

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE 17 October 2024

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

THE STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAN 2024-2028

SUMMARY

This report provides Cabinet with the final draft of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan 2024-2028, for Consultation ahead of consideration by full Council in November 2024.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

This Plan marks a new direction for our organisation. It sets out a Vision for the future of our Borough, developed with the voice of our communities.

The Plan has been developed to reflect the growing pressures on communities and public services, which mean we can no longer afford to deliver services the way we have in the past. However, we are confident we can work with local stakeholders to put in place new and innovative approaches that will reshape what we do in the best interests of our residents, whilst effectively managing the resources we have.

Once approved, the Stockton-on-Tees Plan will serve as a guiding framework for the Council, along with our partners and communities, to work together towards a shared future that brings our vision to life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the Stockton-on-Tees Plan (attached at Appendix 1) for stakeholder consultation
2. Approve the Stockton-on-Tees Plan (attached at Appendix 1) for recommended agreement by Council on 20 November 2024, subject to any comments received through community consultation
3. Agree that any minor amendments as the result of consultation are reviewed and agreed by the Leader of the Council, and that an overview of comments are provided to all Members of Cabinet
4. Agree that if there are any comments requiring substantive change to the draft Plan, they are brought to a future Cabinet meeting before consideration by full Council
5. Subject to approval of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan by full Council, agree that Cabinet will receive annual updates on progress and achievements. Alongside this, Select Committees will receive regular updates on progress relevant to their remit.

DETAIL

6. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan has been developed to reflect the drivers and priorities for the Council, our partners and most importantly communities.
7. A high-level analysis of data has been carried out to give us a picture of our performance and to set a baseline.
8. The voice of communities has also informed the development of a draft Vision for the Borough:

Stockton-on-Tees is home – 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 Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place, where everyone can grow and succeed. We work together to reduce inequalities and remove barriers to opportunity. We are Team Stockton-on-Tees.

9. Five priority areas are proposed as the focus of our activity to turn our Vision into reality. These are:
 - 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

Further detail on each of these priorities can be found in Appendix 1.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

10. The Stockton-on-Tees Plan has drawn 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.
11. Key themes from our conversation with communities, and which are reflected in the 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.
12. 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.

13. Consultation with partners has taken place through the Place Leadership Board.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

The 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

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

Any and all legal implications will be identified through careful action planning throughout the delivery of the 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 Plan are also made in accordance with the law to minimise any risk of legal challenge.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Stockton-on-Tees Plan provides the vision for the future of the borough. The greatest risk associated with the Plan is that the development has not been sufficiently robust and that the wrong priorities have been identified. This risk has been mitigated by a detailed development process included considerable consultation with our communities, partners and internally with Members and officers.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

All Stockton-on-Tees wards affected.

Consultation has been carried out with councillors at the following:

- Member Engagement session (09/07/24)
- Member Engagement session (12/07/24)
- Members Briefing Session (24/09/24)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

All relevant background papers are included within Appendix 1.

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