Pride in Place Board
(Central Stockton and Portrack)

A meeting of Pride and Place Board was held on Thursday 13 August 2026.

Present: Michael Poole (Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Jamie Bell (sub for Alan O'Donoghue), Angela Corner, Brian Jones, Kelly Lannon, Mark Miller, Natalia Robson, Dan Smith (substitute for Chris McDonald MP), Joan Wynn, Lucy Bentley, Sahida Ditta and Tim Keith

Officers: Jamie Bell, Tracey Carter, Jane Edmends, Michael Henderson, Natalya Robson, Vicky Japes

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Chris McDonald MP, Matthew Ord, Cllr Paul Rowling, Louise Lowes, Alan O'Donoghue, Tracey Roberts, Tony Wedlake

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 July 2026

RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

3 Chair's Update

Members should continue getting out into the communities covered by the programme and having direct conversations with residents, rather than relying solely on surveys. – **All Board Members**

Community buildings, such as The Willows, were seen as potentially important local assets, both for engagement and for delivering sustainable community activity.

Opportunities such as the Fun Day on 25 August should be used to engage directly with residents, potentially through a Pride in Place stall. – **Chair**

Engagement and feedback need to be properly documented so there is a clear evidence trail showing how residents have influenced the plan. – **Members and Officers**

RESOLVED that the update be noted and actioned as appropriate.

4 Engagement Findings

The Board was provided with a document providing a summary of survey and face-to-face interactions:

Strong positive themes identified by residents included:

- community spirit and neighbours supporting one another;
- pride in local communities;

- cultural diversity;
- valued local assets, including green spaces and the waterfront.

Strong concerns were crime and antisocial behaviour, including off-road bikes, drug-related activity and the fear of crime.

Other significant concerns and hopes included:

- empty/derelict buildings and shops;
- poor-quality housing and the need to improve existing housing rather than simply build more;
- homelessness;
- lack of opportunities and activities for young people.
- Hartington Road was identified as an area requiring intervention.
- There was strong support for investment in young people, including youth provision, skills, employment, alternative options for education and recreation.
- Residents wanted greater police/PCSO visibility and CCTV.

Discussion continued

- It was agreed that the Board needed a clearer understanding of what was already happening in the programme area. Whether existing interventions were working and where the gaps were. It was considered that a gap analysis/mapping exercise would be beneficial before deciding where Pride in Place resources could add most value. It was suggested that future meetings could include short briefings from relevant partners/services, to help members understand existing work e.g Public Health – **Board/ Officers**
- The Board should avoid duplicating existing partnerships and should use existing groups and networks wherever possible.
- A distinction was made between the capital funding available and the limited revenue funding available to support ongoing activity.
- Members stressed that the positive feedback about diversity should not obscure community tensions, experienced by some residents.
- It was agreed that community/racial tensions may need more detailed work, to be commissioned at some point, and this may need to be reflected in the Investment Plan. Further engagement should seek to ensure input from all faith groups, refugees etc – **Consideration by Working Group (see minute below)**
- Police representatives outlined existing activity, including work to tackle off-road bikes, use of drones, knife-crime initiatives and work targeting town-centre offending.

- Discussion touched on drug-related offending and whether more effective rehabilitation and support could help address repeat offending.

RESOLVED that the engagement summary and discussion be noted/actioned, as appropriate.

5. Vision for Central Stockton and Portrack Pride in Place Programme

A draft Vision was provided to the Board. Members were requested to consider it and provide comments to **Vicky Japes** within 7 days.

Initial thoughts were that the draft vision needed further work to make it shorter, stronger and more recognisably about the communities involved. It should capture the programme's local character as much as possible. It also needed to be more explicit about difficult issues such as racial/community tensions, crime and opportunities for young people. – **All Board Members**

RESOLVED that the Vision be developed by members.

6. Programme Plan Development and Board Member Involvement

The Board received a paper that suggested four broad priority themes for the submission and members agreed that these should form the basis of the developing plan:

- Young people – opportunities, skills, employment and provision.
- Safe communities – crime, antisocial behaviour, community safety and cohesion.
- Economic growth, employment, housing and place – including the high street, local businesses and quality housing.
- Culture, recreation and green spaces – including community activity and opportunities to bring people together.

It was agreed that the themes should remain broad enough to provide flexibility over the ten-year programme, rather than committing the Board prematurely to particular projects.

Health was discussed as a possible fifth priority. The view reached was that health and wellbeing should run through all four priorities, rather than being a separate theme.

The priorities would ultimately require measurable outcomes. It was explained that newly issued government guidance was more prescriptive, including word limits for different sections of the submission.

The plan needed a clear “golden thread” between the engagement evidence, objectives, proposed activity and investment.

Given the tight timetable, it was agreed that a smaller working group of members should work more intensively with officers to develop the plan between Board meetings.

Members interested in participating were to contact the **vice chair.** An invitation would be circulated to all members. – **Vicky Japes**

The group should remain relatively small and members would need to recognise the time commitment involved – Approx 2 hours every 2 weeks

Further thematic subgroups may subsequently be established to undertake detailed work on individual priorities and investment options.

Members were informed that Government guidance required the plan to explain the Board's governance arrangements, including how proposals would be assessed, decisions made and interests/conflicts managed.

The longer-term independence of the Board was also discussed with the aspiration for it to become increasingly resident-led. The Board may wish to consider becoming an independent legal entity - **Board**

Members emphasised the importance of using the ten-year funding period to create sustainable assets or income streams which could continue benefiting communities beyond the programme **– Board**

RESOLVED that

1. the themes be agreed.
2. the working group be composed as described above.
3. Discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

AOB

7 Financial Update

The Chair requested that a financial update be included on every future Board agenda. He considered that transparency, over both the programme funding and initial funding to support establishment of the Board and preparation of the plan, was important. – **Vicky Japes**

The Board noted that £150,000 had initially been received with approximately £110,000 of that currently expected to support staffing, engagement and associated programme-development costs.

A further £135,000 revenue allocation had been received for 2026/27;

Capital funding for 2026/27 had also been received.

At this stage the submission was expected to indicate broad allocations or percentages against priorities rather than necessarily identify final individual projects. An indication of amounts had been gathered as part of the engagement work and was contained in the engagement summary, circulated.

Logo for Pride in Place

Children attending the Willow’s Fun Day had been creating a Pride in Place mosaic.

The Chair suggested exploring whether this could become the programme's logo, potentially accompanied by videos of the children explaining the different elements.

Members supported exploring the idea, while noting the need to ensure that children and communities from across the whole Pride in Place area were appropriately represented and any proposals to come back to the Board. **Chair/Vicky Japes**

Community impact statements

The Chair proposed exploring a standard community impact statement which could demonstrate the wider impact of crime on neighbourhoods and potentially support victim impact information considered by the courts.

Police input would be sought in developing the proposal. It was suggested that this could potentially have application more widely across Stockton rather than solely within the Pride in Place boundary. **Chair**

Boundary

A revised letter was required confirming endorsement of the Pride in Place boundary map. The necessary amendment was to be made and the letter progressed for signature/submission. This could be done very quickly – **Vicky Japes/Dan Brown**

8 **Next Meeting arrangements and communications**

The scheduled early-September meeting was considered too soon to allow meaningful progress by the plan subgroup.

The intention was therefore to look at late September, mid-October, followed by a meeting in early November to approve the plan, ahead of Cabinet consideration and submission at the end of November. **Chair/Vice Chair/ Michael Henderson**

Opportunities would also be explored for relevant Board representatives to meet/brief Chris McDonald MP. – **Vicky Japes/Dan Smith**

The Chair asked that draft minutes be circulated as soon as practicable after meetings, rather than waiting for the next agenda. He also requested that reports and supporting papers be circulated sufficiently in advance to allow members to read and consider them before meeting. **– Michael Henderson/ Vicky Japes**