# Alex Cunningham MP

## Member of Parliament for Stockton North

Councillor Bob Cook
Leader
Stockton on Tees Borough Council

12 October 2023

Dear Bob

**Motion to Council – Health and Care Innovation Zone**

Thank you for your letter of 9th October about the Health and Care Innovation Zone with details of the motion passed, I understand with cross Party support.

I am also grateful to you and senior officers within the Council for briefing my team and I on what is a tremendous and achievable initiative which could put our borough, not just at the centre of health and care innovation withing the Region, but within the country.

The proposals are probably one of the most exciting things to come forward in a generation and the impact it could have on our area in so many ways from improved outcomes for our people to the development of thousands of high-quality jobs.

Opportunities appear endless and I am particularly pleased about the proposals for a medical school and a new hospital to replace North Tees – something I have spent much of my time in Parliament campaigning to achieve over the last 13 years following the cancellation of the Wynyard project in 2010.

I will certainly give the project my full support and have written to the Secretary of State for Health along the lines requested – copy enclosed. I think it is also important that the Shadow Secretary of State is aware of the proposals, and I have also contacted him.

Partnership as it is clear from the motion, will be critical and I join the Council is appealing to all existing and potential new partners to engage with the project and help bring it to fruition. I am always heartened when speaking with industrialists, business people, the Third Sector and others when they talk of the Council innovation and can do, will do attitude. I am sure that will stand the Council is good stead as things move forward.

If there is anything else that I can assist with, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

**Alex Cunningham MP**
**Member of Parliament for Stockton North**