Stockton on Tees Borough Council – Decisions taken by the Cabinet on Monday 16 November 2026

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Part A – Items considered in public

A5	Stockton-on-Tees Plan – Progress 2026	**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL** **CABINET INFORMATION ITEM** **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 16 November 2026 1. Title of Item/Report Stockton-on-Tees Plan – Progress 2026 2. Record of the Decision Consideration was given to a report on Stockton-on-Tees Plan – Progress 2026. Following Council agreement of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan in 2024, it was agreed that Cabinet would receive annual performance updates. The indicators attached to the report provided Cabinet with an update on the Council's progress against the high-level outcomes identified in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan (2024) set a Vision for the future of the Borough, developed with communities, for communities: - Our Vision: Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with

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		confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity. The wider plan was developed to reflect the drivers and priorities that can turn our Vision into reality, and included a picture of success, underpinned by key outcome measures (What success looks like - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council). Outcomes centred around our priority areas of: • The best start in life to achieve big ambitions • Healthy and Resilient Communities • A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit • An Inclusive Economy • A Sustainable Council Appendix 1 of the report provided the progress report against key outcome measures. This was based on latest available data sourced from national and local sources. This included: - Areas where the Council performs above the national average, and demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions: • % of households in fuel poverty

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		• % of children having a good level of development at foundation stage • % of residents have difficulty managing their finances • Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked • Total greenhouse gas emissions (kilo tonnes) - Areas where the Council shows strong performance relative to national averages, however there is a need to manage local trends to improve outcomes: • Average Attainment 8 score - Areas where the Council demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions: • % of residents that feel like they belong to their neighbourhood • Total recorded offences • % of residents who are satisfied with their accommodation • % of residents who feel that the things they do in your life are not worthwhile • % of residents who are satisfied with their current job • Employment rate • Increased Footfall (Combined) in the 5 Town Centres/High Streets in the Borough - Known areas of challenge, which form the basis of targeted activity to improve outcomes: • % of 16 and 17 year olds who were not in education, employment or training • Healthy life expectancy • % of residents who feel safe walking alone (within 15 minutes of their

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		home) • % Economically Inactive People that are Long Term Sick (16-64) • Non domestic rating income (net) RESOLVED that the update be noted. 3. <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> 1. To Ensure Transparency and Accountability: Regular reporting against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan enables Cabinet to monitor progress, assess the effectiveness of service delivery, and ensure that the Council remains accountable to residents and partners. 2. To Support Evidence-Based Decision-Making: The report provides an overview of outcomes, highlighting both achievements and areas requiring improvement. This evidence base supports informed decision-making and prioritisation of resources. 3. To Drive Continuous Improvement: Identifying areas for improvement allows for timely intervention and the implementation of corrective actions. This promotes a culture of continuous improvement across services and contributes to better outcomes for communities. 4. To Align Strategic Priorities: Monitoring progress against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan ensures that the organisation remains focused on delivering its strategic objectives and that progress is aligned with the Council's vision and long-term goals. 5. To Inform Future Planning and Budgeting: Insights from the report can inform future service planning, policy development, and budget setting, ensuring that resources are targeted effectively to meet

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		community needs. 6. To Highlight and Celebrate Success: Recognising areas of strong progression helps to motivate staff, share best practice, and reinforce the Council's commitment to delivering high-quality services. 4. <u>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</u> None 5. <u>Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest</u> None 6. <u>Details of any Dispensations</u> None 7. <u>Date and Time by which Call In must be executed</u> Not applicable. Information only item. Proper Officer
A6	School Performance 2025 - 2026	**<u>TOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL</u>**

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		CABINET INFORMATION ITEM **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 16 November 2026 1. Title of Item/Report School Performance 2025-2026 2. Record of the Decision Consideration was given to a report on School Performance 2025-2026. The report presented a summary of provisional headline performance data for the academic year 2025-26 in all Key Stages for all providers across the Borough. Primary schools continued to perform well. Ofsted had not made an 'overall effectiveness' judgement for schools since September 2024, and from November 2025 the renewed inspection framework introduced a new grading system with 'expected' standard as the benchmark. The new standards were not comparable to the previous grades. Of the 10 primary school inspections which had taken place since November 2025, most had met or exceeded the expected standard in all areas. However, 4 had at least one area that 'needs attention'. This was not a 'failing grade' but did draw additional monitoring from Ofsted.

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		Secondary (including special) schools had also performed well in inspection. Of the 4 inspections under the renewed framework, all had met or exceeded the expected standard in all areas. However, the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) was subject to special measures. Outcomes for Stockton-on-Tees pupils by the end of primary school were mostly above provisional national average for 2026. The proportion of pupils achieving the higher standards at the end of KS2 had continued to improve but remained below average. Outcomes in phonics and at the end of Early Years were improving, but not as much as the national average. GCSE Grade 4 and 5 English and Maths outcomes were well above 2026 national averages. The area where they were not above national averages, was in the top scores (Grade 9) which reflected the regional picture. These results had been self-reported by the schools and academies themselves. Post-16 outcomes (A*-E) continued to perform well, although A*-B grades were not above national averages in this measure, which reflected the regional picture. The key headlines were as follows:- • Provisional outcomes for KS2 are above the national outcomes for the end of KS2. Stockton-on-Tees ranks 2nd in the region and 1st in the Tees Valley. • Outcomes vary widely across the local authority and often reflect the fact that Stockton-on-Tees has some of the most pronounced neighbourhood-level inequalities in the country. The impact of deprivation is particularly evident with almost all of the lowest attaining 20% of schools serving communities with high

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		levels of deprivation. • The average GLD improvement for schools that received additional support from the local authority was almost four times greater than for the local authority as a whole. • Provisional GCSE Grade 4+ outcomes in English and Maths were 71.9%; above regional and national averages. • Provisional GCSE Grade 5+ outcomes in English and Maths were 51.8%; above regional and national averages. • The LA average for A level passes was 98.5%. This is above the national average. • A level A*-B passes were below the national average, which reflects the regional picture. • There is a continued focus to further improve higher grades at A level. RESOLVED that the report be noted. 3. <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> To inform Cabinet of the School Performance 2025-2026. 4. <u>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</u> None 5. <u>Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest</u> None

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		6. Details of any Dispensations None 7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed Not applicable. The report was for noting only. Proper Officer
A7	Local Account for Adults, Health and Wellbeing	**TOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL** **CABINET DECISION** **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 16 November 2026 1. Title of Item/Report Local Account for Adults, Health and Wellbeing 2. Record of the Decision Consideration was given to a report on the Local Account for Adults, Health and

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		Wellbeing. This was the second Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account to be co-produced with the Making it Real Board, Stockton-on-Tees' strategic co-production Board. While it was not mandatory under the Care Act (2014) to publish a Local Account, it was considered good practice. The Local Account was a public-facing document that celebrated achievements from the past year, reflected on challenges, and sets out priorities for the year ahead. Co-producing the report ensured that the views and experiences of people who draw on care and support were central to this process. The Making it Real Board comprised people with lived experience of care and support, carers, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and council officers, worked alongside the Directorate and the Council's Communications Team to shape both the content and design of the report. The Local Account presented a positive but balanced assessment of Adults, Health and Wellbeing services. It highlighted significant achievements and progress against priorities identified in the previous Local Account, including developments in co-production, housing, public health and community safety. The report also recognised ongoing challenges, including health inequalities, housing affordability and homelessness pressures, supporting people to remain independent, improving transitions for young people moving into adult services, and ensuring a wider range of communities were involved in shaping services. These challenges had informed the priorities identified for the year ahead.

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		Community Safety transferred to the Council's Neighbourhoods Directorate in Autumn 2026; consequently, while the Local Account reflected achievements delivered during the period covered by the report, future Community Safety priorities were not included within the priorities section and would instead be reported through the relevant arrangements within the Neighbourhoods Directorate. The Local Account was developed through ongoing discussions at Making it Real Board meetings, where it was included as a standing agenda item. Officers from across the Directorate completed information-gathering templates and attended meetings to discuss achievements, challenges and priorities with Board members, enabling people with lived experience and carers to shape and refine the content of the report. The report also included an update on the progress made against the priorities identified in the previous Local Account, allowing the Board to review what had been achieved and influence future priorities. The Council's Communications Team was engaged from an early stage to support the design and publication of the Local Account. Feedback from Making it Real Board members influenced both the content and presentation of the report, ensuring it was shaped by the experiences and needs of people who draw on care and support. This reflected the Council's commitment to putting communities at the heart of what we do by listening to people, particularly those who may experience inequality, and using their feedback to inform decisions about how information is communicated. The Local Account was a public-facing document that celebrated achievements from the past year, reflected on challenges, and sets out priorities for the year

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		ahead. Co-producing the report helped ensure that the views and experiences of people who drew on care and support were central to how progress was reviewed and future priorities were identified. Denise Ross and Linda Oliver (Chair and Vice Chair of Making It Real Board) were in attendance at the meeting and were given the opportunity to address Cabinet. RESOLVED that:- 1. The report be noted. 2. The Local Account for Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account 2025-2026 be agreed and endorsed. 3. <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> Cabinet is asked to approve the content Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account 2025/26 prior to publication. The Local Account has been co-produced with the Making it Real Board and provides an overview of progress against previous priorities, key achievements, current challenges and priorities for the year ahead. 4. <u>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</u> None

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		5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest None 6. Details of any Dispensations None 7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed Midnight, 24 November 2026 Proper Officer
A8	Pride in Place Central Stockton & Portrack - update & 10-year plan	**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL** **CABINET DECISION** **PROFORMA** Cabinet Meeting ..... 16 November 2026 1. Title of Item/Report Pride in Place Central Stockton & Portrack - Update & 10-Year Plan

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		2. <u>Record of the Decision</u> Consideration was given to a report that updated Cabinet on the progress that had been made on the Pride in Place (PiP) Programme for Central Stockton and Portrack, including the establishment of the Neighbourhood Board, the results of the engagement programme, and the progress towards a 10-year plan for the neighbourhood. In April 2026 Cabinet received a paper about PIP, describing the programme and the next steps for the programme. Cabinet was asked to note that significant progress had been made against this programme since then. The programme mandated the establishment of a Neighbourhood Board (Board) and the appointment of an independent chair, and for the details of the Board, the programme of community engagement and any proposals for amending the boundary of the pride in Place Neighbourhood to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by late July 2026. Details of the Central Stockton and Portrack Board members would be made available on the Council's website (Pride in Place - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council). Following an application process Michael Poole was appointed as the independent chair. The early stages of the resident and community engagement raised questions about the neighbourhood boundary that had been specified by MHCLG, noting that the original boundary passed through Tilery, did not include a local secondary school and the south of the neighbourhood did not have a clear and

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		logical boundary line. The Board proposed an amendment to the neighbourhood within the submission in July 2026 and had this approved by MHCLG in August 2027. Appendix A to the report showed the approved revised boundary map with the inclusion of the full Tilery estate, North Shore Academy and more logical boundary along Yarm Lane and including Trinity Gardens. Throughout the spring and summer, the PiP Board and Council officers, in partnership with a number of community organisations, carried out a programme of engagement with residents, community groups and businesses with an interest in the neighbourhood. This work included: • open access drop-in sessions, • attendance at community events, • an online and paper survey • group discussions • bespoke events • sessions to capture the views of communities of interest and those with protected characteristics. Response to the engagement was good and positively received. The programme had almost 1,000 interactions. In addition to survey and spoken responses, the programme received a number of drawings, diagrams, photos and a mural in response to the questions that were asked. The key findings of the engagement were included within the report. The communities shared many ideas of what they believe the challenges for the area to be, and suggested projects, ideas or ways of working which they felt would contribute to addressing the challenges. Reviewing all this feedback, four

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		clear priority areas have emerged: • Supporting Young People to Thrive – This included suggestions for youth clubs and facilities, community hubs, mentoring, apprenticeships, training and employment opportunities, while protecting young people from exploitation and substance-related harm. • Creating Safer Communities - through community, cohesion visible policing, CCTV, better lighting, enforcement, combined with practical support and rehabilitation for people affected by addiction and homelessness. • Driving Economic Prosperity and Housing Growth - Through supporting local businesses and start-ups, supporting business costs, developing an enhanced evening economy, bringing vacant properties back into use. • Enhancing quality of life through Culture, Recreation and Green Space - Through events, sport, wellbeing activities, community learning, cleaner neighbourhoods and greater use of parks and public spaces. By 27 November 2026 the Board would submit: a) a summary of the engagement activities carried out and the findings of that work. b) a 10-year vision outlining the local community's ambitions for the future. c) a clear plan guided by community engagement for how the Board will deliver this change over the next decade. The Board's work had progressed well on these documents, and they were due to be completed for sign off by the Board on 19th November 2026 before

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		submission by the Council to MHCLG. The vision and priorities were the key focus for the 10-year plan. The documents would reflect not only what the communities aimed to tackle but also the way that this work would progress. It sets out how the programme would work with communities to develop projects and ideas and turn these into deliverable, sustainable projects with long term impacts, rather than specifying individual projects. This was consistent with the approach being taken by other PiP neighbourhoods and had been supported by MHCLG. The plan would set out a number of next steps, including ongoing resident engagement, community workshops based around the key themes to better understand the way the PiP programme could have the biggest impact, and a proposal to launch a small grants programme late 2026/early 2027. Focussed on addressing the key priority areas, this would enable even greater community participation in the programme, it would deliver some of the ideas that residents had already put forward. Early projects may be used to generate more feedback to shape the longer-term major funding decisions. Following the completion of the plan and sign off by the Board, the documents would be submitted by the Council to MHCLG. The Council's role as the accountable body was to review these documents to ensure that the programme was compliant with the requirements set out in MHCLG guidance, responsive to the views of residents and consistent with the councils financial and legal procedures. It was proposed that the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with the Deputy Leader be given delegated authority to agree and submit the plan, following its approval by the PiP Board.

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		MHCLG required the Board to have a clear and publicly available Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. These documents had been approved by the Board and would be made available to view on the Councils website. These documents set out how the Board and its' members will operate. The Council and the Board had negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which sets out how the two parties would work together to deliver the programme. It sets out the Council's role as accountable body, the services that the Council would provide to the Board and the joint decision-making processes. These documents would be subject to regular review as the programme progresses, projects are delivered and, as the Board potentially evolves to gain greater independence as MHCLG's ambitions set out. The extensive community engagement and conversations would be the driving theme of the programme. Following submission of the plan the Board would publicise its contents and ask the community to be part of delivering it. Workshops based around each of the themes would take place to further understand the context of the topic, where PiP funding and influence could add the most value and to start to shape projects to be delivered. As would be set out in the 10- year plan, the Board would launch a community grants programme for the remainder of 2026/27 which would support initiatives in the four priority areas. The programme will follow similar processes to those of other community grant pots delivered by the Council. The Chair of the Pride in Place Board (Michael Poole) was in attendance at the meeting and was given the opportunity to address Cabinet.

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		RESOLVED that:- 1. The vision and the 4 key priority themes for the Central Stockton and Portrack neighbourhood which have been developed by the PiP Board based upon extensive residents' engagement be approved as the strategic framework for delivery of the Pride in Place Programme. 2. The submission of the Central Stockton and Portrack Pride in Place 10-Year Plan be approved to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration, to finalise and submit the Plan, provided that the final version remains materially consistent with the Vision, Strategic Priorities and Programme Framework approved by Cabinet. 3. The progress that has been made by the PiP Board and the work that is planned for the next stages of the programme be noted. 4. It be noted the expenditure associated with the delivery of the Pride in Place Programme will be administered in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Financial Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules, approved budgets and relevant Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding conditions. 3. <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> Pride in Place (PiP) is a 'hyper local', community-led, government funding programme. The ethos of PiP aligns with The Stockton-on-Tees Plan and

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		Powering Our Future programme by placing residents at the heart of the work we do, by bringing people together to build stronger, more resilient communities and to create thriving places. Cabinet are asked to endorse the vision that has emerged from community engagement, delegate authority to approve the submission of the Neighbourhood Board's 10-year plan, and note the proposed next steps to enable the council to comply with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Programme timelines and programme governance. 4. <u>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</u> None 5. <u>Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest</u> None 6. <u>Details of any Dispensations</u> None 7. <u>Date and Time by which Call In must be executed</u> Midnight, 24 November 2026

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