Big drop in crime praised

STOCKTON is officially the safest place to live in the Tees Valley, according to newly published crime figures from Cleveland Police showing statistics up to March this year.

Stockton falls 21 per cent below the regional average for recorded crime and a 47 per cent below Middlesbrough.

Despite Stockton being the largest population in the Tees Valley, having increased by more than 11,700 in five years, the total crime rate for the Borough has reduced by 34 per cent. This means there have been 6,000 less victims of crime from the past five years.

Geoff Lee, Chairman of the Safer Stockton Partnership, said: "Despite what some may claim, Stockton has the lowest crime rate in the Tees Valley and we're thrilled about it! The simple message to the public of Stockton is that crime has never been lower and you have never been safer.

"Members of the partnership are delighted with the news the borough has the lowest crime rate in the Tees Valley. Our member organisations and our communities across the Borough work together on a daily basis to reduce crime and disorder and the latest figures are a huge tribute to them. However, while we can appreciate the success there's no time for complacency or resting to admire what's been achieved."

Cllor Steve Nelson, Stockton Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, said: "Cleveland Police, Stockton Borough Council and Cleveland Fire Service have all worked hard to contribute to our winning success in clamping down on crime. We identified the public's concerns and vigorously tackled them. And we want the public to rest assured we will continue working to keep reducing crime."

To find out more about the Safer Stockton Partnership, visit: www.saferstockton.com.