

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

**DATE 14 NOVEMBER
2024**

**REPORT OF THE
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

Memorandum of Understanding between Stockton on Tees Borough Council and Teesside University

SUMMARY

This report sets out a Memorandum of Understanding between Stockton on Tees Borough Council and Teesside University. It establishes a framework for collaboration between our organisations and confirms our commitment to partnership working.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding with Teesside University will reinforce our commitment to joint working. It identifies a set of shared priorities that we will work together to deliver, enabling us to maximise our collective impact to deliver positive outcomes for our communities and our economy.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) attached at Appendix 1.

DETAIL

1. The MOU builds on a strong history of collaboration between our two organisations and reinforces our shared ambitions for the social and economic future of our area.
2. The MOU marks a new phase in our partnership, cementing shared goals and key areas of activity. It is grounded in our organisational objectives and existing partnership commitments, including those set out through the Care and Health Innovation Zone Bard and Place Leadership Board. As such, it also confirms our shared commitments with partners including the University Hospitals Tees.
3. The MOU identifies a set of shared objectives and underpinning projects or initiatives that will drive our shared success. The initial list of activity is not exhaustive, and

each Party will identify a single point of contact to ensure that this MOU remains a live document, that delivers meaningful impact.

Shared Objectives

4. Central to our shared objectives, is delivering our Vision for a Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone, specifically:
 - Developing skills infrastructure and provision that are fit for purpose to support a successful Care and Health sector, and removing barriers to access training
 - Ensuring that Innovation, Research & Development drives cutting edge service delivery in Tees Valley, and establishes a regional reputation for excellence
 - Reducing Health Inequalities by taking a strength-based approach to working with communities, with a focus on Early Help and Prevention
 - Using research, data analysis and intelligence to inform better decision making that delivers meaningful impact.

Governance

5. Following agreement by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet and Teesside University's Executive, delivery of this MOU will be overseen by the Chief Executive of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and the Vice Chancellor of Teesside University.
6. Quarterly Management meetings will take place to ensure progress and impact with annual reporting of progress and achievements to the Council's Cabinet and University's Executive. Governance will also align with, and not duplicate other arrangements, including: Care and Health Innovation Zone Board and Place Leadership Board.

Next Steps

7. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the MOU to enable formal signature by:
 - Leader of Stockton on Tees Borough Council
 - Chief Executive of Stockton on Tees Borough Council
 - Teesside University Executive.
8. The MOU will run for 5 years from the date of signature

Consultation and Engagement

9. There has been consultation and engagement across both organisations to confirm the content of the MOU, along with partners referred to in the Action Plan. This reflects wider engagement undertaken by both organisations to inform corporate priorities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

10. Successful delivery of the Care and Health Innovation Zone will result in employment opportunities for local residents, with potential to house 9,000 direct jobs. It will also meet local housing need, with potential to accommodate 3,600 houses and a range of new residential care facilities.
11. Activity can also help to reduce health inequalities and directly address population need for Care and Health provision.
12. A shared research agenda can enable us to better understand the needs of communities and the impact of activity. Throughout the lifetime of the MOU the Council will give consideration to the potential impact on any protected characteristics and the needs of diverse groups during any project activity associated with the MOU so that people can access fairer opportunities and equal services.
13. A CIA will be undertaken for project activity as it is brought forward.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

14. This report and its recommendation do not have any corporate parenting implications

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no direct financial implications as a direct result of this report. Any financial implications associated with individual project activity will be dealt with separately as required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. This Memorandum of Understanding is a non-legally binding agreement

RISK ASSESSMENT

17. The MOU has been developed to mitigate the risk that our organisations do not work together to maximise our resources to deliver shared objectives. Associated governance arrangements (as set out at paragraphs 5 & 6) will oversee effective delivery.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD / COUNCILLORS

18. The MOU relates to activity in all parts of the Borough. Specifically, the Care and Health Zone falls within the Mandale and Victoria Ward. It should also be noted that the Zone will have an impact across Stockton on Tees and the wider Tees Valley.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. Care and Health Innovation Zone – Vision document.

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