REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 16 NOVEMBER 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

Leader of the Council – Councillor Lisa Evans

Stockton-on-Tees Plan – Progress 2026

Summary

Following Council agreement of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan in 2024, it was agreed that Cabinet would receive annual performance updates.

The indicators attached (appendix 1) provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's progress against the high-level outcomes identified in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

1. To Ensure Transparency and Accountability:

   Regular reporting against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan enables Cabinet to monitor progress, assess the effectiveness of service delivery, and ensure that the Council remains accountable to residents and partners.
2. To Support Evidence-Based Decision-Making:

   The report provides an overview of outcomes, highlighting both achievements and areas requiring improvement. This evidence base supports informed decision-making and prioritisation of resources.
3. To Drive Continuous Improvement:

   Identifying areas for improvement allows for timely intervention and the implementation of corrective actions. This promotes a culture of continuous improvement across services and contributes to better outcomes for communities.
4. To Align Strategic Priorities:

   Monitoring progress against the Stockton-on-Tees Plan ensures that the organisation remains focused on delivering its strategic objectives and that progress is aligned with the Council's vision and long-term goals.
5. To Inform Future Planning and Budgeting:

   Insights from the report can inform future service planning, policy development, and budget setting, ensuring that resources are targeted effectively to meet community needs.

6. To Highlight and Celebrate Success:

   Recognising areas of strong progression helps to motivate staff, share best practice, and reinforce the Council's commitment to delivering high-quality services.

Recommendations

1. Note and comment on the update attached at Appendix 1

Detail

1. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan (2024) set a Vision for the future of the Borough, developed with communities, for communities:
   - *Our Vision: Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity.*

2. The wider plan was developed to reflect the drivers and priorities that can turn our Vision into reality, and included a picture of success, underpinned by key outcome measures (What success looks like - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

3. Outcomes centre around our priority areas of:

   - The best start in life to achieve big ambitions
   - Healthy and Resilient Communities
   - A Great Place to Live, Work and Visit
   - An Inclusive Economy
   - A Sustainable Council

4. Appendix 1 provides the progress report against key outcome measures. This is based on latest available data sourced from national and local sources.

5. This includes:

   - Areas where the Council performs above the national average, and demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to our ambitions:
     - % of households in fuel poverty
     - % of children having a good level of development at foundation stage
     - % of residents have difficulty managing their finances
     - Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked
     - Total greenhouse gas emissions (kilo tonnes)

   - Areas where the Council shows strong performance relative to national averages, however there is a need to manage local trends to improve outcomes:
     - Average Attainment 8 score

   - Areas where the Council demonstrates strong performance trends aligned to

our ambitions:

- % of residents that feel like they belong to their neighbourhood
- Total recorded offences
- % of residents who are satisfied with their accommodation
- % of residents who feel that the things they do in your life are not worthwhile
- % of residents who are satisfied with their current job
- Employment rate
- Increased Footfall (Combined) in the 5 Town Centres/High Streets in the Borough

- Known areas of challenge, which form the basis of targeted activity to improve outcomes:
  - % of 16 and 17 year olds who were not in education, employment or training
  - Healthy life expectancy
  - % of residents who feel safe walking alone (within 15 minutes of their home)
  - % Economically Inactive People that are Long Term Sick (16-64)
  - Non domestic rating income (net)

Consultation and engagement

1. The Council Plan drew from a wide range of data and intelligence. But overall, it represents the voice of the Borough. It has been developed with communities, for communities. We've gathered intelligence from:

   - Our Residents Survey
   - Conversations with Community Groups
   - Face-to-face interviews
   - Our Viewpoint Panel.

2. Key themes from our conversation with communities, and which are reflected in the Council Plan are:

   - Creating a Borough to be proud of that encourages more young people to stay here
   - Creating employment opportunities and raising aspirations
   - Creating safe communities and reducing anti-social behaviour in town centres
   - Good Schools and Colleges
   - Good transport links – including cycleways & pathways
   - Joint working with communities and creating an inclusive Borough.

3. Working closely with our communities and partners will help us meet the needs of our residents and make Stockton-on-Tees a place we can all be proud of. Some examples of how we will measure success include:

   - The number of children in poverty
   - Educational attainment
   - Feelings of belonging in communities
   - Crime rates & perceptions of crime
   - Satisfaction with employment & accommodation

- Employment rates & productivity.

Next Steps

1. Following Council agreement of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan in 2024, it was agreed that Cabinet would receive annual performance updates.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

1. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan's strategic priorities will support the Local Authority to deliver its statutory functions and enable it to be an effective Corporate Parent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan is aligned with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report. Financial implications will be considered through any proposed action to deliver and approval sought at that point.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Any and all legal implications will be identified through careful action planning throughout the delivery of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan noting, in particular, that growing pressures on communities and public services will require effective management of the Council's resources, and that, any decisions made pursuant to the Council Plan are also made in accordance with the law to minimise any risk of legal challenge.

RISK ASSESSMENT

1. Effective monitoring of progress relies on the use of appropriate KPIs and robust supporting data. KPIs have been identified through consultation with officers and consideration of sector guidance, providing assurance that they reflect progress against Stockton-on-Tees Plan objectives. Data accuracy is supported through established validation processes, minimising the risk of inaccurate reporting.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

1. All Stockton-on-Tees wards affected.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Council Plan (Council Report, November 2024)

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APPENDIX 1

Stockton-on-Tees Plan	Tier 1 Indicators

Unique Indicator Code	Indicator	Polarity	Previous 2 years		Previous year	Latest data	Latest data date	CIPFA neighbours	North East	England	Direction of travel	Trend
T1001	% of households in fuel poverty	Low is Good	12.2%	9.6%	9.2%	7.8%	2024	10.2%	9.0%	9.9%	↓	
T1002	% of children having a good level of development at foundation stage	High is good	68.1%	69.7%	69.5%	69.5%	2024/25	66.8%	66.5%	68.3%	→	
T1003	Average Attainment 8 score	High is good	49.2%	45.9%	45.5%	45.0%	2024/25	44.9%	44.1%	46.0%	↓	
T1004	% of 16 and 17 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Low is Good	5.2%	6.9%	7.2%	7.0%	2026	4.1%	5.0%	3.4%	↓	
T1005	% of residents that feel like they belong to their neighbourhood	High is good			57.3%	57.8%	2026	N/A	N/A	63.6%	↑	
T1006	% of residents have difficulty managing their finances	Low is Good			21.0%	14.9%	2026	N/A	N/A	24.6%	↓	
T1007	Healthy life expectancy - Males	High is good	58.1	56.5	56.5	55.6	2022-24	58.2	57.0	60.9	↓	
T1008	Healthy life expectancy - Females	High is good	56.8	57.6	56.9	54.9	2022-24	58.6	56.9	61.3	↓	
T1009	Total recorded offences (excl. fraud) (offences per 1,000 population) (12 months rolling)	Low is Good	123.5	110.8	99.2	107.7	2026 Q1	85.0	97.7	83.1	↑	
T1010	% of residents who feel safe walking alone (within 15 minutes of their home)	High is good			52.0%	42.1%	2026	N/A	77.7%	78.0%	↓	
T1011	% of residents who are satisfied with their accommodation	High is good			84.4%	86.3%	2026	N/A	N/A	88.6%	↑	
T1012	% of residents who feel that the things they do in your life are not worthwhile	Low is Good			10.7%	8.2%	2026	N/A	6.5%	5.1%	↓	
T1013	% of residents who are satisfied with their current job	High is good			63.4%	69.1%	2026	N/A	N/A	73.6%	↑	
T1014	Overall employment rate (aged 16-64)	High is good	73.1	69.6	75.2	73.5	Q1 2026	74.9	71.8	75.8	↓	
T1015	Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked	High is good	£ 39.60	£ 41.30	£ 42.60	£ 43.15	2023	£ 36.05	£ 35.82	£ 42.39	↑	
T1018	% People who have engaged in Volunteering Recently	High is good			48.0	50.0	2025	51.0	50.0	54.0	↑	
T1019	Total green house gas emissions (kilo tonnes)	Low is Good	2145.7	1960.0	1867.0	1148.2	2025	224553.8	9859.3	1215.2	↓	
T1020	% Economically Inactive People that are Long Term Sick (16-64)	Low is Good	33.5	39.3	26.4	39.3	2025	35.2	32.7	27.7	↑	
T1021	Increased Footfall (Combined) in the 5 Town Centres/High Streets in the Borough (12 months endi	High is Good	5.0%	5.6%	5.4%	5.4%	2025/26	N/A	N/A	N/A	→	
T1022	Non domestic rating income (net)	High is Good	£81,439,381	£82,731,011	£88,690,372	£88,471,816	2025/26	£ 91,186,908	N/A	N/A	↓	