



# Stockton Council Labour Group Manifesto 2019-2023

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Working hard for the people of Stockton, Billingham, Thornaby,  
Yarm, Norton, Eaglescliffe, Ingleby Barwick and the Villages

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*Opportunity and fairness for the many, not the few*



# Vision



Our vision is for the people of Stockton on Tees to enjoy a local economy providing jobs for everyone, a better quality of life, better health and wellbeing, and a great place to live. We are committed to leading a Council that provides quality services, with good financial management to ensure value for money and strongly supports the most vulnerable in our society, while tackling inequality.

## **How we will deliver our Vision: Manifesto 2019-2023**

This manifesto sets out our priorities and the key pledges a Labour Council will make to nearly 200,000 people living in the Borough of Stockton on Tees.

Our priorities are to:

- **Protect the most vulnerable**
- **Grow our economy and create prosperity for everyone**
- **Tackle inequality and help people to be healthier**
- **Provide a better and safer place and environment**



## Our key pledges

The following pages set out what we will do to achieve this.

Our key pledges include:

- Continue with weekly household waste collection whilst investigating better receptacles for sorting to increase recycling and undertake a feasibility study on food waste collection.
- Continue our work against fuel poverty by insulating more people's homes to make them warmer and reduce their energy bills using schemes like warm homes healthy people.
- Provide better transport facilities across the Borough and Tees Valley including improved train and bus travel.
- Help reduce domestic and industrial carbon emissions by the Council and across the Borough by embracing new technologies.
- Work with local hospitals to avoid unnecessary admissions and support safe transfer and reablement back into communities.
- Give a New deal for carers offering more support for breaks and opportunities to improve their own independence, careers and quality of life and to carry out a feasibility study on concessionary travel for carers accompanying adults who qualify for concessionary travel.
- Drive up standards in home care and residential care.
- Advocate for a range of housing choices available to support vulnerable people within their communities.
- Tackle social isolation and loneliness in our communities.
- Support a new healthy schools initiative to promote healthy eating, physical activity and emotional wellbeing.
- Eradicate holiday hunger amongst children.
- Focus our Enforcement Service and work with residents, Police and other agencies to intervene in areas suffering the most antisocial behaviour and crime, irresponsible parking in residential areas, particularly near schools and on grass verges, off-road vehicles, cycling on pavements and environmental crime.
- Support the work of our voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to help people across the Borough and continue to invest to help sustain a vibrant third sector.
- Continue to develop strong, cohesive communities where people feel that they have a sense of belonging and are valued for their contribution to society.
- Reward the unique contribution of our Armed Forces and ensure they can access the services and support they deserve.
- Maintain a network of libraries that provide full library services, a trusted safe space for impartial information and guidance on health, benefits claims and access to essential online services.
- Support our town centres with events, including the City Games, and specialist markets to help to stimulate the local economy.
- Open the Globe with an exciting programme that attracts and engages a regional audience.
- Work with Tees Valley partner organisations to develop a compelling bid for the UK City of Culture 2025 to include a celebration of 200 years of the Stockton & Darlington Railway.
- Explore options to bring children with complex needs who are placed out of area back to Stockton and continue to work with partners providing small group homes for children and young people in our care

- Ensure there are sufficient early years and school places across the Borough for children of all ages.
- Build on the continuing improvements in school attainments, standards and narrowing the outcome gap for our disadvantaged children and young people.
- Tackle school exclusions to ensure children and young people receive the education they require.
- Develop home grown quality apprenticeships that meet the needs of local employers.
- Deliver housing on the brownfield sites of Alma House, Queens Park North and Victoria including the provision of affordable and social rented properties.
- Continue to supply affordable social housing by working with partner registered social landlords & tenant led housing cooperatives.
- Eradicate homelessness in the Borough by embedding our homelessness prevention strategy.
- Explore opportunities to acquire, invest, repurpose & redevelop sites and buildings in our town centres for the benefit of our communities.
- Continue to work with TVCA to provide better transport facilities across the Borough and Tees Valley to improve train and bus travel and better disabled access to our stations including Eaglescliffe and Billingham.
- Support the TVCA in the development of a vibrant airport.
- Seek to mitigate the impact on residents of benefit changes such as Universal Credit by continuing to support Stockton District Advice & Information Service, the Council's Welfare Rights Unit and the work of the Locality Forums and the Infinity Partnership.
- Reduce the minimum contribution to Council Tax asked of our poorer residents.
- Work with the owners of Billingham and Thornaby Town Centres to improve the retail and leisure offer.
- Invest in Belasis Business Park to create new jobs and continue to support Fujifilm in the development of a biomedicine science park.
- Work with Thirteen Housing to develop the social housing in Anson House and Hudson House in Thornaby.
- Develop facilities at Littleboy Park in consultation with the residents of Thornaby.
- Continue to freeze Councillor allowances following reductions in previous years.

## What we have achieved delivering on our aims 2015-2019

The Labour-led Stockton Council has strived to make a real difference to the people we serve since elected in 2015. Despite the challenge of losing £73 million since 2010 from our annual government grant by the Conservative government, we must remain optimistic and strive for a better future for the many and not the few. Over the next four years we must press ahead with positive, forward looking policies that will address our priorities of: working to improve the economy and protecting the most vulnerable.

People of all ages in our Borough have been hit hard by many Tory policies which have targeted us in the North East and those most in need. They include the hated Bedroom Tax, Universal Credit, the unfair benefits sanctions, ending of Education Maintenance Allowance and trebling of university tuition fees. The North East suffers the highest unemployment rate in the UK.

Tory decisions have affected people's quality of life, with real-term cuts to the NHS, Police, education, social care, children's services and many other public service budgets.

Despite these massive cuts we have worked hard to deliver the priorities we identified in 2015. By managing the finances effectively, we have been able to continue to invest for the future and deliver high quality services that people value.

### Major Achievements 2015-19

During the past four years we have delivered on our aims including:

- Over 150 new businesses locating to Stockton Town Centre and the Northshore area since 2015 creating around 600 new jobs.
- £450,000 to support investment in estate shops and associated infrastructure.
- 22% rise in job opportunities.
- Working in partnership with Stockton Riverside College, we opened the Skills Academy in Billingham in 2016. This new £1.6m investment is now providing a range of courses for around 100 learners from 14-18 years.
- 300 Stockton young people aged 16-24 have secured an apprenticeship through the Public Health funded Stockton Youth Employment Fund.
- The Council's Learning and Skills Service has delivered in excess of 400 apprenticeships and has also engaged with 180 participants through the Youth Employment Initiative.
- The Stockton Flyer is a major artistic installation at the heart of Stockton High Street.
- The Globe is undergoing full restoration and is planned to re-open as a quality music and comedy venue in Spring 2020.
- The Georgian theatre is just one of a number of attractions in the increasingly popular Cultural Quarter along with the micro pubs.
- Fountains Shopping Arcade continues to provide affordable space for people looking to start a new retail business in Stockton Town Centre.
- The Central Stockton Townscape Heritage Initiative brought in £2.7m funding to bring vacant retail space back into use across seven historic buildings.
- Events and 9 specialist markets with the successful hosting of the national cycling championships in summer 2016 attracting a large number of visitors alongside new events such as 'Stockton Stages'.
- Supported the formation a Business Improvement District delivering additional events and support.
- A new public realm scheme on Silver Street and Bishop Street.

- Stockton winning the Rising Star category of the Great British High Street Awards in 2016.
- Fusion Hive building on Northshore provides a focus for stimulating the digital economy in Stockton, funding with European (ERDF) and Council resources, the building is now over 80% occupied.
- An £850k externally funded study into District Heat and Power scheme is in development. A master plan has been developed, submitted, and approved by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy; potentially saving up to 132,000 tons of CO2 per annum. A Technical Economic Strategy is under development for the first of 3 schemes and customers are already engaged. It is the aim to begin implementation by 2020 subject to funding and other variables.
- Billingham Town Centre continues to trade well with an Aldi food store opening in April 2016.
- The £3.5m Care Ready housing facility on the Causeway, Billingham provides popular, modern accommodation for older residents of the Borough in close proximity to town centre services.
- Thornaby Town Centre is also trading well with low vacancy rates. This strong performance has been supported by the opening of the new Aldi food store which was enabled through disposal of land by the Council in 2015.
- Yarm Town Centre continues to be supported as a popular destination for both retail and leisure uses.
- Following extensive refurbishment, Yarm Library re-opened in September 2016 providing modern, community facilities on the High Street.
- Norton continues to be a popular location for both the retail and the evening leisure economy with significant environmental and safety/security measures.
- Targeted Recruitment & Training clauses have been incorporated into a number of Council contracts and Planning Agreements, including Hampton By Hilton Hotel, Ingleby Barwick leisure and library facility, Yarm/Leven Retirement Village and Teesside Park.
- Growth in the leisure sector forms part of a wider increase in investor confidence across the Town Centre with 44 new businesses opening in the last 18 months.
- The Council has worked with the Japanese Local Government Centre (JLGC) to promote investment opportunities in Stockton.
- The Council continues to maintain its parks and green spaces to a high standard and, under the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan, there is an on-going programme to improve and enhance sites across the Borough. In addition the Council works with several partner organisations to support volunteer involvement and community-led activity at these sites.
- Urban park projects completed since 2015 include the construction of a synthetic, all-weather bowls green at John Whitehead Park (Billingham), and the development of a community orchard and fitness trail with outdoor gym equipment at Grangefield Park, Stockton.
- Recent improvements to outdoor play and informal sport provision include the construction of a new multi-use games area in Roseworth, along with a new play area for older children and an outdoor gym.
- At Ingleby Barwick an impressive central 'windmill' play feature has been installed at Windmill Park, while new features and equipment have been provided at several local play areas such as Mill Lane (Stockton), High Grange (Billingham), Victoria Recreation Ground (Thornaby) and Leven Park (Yarm).
- Affordable Warmth Strategy assisted 206 households through the Energy Champions scheme saving an estimated £41,000 for 231 households and brought in £616,499 of additional income for 354 vulnerable households through income maximisation.
- We continue to empty residual waste on a weekly basis and this service continues to be one of the more valued functions that the Council provides with customer satisfaction ratings running at in excess of 90%. The majority of waste generated is disposed of at the Energy from Waste Plant.

- The Council has invested heavily in infrastructure by adopting the latest hi-definition CCTV cameras and improved the Security Centre.
- The Council has recently approved the procurement of a partner to establish a joint venture in Victoria, that will lead on the building of 144 new homes.
- 250 empty properties have been returned to use since 2015.
- For the period 2015-17 there have been 1,288 new homes built, of which 226 were affordable homes.
- The Council has a successful Volunteer Landlord Scheme, with in excess of 160 landlords signed up to help improve basic standards.
- The Council are developing two Selective Licensing proposals, in Stockton Town Centre and north Thornaby, that will set out a more robust legislative framework to ensure landlord standards are driven up.
- In conjunction with Thirteen Housing Group provided a new supported living scheme, Acorn House, Thornaby, for 15 people with learning disabilities with £780k funding successfully secured through the Department of Health Specialist Housing and Support Fund.
- We have continued to work with the Safer Stockton Partnership to address community safety issues. Stockton's crime rate per thousand population is below the average of similar force groups. In the past year recorded incidents of ASB have reduced significantly and this is in no small part due to the efforts of the Council's Civic Enforcement Service. Community confidence remains high and this was reflected in positive feedback from the most recent Residents Survey results.
- Works progressed in Spring 2018 to provide a state of the art two-chapel crematorium which will be open in June 2019.
- The Council has worked in close partnership with the Environment Agency to complete high profile and much needed flood alleviation schemes at Lustrum Beck and Port Clarence.
- We improved our road networks including turning Myton Way in Ingleby Barwick into a dual carriageway.
- 787 households have accessed support through the award winning 'Warmer Homes Healthy People'; with a total of 1,456 interventions delivered.
- The Council has a strong track record and have demonstrated significant performance in reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases since Local Authority reporting began in 2009 and have been recognised nationally for our work on energy efficiency and carbon reduction. The Council reduced its own carbon emissions by 13.4% by March 2017 with the largest area of reduction since 2015 being in the new LED street lighting. It is anticipated that we will achieve our challenging target of a 21% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Council activity by March 2020.
- Developed a Strategic Transport Plan in partnership across the Tees Valley which supports growth in in the local economy by providing a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable and safe transport network for our residents and addressing issues such as cycling, walking, bus, rail and road networks.
- Shortlisted as 'Council of the Year' in local government's three most prestigious national awards – the LGC Achievement Awards, the Association of Public Service Excellence Awards and the Municipal Journal Achievement Awards.
- Maintained our Customer Service Excellence accreditation for the sixth consecutive year.
- Received an extremely positive report from our Auditors, who said: "the Council manages its finances carefully to balance service needs and available resources".
- Restructured and reduced the size of our senior management team savings in excess of £1m.
- We have worked closely with health partners in recent years to improve awareness, diagnosis and service for dementia including two new Dementia Advisors making the advice and support offered by the LiveWell Dementia Hub more personalised, responsive and flexible.

- We have provided new specialist support groups for younger people living with dementia and people with rarer forms of dementia.
- An Airtrail course at the Tees Barrage and the installation of a new climbing facility at Billingham Forum have been completed and work has commenced on the upcoming multi-million-pound new leisure and library facility in Ingleby Barwick for the Stockton South community.
- We have completed the £1.4 million refurbishment and expansion of The Georgian Theatre in partnership with Tees Music Alliance.
- We have maintained nine thriving libraries, one mobile library and our housebound service cumulatively having over 1.2 million visits.
- Delivered seven specialist markets including a new records market.
- Delivered our major events programme with events like the River Rat Race, cycling festivals and national championships, Stockton Sparkles, the Fireworks display, the first Stockton Stages music and comedy event and supported Billingham International Folklore Festival.
- Delivered SIRF, our biggest event, successfully presenting over 90 shows in 4 days. 91% of visitors believed SIRF is a good use of Council resources, 92% think it is a good promotion of the town, 87% were satisfied with the event overall. The 2017 SIRF Carnival with 1,400 participants was the biggest in the 31year history of the event.
- Continued to grow the 'Sisters R Doing it' running programmes, Funky Feet children's activity programmes and the award winning 'Sporting Steps' weekly programme for over 40 adults with learning disabilities and mental health conditions.
- Allensway Day Centre for People with Learning Disabilities and Ware Street Centre for people with autism have been refurbished and more appropriate activities and equipment provided.
- The community-based Day Options for People with Learning Disabilities have been modernised with some relocation to units within Stockton Business Centre for more efficient operation.
- STEPs services have been expanded to include older people and those on the autism spectrum and Sporting STEPS has improved the wellbeing and fitness of participants.
- The Council's new in-house shredding company has continued to be successful and improved employment outcomes for several people with Learning Disabilities.
- We have promoted the Tees-wide Safe Place Scheme, a network designed for vulnerable people who feel threatened, with 38 locations across Stockton-on-Tees.
- Based on the successful Fairer Start programme in Town Centre Ward, we have launched a new 0-19 service to work with whole families, including reshaped health visiting and school nursing provision working from our repurposed children's centres as family hubs.
- Stockton Personalisation Support Service has continued to grow and develop the service and support for clients considering and receiving personal budgets to manage their care needs.
- We have successfully opened, in partnership with Spark of Genius, three additional children's homes. All our children's homes, including these are rated good or outstanding.
- We undertook an independent review by a Local Government Association team to ensure our sports and leisure activities continued to target those in the community who have the greatest need.
- The Council has recently agreed a four-year partnership to deliver the Great North City Games and a series of mass participation runs in Stockton.
- For the 100 years commemoration of the end of the First World War, we secured the nationally acclaimed 'Danger Tree' Exhibition, a real coup for the Borough.
- We established the Infinity Partnership to oversee and support financial inclusion and address the introduction of Universal Credit.

- In conjunction with 5 Lamps, we established and nurtured a social enterprise to deliver home care.
- The results and attainment in our schools have increased year on year with many outcomes being the best in the region and above the national figures.
- We now have 89% of our schools judged to be Good or Outstanding which again is above the national figures.
- We have worked closely with all our schools to achieve the improved outcomes for all our children and young people including closing the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged.
- We have mitigated the impact for those people hit hardest by Tory 'welfare reform' with its draconian benefit cuts (including disability benefits), the introduction of Universal Credit and the increased use of sanctions through funding Stockton & District Advice and Information Service and retaining our own Welfare Rights Service.
- We supported Tees Credit Union through its merger with Moneywise Credit Union to amalgamate and create a stronger and more financially robust credit union, and in their move to new premises.
- In addition, the locality forums have been supported in their various initiatives e.g. assisting food banks and actions around illegal money lending.
- In excess of 3,000 households have benefited in total from £6.2m of energy savings and £2.6m of health-related quality of life savings since scheme began in 2012.
- 2,839 households have registered for the Big Community Switch in Stockton-on-Tees to lower household energy bills and has generated collective savings of £116,568.
- Stockton-on-Tees has the second lowest fuel poverty level in the North East region and has consistently been the lowest in the Tees Valley.
- We have established a Domestic Abuse Steering Group which has overseen the development of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy, supported by all partners.
- We worked with community groups and the Victim Care and Advice Service to refine our response and support to victims as well as raising awareness of hate crime to increase reporting.
- In conjunction with NHS partners, we have reduced waiting times for assessments for children who have, or may have, autism.
- We have continued to support early years providers, with 99% of all provision rated good or outstanding.
- We have continued to support the delivery of a nationally recognised young carers service, and continued to deliver short breaks for families of children with disabilities, including a mixture of grants, respite and holiday provision.
- We now provide the Carers Service in-house with over 400 carers registered with the service.
- The Council continues to facilitate and support the functioning of Stockton Youth Assembly.
- The Council pays the Foundation Living Wage rate and, in addition, pays our apprentices the minimum wage for age rather than the lower apprentice rates of pay.
- We have undertaken a review of the original local 'Armed Forces Community Covenant' from 2011 and updated the Covenant.
- We have continued to provide support to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector through our partnership with Catalyst whom we core fund.
- We have celebrated the growing success of volunteering in the Borough in Volunteering Month in June – the first Volunteers Market was held with 45 organisations advertising their volunteering opportunities.
- We have supported the reopening of Primrose Hill Community Centre and the continuation of other centres in partnership with voluntary sector organisations.

## Protect the most vulnerable

We believe in equal opportunity for everyone in our Borough. There are many diverse areas within Stockton on Tees and it's our aim to give everyone the best services, life chances and opportunities possible.

Local people have been hit unfairly by the Tory government. The government has continued to assault our quality of life and opportunity. The Council has been handed a 60% drop in funds from government. More than £73 million has been cut from our annual funding by the Conservative Government since 2010/11.

Despite this continued unfair attack on the people of Stockton on Tees, we will aim to make fairness central to all we do.

We pledge to:

- Further develop integrated working with health and other partners to commission or directly provide seamless services to people in need; in particular to work with local hospitals to avoid unnecessary admissions and support safe transfer and reablement back into communities.
- Drive up standards in home care and residential care including provision through social enterprises and in house, where appropriate thus ensuring the local social care system champions service users not shareholders.
- Further develop the LiveWell Dementia Hub as a centre of excellence to support people with dementia and their carers.
- Further improve the scope and scale of services, including employment opportunities, for people with learning disabilities and/or autism and those with mental health problems.
- Advocate for a range of housing choices available to support vulnerable people within their communities.
- Improve flu vaccinations amongst our workforce especially those working with vulnerable people.
- Deliver the wide ranging actions in our plan to address domestic abuse.
- Provide a well-resourced Civic Enforcement Service to help and support our residents, businesses and visitors and will ensure these services continue to identify and prioritise protection of the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Reaffirm our commitment to tackling hate crime in our communities head on, by exploring further opportunities to support minority community members through engagement and education.
- Stand against domestic abuse in all its forms and provide more support and services for those experiencing it, and help the Police prosecute perpetrators.
- Ensure the Corporate Parent Strategy delivers real care and understanding for the children and young people in our care.
- Continue to work with partners providing small group homes for our looked after children and young people giving them the support and opportunities they deserve helping them to have bright and positive futures.
- Explore options for bringing children with complex needs who are placed out of area back to Stockton.
- Work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure there are improved services for families with children who have, or may have, Autism. We will contribute to improving services for children and young people with mental health problems.
- Continue to implement our Early Help Strategy including through our Family Hubs and 0-19 Child Health Services.
- Further address the mental health needs of children and young people through the Futures in Mind programme.

## Growing our Economy and create economic prosperity for everyone

Stockton and the North East has suffered most under the Tory government, with dramatic cuts in jobs and real wages, rises in unemployment amongst our young people and unfair zero-hour contracts.

A Labour Council for Stockton on Tees will continue to fight for local people. We will work with businesses and other bodies to attract new employers and make the case for our Borough as the place to invest. We will ensure that residents of the Borough have the opportunities to develop the skills, creativity and ambition required to fill the high value jobs growing investment will create.

We must fight to keep and grow our powerhouse industrial sector in the face of global competition. A skilled workforce, good conditions to do business and live, and local authorities that are committed to the sector are vital. We know that the region as a whole must work together to make the case for the Tees Valley to these multinational companies and we will do that as a Council, through Tees Valley Combined Authority.

At the same time, we know Stockton needs more small businesses and we must help local people start up and expand here.

We must fight to give our young people the decent opportunities to learn and work that the government is cruelly denying them.

We pledge to:

- Where we can access funding we will also seek to improve local community shopping parades.
- Support the Borough's Tees Credit Union including their move to a new office in Dovecot Street to offer an alternative to payday lenders and loan sharks.
- Support our towns with events and specialist markets to help to stimulate the local economy.
- Present new large scale events that pull in significant audiences and secure positive broadcast media coverage for the Borough, assisting our efforts to attract inward investment and talent.
- Open the Globe with an exciting programme that attracts and engages a regional audience.
- Support ARC to deliver a diverse programme of theatre, dance, film, comedy, music and visual arts, increasing participation, extending audiences and supporting the growth of the cultural sector.
- Support Tees Music Alliance to deliver a diverse programme of music events, training and community uses of the Georgian, Green Dragon Studios and Calvin House, contributing to a thriving cultural quarter for Stockton Town Centre.
- Ensure all arts, culture and leisure services are provided in ways that minimise the barriers and disadvantages that are experienced by the most vulnerable members of our communities.
- To continue to achieve significant job growth, by facilitating further investment from employers, combined authority and central government.
- Push ahead to achieve the short to medium term objectives as outlined in the 2017-23 Economic Strategy.
- Deliver on our commitment to protect key employment land as outlined in the emerging local plan.
- To deliver more workspace on North Shore including expansion of Fusion Hive by securing ERDF Funding.
- To sustain & further develop apprentice training opportunities.
- To realise the full potential for new employment opportunities arising from key investments in Stockton Town Centre (e.g. The Globe, Hampton by Hilton Hotel and other satellite businesses).
- To maintain our commitment to ensure that 20% of jobs on Council led projects a go to local people.

- To further develop the Councils Learning & Skills Service by maximising the funding opportunities arising from the devolution of the Adult Education Budget.
- To develop home grown quality apprenticeships that meet the needs of local employers.
- To strive to achieve an OFSTED rating of outstanding for the Councils Learning & Skills Service.
- To continue to take opportunities within Stockton Town Centre to repurpose previous commercial spaces to provide living spaces.
- To invest in the boroughs town centres to meet the needs of the changing town centre retail environment.
- To support the development of experiential businesses like eateries, micro pubs and independent shops.
- To maintain investment in Fountains Mall (The Enterprise Arcade) to promote new virgin businesses.
- To continue to hold specialist markets & other events in Stockton Town Centre.
- To explore opportunities to acquire, invest, repurpose & redevelop sites and buildings in Stockton Town Centre for the benefit of our communities.

## Tackle inequality and help people to be healthier

We believe Stockton Council and its partners can make a real, positive difference to people's lives. This means closing the gaps in people's health across different parts of the borough, and giving everyone the chance to enjoy the best health, wellbeing and opportunities possible.

By striving for the best services for everyone, and targeting work on those most in need, we will make best use of council resources. We aim to be innovative and focused on helping our residents achieve their potential. Stockton on Tees offers many great things to people and we want to do more.

We want people to be able to enjoy the best arts, leisure and sporting activities on their own doorstep. And at the same time, we will provide outstanding events for residents to enjoy, and to attract visitors into our Borough.

We pledge to:

- Give a New deal for carers offering more support for breaks and opportunities to improve their own independence, careers and quality of life and carry out a feasibility study on concessionary travel for carers accompanying adults who qualify for concessionary travel.
- Work with the VCSE sector to focus on a community assets approach to prevention and early intervention/support and addressing the root causes of poor health and wellbeing.
- Develop services sensitive to the needs of LGBT adults.
- Continue our work against fuel poverty by insulating more people's homes to make them warmer and reduce energy bills using schemes like warm homes healthy people.
- Tackle social isolation and loneliness in our communities.
- Complete the root and branch review of drug and alcohol services culminating in new commissions from April 2020.
- Ensure the new 0-19 service focuses on the most disadvantaged families.
- Support a new healthy schools initiative to promote healthy eating, physical activity and emotional wellbeing.
- Eradicate holiday hunger amongst children.
- Implement the recommendations from the Physical Activity Peer Review

- Maximise the use of media and art in public health messaging.
- Enable people to live healthy lives and to make healthy choices by working with partners to create the conditions, infrastructure and support to create healthy places including improving the air quality in the Borough.
- Focus our teams on areas suffering the most antisocial behaviour, and work with residents and other agencies to intervene.
- Reward the unique contribution of our Armed Forces and ensure they can access the services and support they deserve.
- Support Tees Active to deliver a range of universal and targeted active leisure services and run our leisure centres in ways which are responsive to customers, dynamic and entrepreneurial.
- Build on the continuing improvements in school attainments and standards and the narrowing outcome gap for our disadvantaged children and young people.
- Support the targeted Children's Centres including the provision of Health Visitors.
- To target training towards disadvantaged groups with the aim of bringing people nearer to the employment market.

## A better and safer place and environment

We want Stockton on Tees to be a borough where the environment makes a difference to people's quality of life, drives green business growth and helps deliver social justice.

We want to continue to regenerate the Borough to provide better housing and give people more options to buy or rent affordable homes. We will improve standards in the private rented sector, tackling rogue landlords and nuisance tenants. We will develop housing where there is increased demand - for older people, single, and young people – and also family homes, as our population continues to grow.

We are committed to reducing carbon emissions alongside helping our powerhouse petrochemicals, process and other industries. Stockton can become a centre for attracting investment in new, low-carbon sectors, renewable energy, and other green-tech industries and jobs.

Great parks and green spaces, highly-valued refuse and recycling services and innovative community energy solutions are also high on our list.

We will continue to focus Council teams on tackling antisocial behaviour, so people can live in safe and cohesive communities.

We pledge to:

- Help reduce domestic and industrial carbon emissions across the Borough by embracing new technologies.
- We will continue to explore all opportunities to minimise journeys from the Council's own vehicles, specifically those which generate the greatest level of emissions, to reduce carbon effects on our environment
- Explore opportunities for the introduction of electric and 'environmentally friendly' vehicles into the Council's own fleet, whilst also encouraging our key partners to do the same.
- Develop a potential large-scale industrial heating network unique in the UK, to cut energy costs in large buildings and factories and using waste heat and energy from our energy-intensive industries.
- To continue to work with partner agencies to build flood defences for communities affected by Lustrum Beck flooding and tidal flooding at the Clarence's

- Continue to support and encourage our residents and communities to reduce, reuse and recycle so that we are all individually and collectively doing what we can to protect our environment.
- Encourage residents to minimise the waste that they present from their households, whilst aiming to ensure that no more than 10% of waste is sent to landfill.
- We are well on the way to delivering a crematorium and memorial facility in the borough.
- Deliver our Green vision by maintaining our local parks, green spaces, to continue involving local communities in developing and caring for our country parks.
- To continue to use wild flower planting to bring colour to a variety of areas in the Borough where flower beds have been removed
- We will continue to deliver the most effective service that we can, whilst also engaging and encouraging residents and the third sector to play a crucial part in 'caring for our area'.
- Continue to Support local food growing and community gardening projects like the Clarence's.
- Continue to work with TVCA to provide better transport facilities across the borough and Tees Valley including improved train and bus travel.
- We will continue to deliver the most effective service that we can to deliver new and improved highway schemes.
- We will also seek to deliver best value maintenance to roads and pathways around the borough.
- Maintain the Safer Stockton Partnership and continue working closely with the Police to ensure Stockton remains the safest place in the Tees Valley. We will continue to take a leading role when it comes to the work of the Safer Stockton Partnership. We are proud of our relationship with partners such as the Stockton Business District and we will continue to nurture and grow these links.
- We are committed to supporting the Community Safety plan through effective management and programmed investment into our public space surveillance network. We will continue to explore all opportunities for development and investment in the technology we use in order to provide effective evidence gathering for our strategic partners for the benefit of our residents, businesses and visitors.
- We are committed to keeping under constant review changes to legislation and best practice when it comes to community safety, ensuring that our plans and strategy are clear and complements the work of operational front-line teams.
- Work with voluntary and community groups and social enterprises to develop high quality support services that meet local needs and support the work our voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to help people across the Borough, and continue to invest to help sustain a vibrant third sector.
- Work with our diverse communities to meet their needs and promote an equal, multi-cultural society that recognises our values of fairness and opportunities for all. Continue to develop strong, cohesive communities where people feel that they have a sense of belonging and are valued for their contribution to society.
- Improve customer service satisfaction and efficiency by providing more choice for people to access Council services.
- Maintain a network of libraries that provide a trusted safe space for impartial information and guidance on health, benefits claims and access to essential online services.
- Establish and maintain SIRF as a pre-eminent Tees Valley cultural brand leader, exemplar event.
- Work with Tees Valley partner organisations to develop a compelling bid for the UK City of Culture 2025.

- Strengthen the Preston Park Museum & Grounds visitor attraction, adding new facilities, expanding the exhibition space and creating a new walled flower garden.
- Support our local and other parks to provide green space within walking distance of all residents.
- Work with Historic England and partner local authorities to protect and interpret the 26 mile route of the original Stockton & Darlington Railway, revealing the significance of key buildings and structures including the Bridge Road ticket office and former railway tavern.
- To realise the opportunity to build new homes in the locations specified in the emerging local plan.
- To maintain our strategy to return vacant properties to the market. To continue to work with partners to provide quality accommodation to those with extra care needs.

**Throughout all the above pledges and priorities, we will ensure that the voice of young people is heard in all we do to shape their future, this includes continuing to support the Big Committee and the Youth MP.**



Promoted by Paul Rowling of 5 Avill Grove Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 0FX, on behalf of Bob Cook and Eileen Johnson.

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