Pride in Place Board
(Central Stockton and Portrack)

A meeting of Pride in Place Board was held on Monday 19 October 2026.

Present: Michael Poole (Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Angela Corner, Cllr Paul Rowling, Tracey Roberts, Kelly Lannon, Mark Miller, Louise Meek (substitute for Chris McDonald MP), Lucy Bentley, Sahida Ditta and Tim Keith

Officers: Jane Edmends, Michael Henderson, Natalya Robson, Vicky Japes, Kellie Hopkins

Also in attendance: Jack Sneddon

Apologies: Chris McDonald MP, Brian Jones, Louise Lowes, Alan O'Donoghue, Tony Wedlake, Joan Wynn

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2026 were considered.

RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record.

2. Action Tracker

The Board considered the newly introduced Action Tracker, which provided an ongoing record of actions agreed at previous meetings, responsibility for delivery and progress.

Members welcomed the tracker and agreed that completed actions should be retained in a separate section to provide an historical record of work undertaken, rather than being removed entirely.

A number of existing actions were reviewed. It was noted that development of the Vision and establishment of the Plan Working Group had been completed. Other actions, including ongoing engagement and mapping of existing activity and provision, would continue.

During discussion of the Tracker the following issues were raised:

Mapping of community assets include relevant programmes, events, services and other activity taking place within the Pride in Place area – Officers/Partners.

Photographs of the mosaic to be provided for potential inclusion in the submission documents, subject to confirmation that appropriate permissions were in place. Kellie Lannon / Natalya Robson

Pride in Place to be included within the next town-centre business group meeting in December, with links between the group and the Board developed further.

Council communications channels and support to continue to be used in the short term, with longer-term communications arrangements to be considered as the Board develops.

Council and Thirteen land ownership and maintenance responsibilities to be clarified and relevant planned programmes/schedules of work shared with the Board.

RESOLVED that the Action Tracker be updated following each meeting, with completed actions retained in a separate completed section – Michael Henderson.

3. UK Town of Culture

Members noted useful links between the Town of Culture work and Pride in Place, including opportunities to use Board members' existing community networks to increase awareness and engagement.

RESOLVED that a presentation on the Town of Culture be provided to a future meeting and details of the information which the Town of Culture team would like Board members to disseminate through their networks, be established - Kellie Hopkins/Tara Connor

4. Chair's Update

The Chair reported that his focus had continued to be on developing a better understanding of existing activity within the neighbourhood and establishing the required governance arrangements.

Overgrown vegetation remained an issue raised regularly by residents. Work was continuing with the Council, Thirteen and other partners to understand existing maintenance programmes, land ownership and responsibilities before considering where Pride in Place could add value.

Members recognised that some areas had become significantly overgrown and that carrying out one-off clearance would not provide a sustainable solution. There could be a role for Pride in Place in helping areas to be brought back to an appropriate standard where necessary, provided arrangements were then in place for the responsible organisation to maintain that standard through its normal maintenance programme.

The importance of undertaking work during the appropriate seasonal window was also recognised.

Positive examples of partnership working were noted, including a recent Day of Action involving the Council and Thirteen. Members considered that resident involvement in future environmental improvements would help build community ownership.

The Chair emphasised that, while putting the necessary governance and administrative arrangements in place was important, the Board needed increasingly to focus on planning and visible delivery within communities.

RESOLVED that

1. **Council and Thirteen land ownership/responsibilities and planned vegetation/maintenance works to be clarified – Chair/Officers/Partners.**
2. **Officers/Partners explore how priority areas of overgrown vegetation could be brought back to an appropriate standard and subsequently maintained sustainably through existing maintenance programmes.**
3. **Opportunities to involve residents in future environmental improvements and community action to continue to be explored – Officers/Partners.**

5. Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Memorandum of Understanding

The Board considered a draft Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Memorandum of Understanding with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

It was explained that the documents provided the governance framework for the Board. The Terms of Reference set out how the Board would operate; the Code of Conduct established expectations for members; and the Memorandum of Understanding set out the working relationship between the Board and the Council as Accountable Body.

The Memorandum of Understanding included arrangements for the Council to provide core programme support for an initial three-year period.

Members discussed the respective roles of the Board and Council and recognised that the initial arrangements would allow the programme to become established while retaining the opportunity to consider alternative arrangements as the Board developed. It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding would be subject to annual review.

Particular consideration was given to conflicts of interest. Members recognised that, given the community, business and voluntary-sector experience represented on the Board, potential conflicts were likely to arise during the programme. This did not prevent organisations associated with Board members from seeking funding, but relevant interests would need to be declared, and members should not participate in decisions where they had a relevant conflict.

Members discussed the importance of registering declarations and keeping them up to date. It would be beneficial if members were able to get advice on any concerns they had.

The Terms of Reference were considered section by section and amendments identified during the discussion.

Vicky Japes and Natalya Robson left the meeting room during consideration and determination of the MoU.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Terms of Reference be approved subject to the amendments agreed at the meeting;

2. the Code of Conduct be approved;

3. the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council be approved; and

4. the governance documents be finalised and published in accordance with programme requirements.

6. Declaration of Interest forms to be issued to Board members for their completion and return – Officers/Board Members.

7. Declarations of Interest to be included as a standing item on future Board agendas – Chair/Michael Henderson.

6. Potential Early Actions and Grant Projects

The Board considered a number of potential early actions and community grant project ideas arising from the engagement undertaken to date.

Members emphasised the importance of demonstrating progress in response to issues raised by residents, while recognising that Pride in Place funding should not be used to replace the responsibilities of the Council, Thirteen or other organisations. In some cases, the Board's role could be to facilitate or encourage progress rather than provide funding directly.

Members were content for the potential early actions identified in the report to be explored further, subject to establishing existing responsibilities, planned activity and any potential costs before decisions on funding were made.

The community grant project ideas contained within the report were discussed as examples of the types of activity which might come forward rather than proposals for funding at this stage. Members agreed that an appropriate application and assessment process should be established before the community grants programme was launched.

The potential for an open event to promote the grants programme and encourage applications from voluntary and community organisations was also discussed.

RESOLVED that

1. **the potential early actions identified be explored further.**
2. **a proposed community grants process, including application arrangements, assessment criteria, funding levels and decision-making arrangements, be brought to the next meeting for consideration prior to launch of the fund at an event.**

7. Approval Dates for Documents

The Board noted the timetable for completion and submission of the ten-year Regeneration Plan and Engagement Story.

Key milestones included completion of content for Design and Print by 30 October, consideration of the emerging Plan by Cabinet on 12 November, final approval by the Pride in Place Board on 19 November and submission to MHCLG by 27 November.

It was explained that Cabinet would be asked to endorse the broad principles and themes arising from engagement and to delegate final Council sign-off to the appropriate Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, following approval of the documents by the Board.

Members acknowledged the tight timetable and the need for work to continue between meetings.

It was also noted that the publication of the Cabinet report might generate media or public interest in the programme ahead of the Board's final consideration of the documents.

RESOLVED that the timetable and approval arrangements be noted.

8. Draft Documents

The Board considered draft sections of the Regeneration Plan, including the front cover and short Vision, priorities summary, longer Vision and local context.

Members welcomed the emphasis throughout the documents on Central Stockton, Portrack and Tilery and the intention to ensure that the programme reflected the whole neighbourhood rather than being perceived as principally town-centre focused.

The four previously agreed priorities remained:

- Supporting Young People to Thrive;
- Creating Safer Communities;
- Driving Economic Prosperity and Housing Growth; and
- Enhancing Quality of Life through Culture, Recreation and Green Spaces.

Discussion included the importance of community belonging and cohesion.

Members were asked to provide suitable photographs of local places, projects and organisations for use within the final documents. It was emphasised that images should only be supplied where the appropriate rights and permissions were in place, including consent from individuals pictured.

Given the design and submission timetable, photographs were required promptly.

RESOLVED that:

1. **the draft sections considered at the meeting be approved for incorporation into the developing Regeneration Plan. - Officers**
2. **Board Members provide suitable photographs/images of the area, projects and organisations for inclusion in the Plan where available, ensuring appropriate rights and permissions are in place – All Board Members.**

9. Documents' Design Style

Members considered three potential design styles for the Regeneration Plan and associated documents.

Following discussion of the different approaches, there was a clear preference for Design Option 3, subject to minor refinements which could be incorporated during the design process.

Members were invited to provide any further minor comments on the preferred design to officers for consideration during the preparation of the final documents.

RESOLVED that Design Option 3 be approved as the basis for the Regeneration Plan and associated documents, subject to minor amendments.

10. Any Other Business

Board Member Information

Members who had not yet provided biographies and photographs for publication on the Pride in Place webpages were asked to do so. Information already received would be progressed for publication.

Outstanding Board member biographies and photographs to be provided and material received progressed for publication on the Pride in Place webpages – Relevant Board Members/Officers.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 19 November 2026 at 9.30am.

The possibility of holding the meeting in the Council Chamber was discussed, given that final consideration and approval of the Regeneration Plan and Engagement Story would be a significant milestone for the Board.

Availability of the Council Chamber for the November meeting to be explored – Officers.