

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 MAY 2022**

**REPORT OF SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Regeneration and Housing - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nigel Cooke**

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY 2022-2027**

**SUMMARY**

This report presents the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022-27 that sets out its five-year vision and ambitions in relation to inclusive growth. This will be supplemented with an Action Plan that, once developed, will provide details of activities and interventions to support the delivery of the strategy.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS**

To ensure that the Council has a strategy that sets out its vision and ambitions in relation to inclusive growth over the next 5 years.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet approves the Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022-27 and note the intention to produce an Action Plan.
2. Agree that any final amendments and agreement of the document design of the strategy are delegated to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing and the Director of Finance, Development and Regeneration.

**DETAIL**

1. Supporting economic development and inclusive growth are key priorities for Stockton on Tees Borough Council. The Covid-19 pandemic has clearly impacted on the economy with higher levels of unemployment and economic inactivity; with some age groups affected more than others increasing numbers of benefit claimants. It has impacted businesses across the Borough and there are still things that we will not know the full impact of until national support schemes come to an end.
2. Attracting investment and creating jobs has and will continue to be a focus of the council and is a key priority for the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA). There will be opportunities for our residents in existing and new sectors and the strategy will focus supporting residents to access those opportunities.
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4. It will become more important for us to know the jobs of the future within such a changing environment to ensure that the right careers education, information, advice and guidance is provided to our young people and that education and skills curriculum can be developed to align with the needs of the local economy. We want to encourage young people to be aspirational in their career choices and for more of them to be making the right choice, first time. Businesses will require more higher-level skills, and this is predicted to increase over the next 10 years. Young people will need access to clear and relevant information so that their aspirations meet those of businesses and enable them to secure the jobs that will be available locally be that from further education, higher education, or apprenticeship routeways.
5. During the current time we are working in partnership to provide the capacity to businesses to develop their existing and future workforce plans and training needs, which will inform the employment and skills requirements needed in the future. We know that there is a current disparity between the level of qualifications and skills required and those gained by our residents, and this will be a key area of focus. We will strategically lead on the direction of Education, Employment and Skills provision and delivery so that it meets the needs of Stockton-on-Tees' residents and businesses and will work in partnership to harness the significant economic opportunities available across the region over the coming years.
6. Covid-19 has had a detrimental impact on our business community with some sectors more than others being negatively impacted by national lockdowns. Continuing to support our local businesses to sustain and grow remains a key priority; from our work in shaping the business support infrastructure and funding landscape to meeting their current and ongoing needs via business diagnostics, available premises, and recovery and resilience packages of support.
7. As a large procurer of goods and services we will be developing our approach to make it easier for local businesses to access those opportunities and to develop further how we can measure the social value impact of what we spend locally. We have businesses of all sizes operating successfully within Stockton-on-Tees and we are keen to attract more to increase our business base. We aim to develop the supply chains infrastructure locally so that businesses can find what they are looking for with ease and for them to profile their businesses to wider audiences and to explore new markets both within and outside Stockton-on-Tees.
8. We are continuing to invest in regenerating and repurposing local town centres and strategic development sites and raising the profile of the investment opportunities available locally through brand development, an inward investment website and sector relevant approaches to our communications and engagement activity. We will be working closely with landowners, developers and intermediaries in this market to bring forward development that is of a high-quality design, is widely recognised, and provides opportunities for local people.
9. We will continue to work proactively with our partners and stakeholders to enable the residents of the Borough to realise their full potential and benefit from economic growth

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

10. The effects of inclusive economic growth should be felt by all communities. The strategy will aim to prioritise those of greatest need.

#### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

11. There are no direct corporate parenting implications as a result of this strategy but some interventions will apply to all children and young people.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

14. The Inclusive Growth Strategy is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

15. A previous draft was presented to Cabinet in November 2021. Regular briefing sessions have taken place with the portfolio lead.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16. Cabinet - Inclusive Growth Report – 18 November 2021.

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