REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 16 November 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

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

Pride in Place Central Stockton & Portrack - update & 10-year plan

Summary

This report updates Cabinet on the progress that has been made on the Pride in Place (PiP) Programme for Central Stockton and Portrack, including the establishment of our Neighbourhood Board, the results of our engagement programme, and the progress towards a 10-year plan for the neighbourhood.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

Pride in Place (PiP) 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 endorse the vision that has emerged from community engagement, delegate authority to approve the submission of the Neighbourhood Board's 10-year plan, and note the proposed next steps to enable the council to comply with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Programme timelines and programme governance.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Approve the vision and the 4 key priority themes for the Central Stockton and Portrack neighbourhood which have been developed by the PiP Board based upon extensive residents engagement as the strategic framework for delivery of the Pride in Place Programme

2. Approve submission of the Central Stockton and Portrack Pride in Place 10-Year Plan to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration, to finalise and submit the Plan, provided that the final version remains materially consistent with the Vision, Strategic Priorities and Programme Framework approved by Cabinet.

3. Note the progress that has been made by the PiP Board and the work that is planned for the next stages of the programme.

4. Note that expenditure associated with delivery of the Pride in Place Programme will be administered in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Financial Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules, approved budgets and relevant Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding conditions.

Detail

1. In April 2026 Cabinet received a paper about PIP, describing the programme and the next steps for the programme. Cabinet is asked to note that significant progress has been made against this programme since then.

2. The programme mandated the establishment of a Neigbhourhood Board (Board) and the appointment of an independent chair, and for the details of the Board, the programme of community engagement and any proposals for amending the boundary of the pride in Place Neighbourhood to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by late July 2026.

3. Details of the Central Stockton and Portrack Board members will be made available on the Council's website (Pride in Place - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council). Following an application process Michael Poole was appointed as the independent chair.

4. The early stages of the resident and community engagement raised questions about the neighbourhood boundary that had been specified by MHCLG, noting that the original boundary passed through Tilery, did not include a local secondary school and the south of the neighbourhood did not have a clear and logical boundary line. The Board proposed an amendment to the neighbourhood within the submission in July 2026 and had this approved by MHCLG in August 2027. **Appendix A** shows the approved revised boundary map with the inclusion of the full Tilery estate, North Shore Academy and more logical boundary along Yarm Lane and including Trinity Gardens.

Consultation and Community Engagement

5. Throughout the spring and summer, the PiP Board and council officers, in partnership with a number of community organisations, carried out a programme of engagement with residents, community groups and businesses with an interest in the neighbourhood. This work included:

   - open access drop-in sessions,
   - attendance at community events,
   - an online and paper survey
   - group discussions
   - bespoke events
   - sessions to capture the views of communities of interest and those with protected characteristics.

6. Response to the engagement was good and positively received. The programme had almost 1,000 interactions. In addition to survey and spoken responses, the programme received a number of drawings, diagrams, photos and a mural in response to the questions that were asked.

7. The key findings of the engagement include:

- The most mentioned aspect of Central Stockton and Portrack, when asked “what is great about the neighbourhood?” was the “Parks and Gardens”, with “everything being close together and easy to access” and “affordability” also being regularly mentioned.
- 69% of respondents to the survey identified the fear of crime having an effect on them going out or going to activities in the area.
- Residents are ambitious for the neighbourhood and their community.
- Residents and partners gave a broad range of when asked what they believe the key challenges for the neighbourhood are, and how to address them.
- When asked what 3 words best describe the Central Stockton and Portrack that you want to see in 10 years’ time. These were the most commonly used words:



Central Stockton and Portrack’s 10 year plan

8. From the word cloud above the Board have developed the following vision to drive their work over the coming 10-years.

Vision for Central Stockton and Portrack

> *To create a thriving, safe and connected Stockton where young people can fulfil their potential, communities feel proud and secure, businesses and neighbourhoods prosper, and everyone can enjoy the cultural, recreational and green spaces that support a high quality of life.*

9. Our communities shared many ideas of what they believe the challenges for the area to be, and suggested projects, ideas or ways of working which they feel would contribute to addressing the challenges. Reviewing all this feedback, four clear priority areas have emerged:

    - *Supporting Young People to Thrive* – This included suggestions for youth clubs and facilities, community hubs, mentoring, apprenticeships, training and employment opportunities, while protecting young people from exploitation and substance-related harm.

    - *Creating Safer Communities* - through community, cohesion visible policing, CCTV, better lighting, enforcement, combined with practical support and rehabilitation for people affected by addiction and homelessness.

    - *Driving Economic Prosperity and Housing Growth* - Through supporting local businesses and start-ups, supporting business costs, developing an enhanced evening economy, bringing vacant properties back into use.

    - *Enhancing quality of life through Culture, Recreation and Green Space* - Through events, sport, wellbeing activities, community learning, cleaner neighbourhoods and greater use of parks and public spaces.

10. By 27 November 2026 the Board is required to submit:

    a) a summary of the engagement activities carried out and the findings of that work.

    b) a 10-year vision outlining the local community's ambitions for the future.

    c) a clear plan guided by community engagement for how the Board will deliver this change over the next decade.

11. The Board's work has progressed well on these documents, and they are due to be completed for sign off by the Board on 19th November 2026 before submission by the Council to MHCLG.

12. The vision and priorities are the key focus for the 10-year plan. The documents will reflect not only what our communities aim to tackle but also the way that this work will progress. It sets out how the programme will work with communities to develop projects and ideas and turn these into deliverable, sustainable projects with long term impacts, rather than specifying individual projects. This is consistent with the approach being taken by other PiP neighbourhoods and has been supported by MHCLG.

13. The plan will set out a number of next steps, including ongoing resident engagement, community workshops based around the key themes to better understand the way the PiP programme can have the biggest impact, and a proposal to launch a small grants programme late 2026/early 2027. Focussed on addressing the key priority areas, this will enable even greater community participation in the programme, it will deliver some of the ideas that residents have already put forward. Early projects may be used to generate more feedback to shape the longer term major funding decisions.

14. Following the completion of the plan and sign off by the Board, the documents will be submitted by the Council to MHCLG. The Council's role as the accountable body is to review these documents to ensure that the programme is compliant with the requirements set out in MHCLG guidance, responsive to the views of residents and consistent with the councils financial and legal procedures. It is proposed that the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with the Deputy Leader

be given delegated authority to agree and submit the plan, following its approval by the PiP Board.

Board Governance

15. MHCLG requires the Board to have a clear and publicly available Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. These documents have recently been approved by the Board and will be made available to view on the Councils website. These documents set out how the Board and its' members will operate.

16. The Council and the Board have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which sets out how the two parties will work together to deliver the programme. It sets out the Council's role as accountable body, the services that the Council will provide to the Board and the joint decision-making processes. These documents will be subject to regular review as the programme progresses, projects are delivered and, as the Board potentially evolves to gain greater independence as MHCLG's ambitions set out.

Next Steps

17. The extensive community engagement and conversations will be the driving theme of the programme. Following submission of the plan the Board will publicise its contents and ask the community to be part of delivering it. Workshops based around each of the themes will take place to further understand the context of the topic, where PiP funding and influence can add the most value and to start to shape projects to be delivered.

18. As will be set out in the 10- year plan, the Board will launch a community grants programme for the remainder of 2026/27 which will support initiatives in the four priority areas. The programme will follow similar processes to those of other community grant pots delivered by the Council.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

19. Throughout the engagement programme, significant work has been put into ensuring that the voices of residents with protected characteristics are heard. The settings and style of engagement events were specifically designed to be accessible to a variety of needs. Full EPIAs will be completed for projects as they evolve to ensure that they are having the biggest possible positive impact on the communities the programme is designed to benefit.

Financial Implications

20. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

21. As Accountable Body for the PiP programme, the Council will provide financial management, assurance, governance, monitoring and reporting functions required to fulfil its statutory and fiduciary responsibilities. These Accountable Body functions will be met from existing Council resources.

22. Separate programme management support will be provided by the Council in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding agreed with the Board. The costs of programme management support will be funded from the PiP Programme allocation.

23. Where the Board chooses to commission the Council to deliver specific projects or activities on its behalf, the associated project delivery costs will be met from the PiP Programme funding and will be subject to separate approval, governance and financial arrangements.

24. Any future expenditure commitments arising from the Programme will remain subject to compliance with the Council's Constitution, Financial Regulations, procurement requirements and any conditions attached to PiP funding.

Legal Implications

25. PiP Boards are required, under the funding arrangements and in accordance with the MHCLG Prospectus and Guidance, to co-create a 10-year plan with the local community, supported by the local MP and local authority.
26. The PiP funding is paid by MHCLG to the Council, as the Accountable Body, which then has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that public funds are distributed fairly and effectively, and that funds have been managed in line with the Nolan Principles, Equality Act 2010, public sector equality duty, data protection and Managing Public Money principles. The accountable body is also responsible for compliance with legal responsibilities in relation to subsidy control, state aid and procurement. If subsidy control or state aid laws are breached the accountable body will need to recover funding from the delivery bodies any grant has been paid to.
27. The Council, in its role as accountable body, must follow the relevant legislation for the management of public funds and the Chief Finance Officer will be required to submit an annual statement of grant usage to MHCLG. This will provide written confirmation that they have undertaken to actively apply all the necessary checks to ensure proper administration of its financial affairs regarding the funding programme, particularly in respect to financial administration and transparency of governance.
28. Whilst the ability to spend the PiP funding is flexible it must meet the criteria set by MHCLG and may have to be repaid if rules are not followed.

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

29. Central Stockton Ward – both ward councillors Cllr Pauline Beall and Cllr Paul Rowling are members of the PiP Board and have been involved in resident engagement and all Board decisions.

Name of Contact Officer:	Vicky Japes
Post Title:	Head of Programme (Pride in Place)
Telephone number:	01642 527758
Email address:	Vicky.japes@stockton.gov.uk

Appendix A

Central Stockton and Portrack

Pride in Place **approved** boundary map

