



Welcome to our
2022-2025 Council Plan



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

We want the Borough to be:

**A place where
people are
healthy, safe
and protected
from harm**

**A place that is
clean, vibrant
and attractive**

**A place with
a thriving
economy
where
everyone has
opportunities
to succeed**

The Plan describes how we are going to do this and what we hope to achieve in 2022-2023.



What is the Council Plan?

The Council Plan sets out our vision and hopes for the Borough looking forward to 2024 and it explains the priorities we will be working on in the coming year to bring the vision to life. This plan is again developed in a difficult financial context, where our long-term funding from Government is not clear. Of course, we all continue to be affected by COVID-19, which is not only having a major impact now, but will have a long term impact on the future of our Borough. We have set out in this plan how we intend to approach recovery and have included this in our wider plans for 2022-2023.

Who is the Council Plan for?

The Council Plan is for everyone who lives and works in the Borough. The Council is here to serve and support you, and we take that responsibility very seriously. That's why we've created this Plan: to set out in one place what we aim to achieve and what we will be focussing on in the coming year, including our response to COVID-19.

Who is involved in it?

We are an ambitious Council, we have big plans for the Borough, and we recognise that we can't achieve them on our own. So, whilst this Council Plan focuses on what we plan to do as a Council, we also have a number of partnership plans that set out the exciting work we're doing with our partners, to bring the vision to life.

Find out more by reading:

- The Community Safety Strategy
- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The Economic Growth Strategy
- The Children's and Young People's Strategy
- The Adult Social Care Strategy
- The Communities Strategy
- The Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy
- The Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework

You can find all of these on our website www.stockton.gov.uk

We have an instinct to collaborate and we work hard to be an effective partner, so you can be sure that we are co-ordinating and driving all the benefits from these closely related plans to make sure that they deliver the greatest possible benefit to the Borough.

We're excited to share our Council Plan with you and hope you share our passion and pride for the Borough. We'd love you to join with us as we continue to steer a path through COVID-19 towards another period of growth and prosperity for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.




Councillor Bob Cook
Leader of the Council




Julie Danks
Managing Director

About Stockton-on-Tees

Our Borough

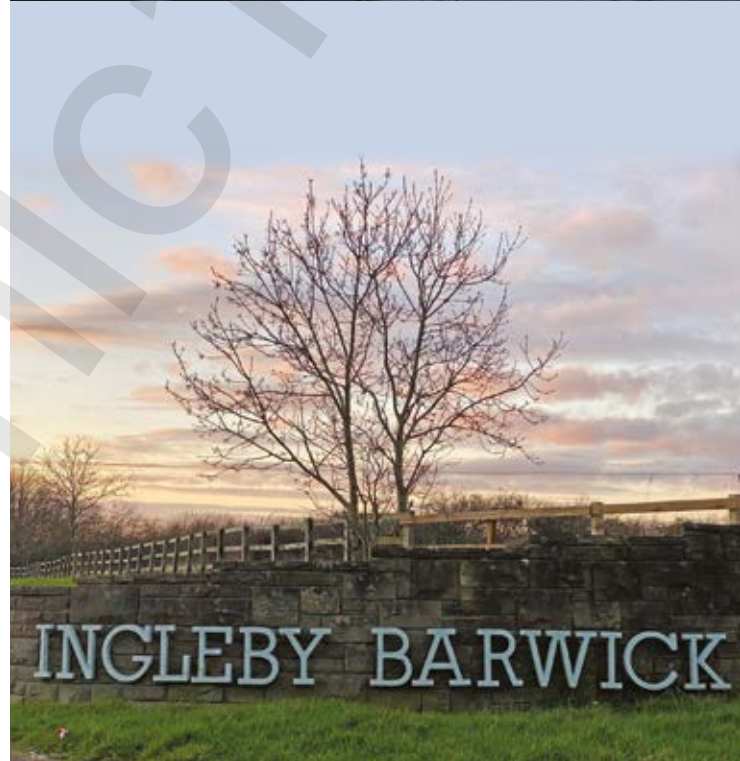
The Borough of Stockton-on-Tees has something for everyone. It's no wonder our population is growing, business is booming, and you tell us you're happy to be here. Here are some things you might like to know about our Borough.

A place people are proud to live

200,000 people call the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees home. They live in our thriving towns - Billingham, Ingleby Barwick, Norton, Stockton, Thornaby and Yarm - and our rural villages. Our population is increasing, with a 2.8% rise over the last seven years, and we're committed to serving this growing community, supported by a thriving and active voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. We're delighted to know people are proud of living here.

Going places and getting further

Business is booming in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, where 5,000 businesses generate £4 billion for the local economy. We account for a third of the Tees Valley economy overall and our towns provide work for people from across the Borough. Our excellent road and rail connections with London and key northern cities make the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees a great place to do business. Whilst Teesside International Airport, on the Borough's boundary, provides international connections for our globally ambitious businesses.



Alive with events, leisure and culture

There's always something to do in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. Whether that is enjoying our beautiful parks and open spaces, the river or visiting our beautiful towns. Although of course impacted by COVID-19, we hope to be able to return to our year-round events programme, and to ensure we can all continue to enjoy the wide range of activities, events and facilities that put our Borough on the map. Our Plan will maintain the Borough's reputation as a thriving and vibrant place to be.



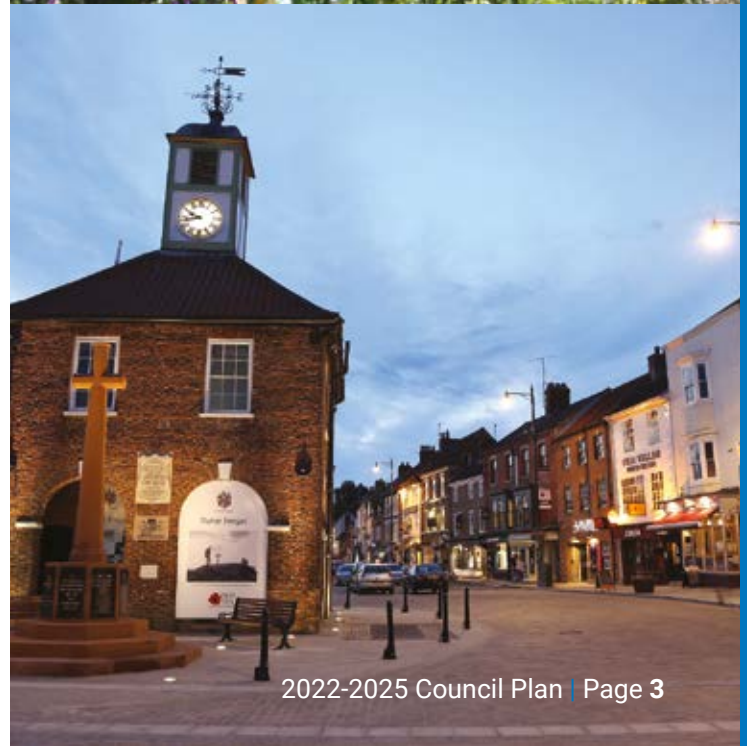
Fighting inequality

Inequality is a challenge in the Borough. We have affluent areas alongside areas of deprivation. Nine of our 26 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.



The climate change challenge

The effects of climate change are becoming ever more apparent. We know that the changes that are required to our transport, homes, industry and lifestyle are challenging and must be long term. The Council is working with a sense of urgency to develop plans in partnership with businesses and other agencies to drive down carbon production and reduce consumption of energy and raw materials. Everyone in the Borough can make a difference.



About our Council

Elected by you

We are a unitary authority elected to serve the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. We are the largest of the five local unitary Councils that make up the Tees Valley region. We have 26 wards, represented by 56 councillors. Following the May 2019 local elections, no political party has overall control of the Council. We have a Leader and Cabinet style administration. That means the Council appoints the Leader, and the Leader appoints the Cabinet.

Planning our financial future

In the current economic climate, and especially as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, finances are always going to be a challenge, and we work hard to make our budget go further.

Our medium-term financial planning approach has allowed us to continually balance our budget through delivering savings and efficiencies but also to plan ahead and deliver invest-to-save schemes and innovative changes to service delivery models.

Our people, our services, our commitment

We always struggle to tell you about our priorities for the year ahead as all of our teams work as if what they deliver is the number one priority. Our teams have risen to the many challenges of COVID-19, continuing to deliver high quality, value for money services, monitored through annual service plans, and by working with key partners in the public, business and voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Our adult and children's social care services, support teams and education support teams work all year round to protect our residents from abuse and exploitation, working alongside the teams in Public Health, Community Safety, Licensing, Trading Standards, Welfare Support, Housing, Catering, Registrars, Bereavement Service, Community Engagement and Environmental Health work to make sure that the Borough is a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm.

Our refuse and recycling, street cleaning, groundworks, parks and maintenance teams all work alongside the teams in heritage, libraries, museums, events and countryside and green space to make sure that the Borough is clean, vibrant and attractive. The Planning, Building Control and Housing Development teams make sure that the Borough has great places to live.

Our Business Support, Inward Investment, Learning and Skills and Town Centre Development teams are working hard to support businesses in the Borough to ensure we have a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed and our Transport teams continue to manage and improve our highways networks ensure that residents and businesses can move freely around the Borough.

And all of our teams, whether on the front line or working in the vital support functions that are needed to make it all happen, are all ambitious, effective and proud to serve.

We're proud to deliver all of these services, however when we look at the situation in the Borough in 2022 and weigh up all of the challenges and opportunities that we face right now and in recovering from the impact of COVID-19 on residents, the community and voluntary sector and businesses, we have identified the following key priorities for the coming year as part of our vision, which remains unchanged.

Our Vision for the Borough

We want the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees to be...

A place where people are **healthy, safe and protected** from harm

This means the Borough will be a place where:

People live in cohesive and safe communities

People are supported and protected from harm

People live healthy lives

This means we will enjoy:

Great places to live and visit

Clean and green spaces

Rich cultural experiences

A place that is **clean, vibrant and attractive**

This means that the Borough will have:

A growing economy

Improved education and skills development

Job creation and increased employment

A place with a **thriving economy** where everyone has **opportunities to succeed**

We will play our part in bringing about this vision for the Borough by being...

A Council that is **ambitious, effective and proud to serve**

This means that we will make sure that we provide:

- Financial sustainability and value for money
- Dedicated and resourceful employees
- Strong leadership and governance



Making the Borough a place where people are **healthy, safe and protected** from harm means creating a place where:

- People live in cohesive and safe communities
- People are supported and protected from harm
- People live healthy lives





We have identified these key priorities for 2022-2023 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

Help to keep families together: develop and embed a new family support offer; enhanced respite support and develop new provision for children in care

Support achievement for all pupils

Develop and embed contextual safeguarding hub

Develop joint commissioning arrangements and new provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities

Support the Arson Reduction Strategy in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade

Maximize the effectiveness of the additional investment made in our community safety related services in order to protect residents and the investment in our town centres

Consider and develop a new serious violence reduction strategy In partnership with other responsible authorities

Give due consideration to the new Protect Duty placed on local authorities as part of the wider national counter-terrorism strategy

Improve food security by securing reliable and resilient food supplies for all organisations and community partnerships working to tackle food poverty in the Borough

Support people to live healthy lives re chronic conditions / long term conditions, alcohol, smoking, obesity / physical activity, mental health

Continue to lead the public health response to Covid and support the approach to recovery, working with partners in the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and offer help to people who are feeling lonely

Continue to work with adult residential care and care at home providers to improve quality of care and to continue to support them as they respond to the challenges arising from COVID-19

Engage with individuals, families, carers and communities when developing adult social care support and continue to collaborate with the NHS to ensure health and care services work effectively together

Review out of area placements and day options provision for adults



Making the Borough a place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed means creating:

- A growing economy
- Improved education and skills development
- Job creation and increased employment





We have identified these key priorities for 2022-2023 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

Continue to develop the place branding campaign and attract inward investment into the Borough

Develop options for increasing the availability of employment land across the Borough

Finalise and implement Inclusive Growth Strategy to support residents to benefit from growth

Develop the Employment and Training Hub model to develop skills support residents into employment

Develop a procurement charter with partners to promote social value, identify potential areas of development of supply chains in order to support local business

Deliver the major transport-related projects at the Portrack Relief Road, Billingham and Eaglescliffe Station improvements, Elton Interchange, and improvements along the A689 corridor

Understand and respond to the implications of changes in travel patterns as a result of the Covid pandemic



Making the Borough a place that is **clean, vibrant and attractive** means creating:

- Great places to live and visit
- Clean and green spaces
- Rich cultural experiences





We have identified these key priorities for 2022-2023 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

Continue the redevelopment of Stockton Town Centre including demolition of Castlegate and development of Urban Park.

Finalise the arrangements for the Town Deal in Thornaby

Deliver the redevelopments in the South of the Borough

Continue redevelopment of Sycamores estate and complete Elm House site

Finalise the review of the private landlord led licensing scheme

Assess options for accelerating affordable and specialist housing across the Borough

Continue programme of road and pavement maintenance and repairs

Implement the first stage objectives of the carbon reduction and environmental sustainability strategy and develop the partnership and community work as a basis for subsequent activity

Develop and adapt our events programme across the borough to respond to the pandemic, incorporating celebrations of the Queens Platinum Jubilee and preparations for the Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary

Deliver improvements works to Preston Hall Museum and Grounds

Support the Combined Authority and Bus Operators in delivering the agreed outcomes and objectives set out in the Tees Valley Enhanced Bus Partnership Plan and Scheme



We are committed to being a Council that is **ambitious, effective and proud to serve**. This means we will provide:

- Financial sustainability and value for money
- Dedicated and resourceful employees
- Strong leadership and governance





We have identified these key priorities for 2022-2023 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

Review the Medium Term Financial Plan, to reflect changes in Government funding arrangements and legislative changes

Develop proposals for redevelopment of Dunedin House to support flexible working arrangements and the re-location of staff from current buildings

Review the Council's land and assets and develop plans for disposal or development

Add new features and functions to the Council website to drive growth in our online services and improve online services for customers

Launch a new Council Volunteering Strategy to support our employees to volunteer in the community and through our No Limits project and to provide additional volunteering opportunities at the Council

Implement the new flexible working arrangements to capitalise and build on the technological advancements and new working practices developed during the pandemic

Continue to develop the Bright Minds Big Futures initiative to ensure that the voice of young people is heard and valued in the development and delivery of Council policies and services

Respond to and implement the Local Government and Parliamentary boundary reviews

Develop and implement Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework



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