

REPORT TO CABINET

15 OCTOBER 2026

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration
Councillor Paul Rowling**

Flag Flying Policy – Historic Counties Flags

Summary

This report presents options to amend the Council's flag flying policy to celebrate the Historic Counties which fall within the Borough boundaries.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To respond to a request from a member of the public to mark the Historic Counties through the Council's flag flying policy.

Recommendations

That the Council's flag flying policy be updated to recognise Durham Day on 20 March and Yorkshire Day on 1 August.

Detail

1. A request has been received from a member of the public to recognise the historic county of Durham through the Council's flag flying policy. With regard to options for flying historic county flags, the following dates are relevant for Stockton-on-Tees:
 - County Durham Day – 20 March - the feast day for St Cuthbert. The Durham Flag could be flown at the Town Hall (north of River Tees in the historic county of Durham)
 - Yorkshire Day – 1 August - marking the anniversary of the Battle of Minden. The Yorkshire Flag could be flown at Dunedin House (south of River Tees in the historic North Riding of Yorkshire)
2. A copy of the Council's current flag flying policy is attached at Appendix A. The current policy provides for the Union Flag to be flown from the headquarters building at all times and for the Union Flag to be flown on the Town Hall with the exception of designated

days for other flags. If the Historic County Flag Days were to be recognised, the flag flying policy would be amended as follows (additions in bold italics):

March (second Monday in March)	Commonwealth Day	Commonwealth Flag	Town Hall
<i>20 March</i>	<i>County Durham Day</i>	<i>Durham Flag</i>	<i>Town Hall</i>
23 April	St George's Day	St George's Flag	Town Hall
End of June (fly for one week) (these dates change each year)	Armed Forces Week	Armed Forces Week flag	Town Hall
June (Flown the first weekend of June to mark the start of Pride month)	Pride	Rainbow Flag	Town Hall
June/July (these dates change each year)	Mayor's Sunday	Borough Flag	Town Hall
<i>1 August</i>	<i>Yorkshire Day</i>	<i>Yorkshire Flag</i>	<i>Dunedin House</i>
3 September	Merchant Navy Day	Red Ensign	Town Hall
15 September	Battle of Britain Day	Royal Air Force Flag	Town Hall

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

- Many residents on both sides of the Tees continue to identify strongly with their historic county. The Historic County Flags Day movement exists largely to recognise these historic identities.

Corporate Parenting Implications

- None

Financial Implications

- Purchase and periodic replacement of flags. Dunedin House flags cost approximately £600. Town Hall flags cost approximately £400.

Legal Implications

- None

Risk Assessment

- There are no specific risks arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/ Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

- All wards

Background Papers

9. None

Name of Contact Officer:	Ged Morton
Post Title:	Director of Corporate Services
Telephone number:	01642 527701
Email Address:	ged.morton@stockton.gov.uk