

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND
HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

21 JULY 2026

TEES VALLEY CARE AND HEALTH INNOVATION ZONE

Summary

The Committee will receive an update on developments in relation to the Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone.

Detail

1. In October 2023, proposals to develop a 'Care and Health Innovation Zone' in Stockton were considered by the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Cabinet. This set a long-term Vision to:
 - Breathe new life into Teesdale Business Park
 - Bring forward the regeneration of Tees Marshalling Yards
 - Grow all aspects of the health, public health and social care sector, establishing a recognized UK cluster
 - Link the Care & Health Innovation Zone with Stockton Town Centre.
2. The Care & Health Innovation Zone brings together health and social care providers, academic institutions and the business community to create a world-class innovation ecosystem. Developing this alongside one of the largest brownfield regeneration opportunities in the country, Tees Central, will support the continued inclusive growth of the region, strengthen the global position of the UK health innovation sector as well as helping to tackle the stark health inequalities that exist in the borough and further afield.
3. The Care and Health Innovation Zone is not a single capital project. It is a long-term place-based programme that coordinates multiple projects and investment opportunities across the Borough and wider Tees Valley. Its purpose is to align regeneration, NHS investment, research, education, skills and commercial growth around a common vision. As a result, Members should expect individual projects to come forward separately through the Council's normal governance processes, rather than as one comprehensive scheme.
4. A full copy of the Vision statement can be found at: [Tees Valley Health and Social Care Innovation Zone - Initial Vision Statement](#)
5. Activity supporting the achievement of our long-term vision is structured around 3 key workstreams:
6. Research and Innovation
Role: To establish the Tees Valley as a nationally significant centre for health and care innovation, research and commercialisation.
Focus: Developing partnerships with universities, the NHS and industry to support research, clinical trials, digital health, MedTech, innovation adoption and business growth, with the ambition of becoming a leading location for bringing healthcare innovations into the NHS

7. Skills and Workforce Development

Role: To ensure the health and social care sector has a sustainable, highly skilled workforce capable of meeting future demand.

Focus: Developing education pathways, supporting workforce planning, strengthening links between health and social care careers, promoting apprenticeships and vocational qualifications, and exploring opportunities such as a new medical school and neighbourhood health training facilities.

8. Place and Regeneration

Role: To create the physical environment that enables the Care and Health Innovation Zone to flourish.

Focus: Bringing forward the regeneration of the Tees Central site and surrounding areas to provide space for healthcare innovation, research, education, commercial activity, housing and supporting infrastructure, creating a recognised health and care cluster within the Tees Valley. Activity will also ensure physical assets and facilities support integrated, modern and accessible health and care services, including opportunities for co-location of services, improving utilisation of public sector assets, supporting neighbourhood health developments, and aligning estate planning with the wider Care and Health Innovation Zone vision and regeneration ambitions.

9. Collectively, the workstreams provide a coordinated framework for delivering the Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone. By aligning regeneration, research, innovation, skills, workforce development and infrastructure investment, the programme seeks to improve health outcomes, reduce inequalities, create high-value employment, attract inward investment and establish Stockton-on-Tees as a nationally recognised centre for care and health innovation. The programme will be delivered incrementally over the coming years through collaboration between the Council, NHS, academic institutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority and private sector partners.

10. The Programme remains in the development and delivery phase. Progress is expected to be incremental, with projects progressing as opportunities, funding, partner priorities and business cases mature. The Strategic Programme Board continues to oversee the programme, ensuring that individual initiatives contribute to the overall vision while recognising that delivery will take place over many years.