

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Health and Wellbeing Board: Revised Terms of Reference

SUMMARY

Since spring 2024, alongside developing the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Board has undertaken a structured development programme to review its purpose, role, responsibilities, and effectiveness. This process generated a set of recommendations which have directly informed the revised Terms of Reference for the Board.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

The review and subsequent revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference were undertaken to ensure the Board remains fit for purpose and effective, with a clear role and defined responsibilities to oversee and drive delivery of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve and adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

DETAIL

1. The review of the Health and Wellbeing Board generated a series of recommendations across four key thematic areas:
 - The Board's purpose, role and responsibilities
 - Strategy development, priority setting and agenda planning
 - Membership and representation
 - Ways of working, partnership culture and support arrangements
2. These recommendations have directly shaped the revised ToR for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The updated ToR incorporate the following key changes:
 - **Reaffirmation of the Board's role:** While the Health and Wellbeing Board remains a formal statutory committee, it will operate primarily as a **strategic partnership**.
 - **Clarification of purpose:** The Board is not an executive decision-making body, nor does it function as a scrutiny committee.
 - **Streamlined membership:** The number of elected members has been reduced to support a more focused, partnership-led model. The new composition of elected members:
 - Leader of the Council

- Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
- Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

- **Introduction of a Vice Chair:** A new Vice Chair role, nominated from a partner organisation, has been created to promote shared leadership across the system.
- **Expanded membership:** The Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth has been added to the Board, strengthening the Board's focus on the wider determinants of health.
- **Place-based focus:** Greater emphasis is placed on developing a strong sense of place and a shared identity across the partnership.
- **Clarity of remit:** The Board's statutory functions and responsibilities are clearly articulated.
- **Defined relationship with other governance structures:** The revised Terms clarify the Board's distinct role in relation to other local groups, partnerships, and committees.
- **Strategic alignment:** The Board will actively support the alignment of local strategies, reduce duplication, and drive greater system integration.
- **Shared ways of working:** A common set of expectations has been agreed to underpin collaborative working and effective partnership behaviors.

3. Cabinet will consider this matter on 18 September 2025.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

4. A specific community impact assessment was not undertaken. However, the community impact has been incorporated into the development process of this new revised TOR.
5. The revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's ToR presents an opportunity to sharpen the Board's focus, enhance clarity of purpose, and increase its effectiveness in improving population health and reducing health inequalities. The updated ToR is designed to strengthen collaboration across system partners, ensure greater strategic alignment, and reaffirm the Board's leadership role in addressing health inequalities and the wider determinants of health.
6. In addition, the revised ToR aims to create space to embed a stronger community voice and improve representation, while also enhancing transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to local needs and priorities.
7. The revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference has been undertaken in parallel with the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring consistency between the two and incorporating consideration of the anticipated positive impacts for the residents of Stockton.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

8. The revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference does not directly address corporate parenting. However, the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which the Board is responsible for driving forward, includes corporate parenting as a priority commitment area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. In developing the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board, legal implications have been considered to ensure compliance with relevant legislation. Statutory membership and functions have been maintained, and the revisions uphold transparency and accountability requirements.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. This revised Health and Wellbeing Board TOR 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

11. The revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board will have a borough-wide impact across Stockton-on-Tees. Their development was informed by a series of workshops involving all current members of the Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

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