COUNCIL – 18 NOVEMBER 2026
MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

MOTION 1

Motion submitted by Cllr Ross Patterson, to be seconded by Cllr Kevin Faulks:-

"The UK Government website states: 'The historic counties are an important element of English traditions which support the identity and cultures of many of our local communities, giving people a sense of belonging, pride and community spirit. They continue to play an important part in the country's sporting and cultural life as well as providing a reference point for local tourism and heritage. We should all seek to strengthen the role that they can play.' Government has inserted a hologram of the historic counties inside the back cover of the blue coloured British Passport.

Paragraph 3.47 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 issued by the Department for Transport allows the signing of historic county boundaries on the highway network. However the requirement to install these has been placed on local authorities, but it is only optional.

The Borough of Stockton on Tees incorporates 6 towns, 3 north of the River Tees in the historic county of Durham and 3 south of the River Tees in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Each of these towns are seeing exciting developments to enhance and improve them. The Council has also taken a keen interest in the last decade to ensure that the Historic County boundary at the River Tees is marked on its highway network, as well as kindly offering guidance and advice to other local councils wishing to do the same. However, progress elsewhere is frustratingly slow, and we risk losing our heritage if nothing is done.

Therefore, please would the Council write to the New Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the New Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and request:

The Traffic Sign Regulations state that Historic County boundary signs should be installed on all the following categories of roads on the Highway Network: motorways; dual carriageways / trunk roads; Category A, B and C roads, by the relevant highway's authority, whether it is a local authority, Highways England, or the Department for Transport. Each Highways authority must be mandated through law to make a heritage lottery fund applications to secure funding so the historic boundary signs at its administrative borders, such as Stockton Borough Council had done, so this can be achieved with no cost to the local taxpayer or national tax payer."

Received 8 November 2026 23:20