

CABINET DECISION

Deputy Leader of the Council and Member for Resources and Transport – Lead Cabinet
Member – Councillor Paul Rowling

Pride in Place – Central Stockton and Portrack - update

Summary

In the summer of 2025 Central Stockton and Portrack was announced by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as one of 284 communities across the country to be part of the Pride in Place (PiP) Programme. This report updates Cabinet on the work undertaken to date and details the next stages of the development of the programme.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The Pride in Place Programme is a 'hyper local' community-led government funding programme. The ethos of PiP aligns with The Stockton-on-Tees Plan and 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 note the proposed next steps to enable the council to comply with MHCLG Programme timelines.

Recommendations

1. This report is for information only. Cabinet is asked to note the contents of this report, including the progress towards appointment of a chair of the neighbourhood board and the timetable outlined in paragraph 6 (and in **Appendix 1**).

Detail

1. PiP is a new Govt funding programme aimed at putting power into the hands of local people to shape their communities. Central Stockton and Portrack is one of 284 PiP neighbourhoods across the country. The Programme will provide access to £19.6M (over 10 years) to spend on projects that will make a real difference to local people and the neighbourhood. The programme is intended to be flexible, supportive, community led and have a focus on long-term sustainability.
2. A requirement of PiP funding is the need to establish a Neighbourhood Board which will be responsible for producing a 10-year vision for their place, supported by interventions which are set out in a Regeneration Plan. The Council are the accountable body for the programme. To achieve the strategic objectives of the programme, the Board will need to consider the 3 overarching PiP aims:
 - Stronger communities
 - Thriving communities
 - Communities taking back control

3. MHCLG guidance stipulates the need for the programme to be driven by the Board and that the Board must be drawn from those who predominantly live and work in the neighbourhood and should also include the local ward councillors and MP.
4. An initial step for the programme was to appoint a Chair of the Board, through an open and competitive process. This opportunity was advertised through the Council's social media channels and partnership networks and newsletters throughout March 2026. The selection process, carried out by the Council and Chris McDonald MP is now almost complete and will be shared on the PiP pages of the Council website and through the Council's communication channels shortly. The Chair, supported by the Council will then be responsible for appointing and convening the remaining board members by the end of July 2026. The programme allows for board members to claim reasonable expenses, to ensure that all members of the community can become board members and have access to attend meetings.
5. Ipsos have been commissioned by MHCLG to pilot a range of consultation techniques. Working with 20 local authorities with PiP neighbourhoods this will form part of a PiP Local Authority good practice engagement toolkit. SBC is one of these authorities. Working with Ipsos, we launched our PiP consultation with sessions with year 5 primary school pupils within the Central Stockton and Portrack neighbourhood. We heard enthusiastically about what these young people love about living in Stockton and what they want their local area to look like in 10 years' time.
6. To ensure we adhere to critical MHCLG submission deadlines a programme of next steps and deadlines has been developed and is included at **Appendix 1**. This programme sets out the plan for engagement and board recruitment over the spring, and the MHCLG deadlines in July for submission of the details of all board members and November for submission of the Neighbourhood's 4-year Investment Plan and 10-year Regeneration Plan.
7. Members are asked to note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet before the 28th November 2026 MHCLG deadline; updating Cabinet on the key themes identified following the conclusion of this consultation and engagement phase, how these key themes have shaped the development of proposed priorities and to seek approval for the draft 4-year Investment Plan and 10-Year Regeneration Plan. This report will also provide further detail and seek agreement on the role of the Council as accountable body and secretariate and provide detail on the proposed programme and governance support requirements.

Consultation and engagement and next steps

8. As noted above a key focus for the programme over the next few months is to undertake an extensive community engagement and consultation programme, to understand what is important to the people who live and work in the neighbourhood. A programme has been designed which builds on the existing relationships with stakeholders and partners. We know that residents have already shared their views on issues such as, the use and development of Tilery park, crime and antisocial behaviour in the town centre and the Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint. These previous engagement exercises are being used as the foundation for the next stages of consultation, building on what our communities have already shared with us.
9. Since January of this year work has been ongoing to raise awareness of the programme amongst the public, business and community sector partners. These groups have helped to raise awareness of the programme and helped to share information about the recruitment of the board chair.
10. It is important that we hear the views and priorities of all sectors of the community, including businesses, young people, minority ethnic populations, and communities of interest and those that do not normally engage with public consultation. The programme is designed to include a range of consultation techniques, and be delivered collaboratively with community partners. Two-way communication is critical throughout the programme, this will involve a 'listen and check back-in' approach, as well as consultation networks which will contribute to shaping the work programmes

for each of the priority areas identified. The engagement programme and results will form part of the submission to MHCLG

11. As the programme develops links will be created with the work of wider SBC projects (such as the Neighbourhood Health Pilot for example) and our partners. Feedback from all consultees will be shared to ensure that the voice of residents, businesses and customers is used to shape future service design, avoid duplication and priorities issues that are important to our residents

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