opportunities; the outcome of the business case to be presented to Cabinet in early 2021.
6. Cabinet agree to receive masterplans at a future meeting in early 2021, which will include development proposals for:  
  
Billingham  
Ingleby Barwick  
Norton  
Stockton  
Thornaby (Town Investment Plan update)  
Yarm
7. Cabinet approve the allocation of up to £250,000 of the resources allocated to Town Centres Investment approved in the Council's Medium Term Financial for the development of masterplan and business case developments detailed within recommendation 6 above.

### 3. Reasons for the Decision

The ongoing commitment by Council to invest in its town centres has been strengthened further by the impact of the pandemic and decisive investment action is the only response to ensure they have a sustainable, low carbon future. The recommendations will allow further detailed work to be undertaken to ensure robust investment proposals can be brought back to Cabinet for recommendation to Council in the coming months.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Investing in our Town Centres' as a result of his membership of Thirteen, who were referred to indirectly during consideration of the item.

Councillor Cooke also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the same item as a result of being a member of the Thornaby Town Deal Board referred to within the report.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight-Friday 23rd September 2020

Proper Officer  
19 October 2020