

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH JANUARY 2025

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
REGENERATION & INCLUSIVE
GROWTH**

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration & Housing - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nigel Cooke

Regeneration Powering Our Future

SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals to refresh the Council's Regeneration Mission, with a focus on 'Place Making' that aligns with our Stockton-on-Tees Plan priorities for:

- A great place to live, work and visit
- An inclusive economy.

The Regeneration Mission will provide a core foundation for the Council to achieve our place-based ambitions and will act as a framework for future delivery.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

Cabinet approval of the recommendations can ensure that we are well positioned to achieve ambitions set out in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan, with a clear focus on value adding, regeneration activity that can deliver meaningful impact for people in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- Proposals for the Regeneration Mission, set out in sections 4-7
- To receive future update reports as appropriate for major projects and programmes of work, and as part of Powering Our Future progress reporting
- That performance is reported through the Stockton-on-Tees Plan Performance Management Framework.

INTRODUCTION

1. In January 2024, Cabinet agreed a draft Mission Statement and underpinning Missions for the Powering Our Future Programme, which set out a picture of success for the future of the Council. This included a Regeneration Mission, focused on driving economic growth to improve community prosperity and wellbeing.
2. Since that time, work has taken place to refine each of the Missions, to ensure they provide a foundation to deliver ambitions and priorities set out in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan (agreed by Council in November 2024). There have also been national policy changes and developments

in major programmes of work, which are relevant to consider in relation to the Regeneration Mission.

3. It is therefore considered timely to review and re-set the Regeneration Mission, to position it with an increased focus on Place Making and achievement of Stockton-on-Tees Plan priorities. Achieving this Mission will incorporate significant, large-scale project and programme activity, which will be brought to Cabinet for decision making.

REGENERATION POWERING OUR FUTURE

It is proposed that the Regeneration Mission is agreed as below.

4. The next chapter for our Borough will build on our rich history, diverse communities and growing ambitions for the future. It will see us create a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable place for residents, visitors and businesses alike. In doing so, we will enhance and animate public spaces, build local pride and promote economic growth.
5. Stockton-on-Tees will be:
 - A place of choice for business with a growing number of employment opportunities for residents
 - Recognised for a thriving economy at the heart of Tees Valley, a place that attracts and retains skills and talent, and where everyone has the opportunity to succeed
 - A place to call home – the right homes in the right places, with thriving communities
 - A vibrant Borough, known for its cultural and creative cluster that enriches local lives, attracts outside audiences, skills and talent.
6. What this means for us
 - Placemaking regeneration will create the conditions for business growth and private sector investment across the Borough, increasing our overall economic productivity and the scale of the economy in Tees Valley
 - Placemaking regeneration will also improve and support the health and wellbeing of our residents across all stages of life
 - Our town centres will be vibrant well-designed spaces that attract local communities, visitors and business, to thrive and enjoy
 - Our vibrant culture and leisure offer, with a strong supporting food and beverage sector, will put us on the map as a destination of choice, for local communities, visitors and business
 - Our design principles will ensure community and business safety is a key priority within new and regenerated projects
 - Transport and digital infrastructure will provide the connectivity that residents and businesses need to succeed
 - A diverse housing offer across the Borough will meet the needs and aspiration of our residents, and we will be a place that people choose to live
 - Our employment and housing opportunities will ensure residents have fair access to opportunities to live and thrive in our Borough
 - Promotion of our strong Borough brand through assertive and consistent marketing will reinforce the economic vitality of Stockton-on-Tees, at the heart of the Tees Valley economy
 - Working with partners, including local Business and the Place Leadership Board, will optimise opportunities for efficient and effective partnership working
 - Urban development will be integral to this Mission, with exciting developments at the heart of Tees Valley, creating vibrant and integrated urban centres, as well as business clusters, including: a nationally significant Care and Health cluster, homes for the future, culture and leisure attractions
 - Future spatial plans will incorporate our ambitions for vibrant place making and economic growth, with residential and business communities at their heart

- Our activity will celebrate historic heritage and connections for each of our towns and ceremonial counties.

7. Success will be measured through a set of indicators that form part of performance reporting for the Stockton-on-Tees Plan. This will include an emphasis on employment, skills and population rates, business growth and diversification of housing.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

8. Successful delivery of this Mission will have a positive impact for communities across the Borough, by supporting a vibrant and inclusive economy that all of our residents can be part of.

9. It will support growth of the local economy and cement our role as the well-connected, economic heart of Tees Valley. Ensuring that all residents can benefit from secure and sustainable jobs.

10. An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment has been completed and will inform future approaches to delivery.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

11. Support for Children in our Care and Care Leavers will be considered through individual areas of work, which will be reported on separately and Impact Assessments undertaken as required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The financial implications will be assessed as part of individual project activity and implications included in future reports.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no direct legal impacts as a result of this report. Implications will be identified and legal advice sought/provided as part of individual project activity.

RISK ASSESSMENT

14. The refresh and refinement of this Regeneration Mission takes account of the latest national policy changes and a greater focus on place making to achieve the Stockton-on-Tees Plan priorities. There are risks that the incorrect priorities have been identified and investment may be mis-directed.

15. These risks have been mitigated by thorough analysis of intelligence used in setting priorities, engagement with communities and partners and the development of programmes of work that will deliver the mission.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. This report will impact on all Wards. Impact of specific Wards will be reported and consulted on separately, as part of delivery.

All Councillors were consulted on development of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Powering Our Future – report to Cabinet January 2024
- The Stockton-on-Tees Plan
- Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

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