

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

15 JULY 2021

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**A FAIRER STOCKTON-ON-TEES: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING
INEQUALITIES IN THE BOROUGH**

SUMMARY

This report presents the consultation draft of the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Endorse the consultation draft;
2. Agree to a programme of engagement
3. Agree to receive a final draft at its meeting in October 2021

DETAIL

1. The consultation draft of 'A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees' strategic framework is attached at Annex 1.
2. The framework outlines:
 - a) The key causes of inequality, based on analysis of available research, with the key focus on how income, wealth and power;
 - b) The basis of a strategic approach, recognising the need to take action across strategy, interventions, practice and for the Council as a major employer, commissioner, provider.
3. The strategic framework sets out a vision and ambition for reducing inequality over the next ten years.
4. To realise the ambition outlined in the framework, it identifies five key interventions
 - a) Tackling fundamental issues across the borough as a whole;
 - b) A focus on reducing the inequalities faced by identified disadvantaged communities;
 - c) A focus on deprived neighbourhoods;
 - d) A focus on the most marginalized;
 - e) An emphasis on the Council as a major employer, commissioner and purchaser
5. The framework includes a proposed governance and accountability structure, and an engagement plan.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

6. An impact assessment will accompany the final version of the framework in October.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The strategic framework identifies the need for additional resources to deliver the strategy, around coordination and delivery and also around intervention. The details of this will be included in the October cabinet report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The basis for taking action is to some extent found in the Equality Act 2010.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. The implementation of the strategy will be managed in line with established risk assessment systems. Although the strategy is non-statutory, it has been designed to ensure that there are effective approaches in place to ensure that the needs of children and young people are identified, assessed and responded to in line with statutory requirements.
10. The strategy also forms an element of the local area's response to the 20129 SEND Local Area Inspection.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

11. The strategic framework delivers a key priority in the Council Plan:

Fighting inequality

Inequality is a challenge in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. We have affluent areas alongside areas of deprivation. Nine of our wards are in the 10% most deprived wards in the country and there is a gap of 21 years in average life expectancy amongst men between the most and least deprived wards. We're committed to fighting this discrepancy and making sure more people enjoy a healthy and happy life here.

We will:

Develop a new approach to tackling inequality in the Borough and to ensure that we deliver targeted support and help to those currently living in poverty to improve their outcomes, including around health inequalities and emotional health and wellbeing

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

12. The strategy sets out a broad based approach to tackling inequalities. The specific needs of those who have been in the care system are identified as one of the key communities which provide a focus for this work.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

13. Members have been informally consulted. An engagement plan has been developed to support additional engagement between June and October.

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Education related? Yes or No

Background Papers

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not applicable.

Property

There are no implications for council property.