

Scrutiny Overview

Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

June 2014



Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

Culture and Leisure Services

Reuben Kench

Parks, Countryside and Greenspace

Graham Clingan

Culture and Leisure Services Service Area Responsibilities

- Arts
- Events
- Heritage
- Museums
- Libraries
- Sports Development
- Leisure and link with Tees
- Business Support



Arts, Culture and Leisure

Performance – what has been achieved

- **SIRF 2013 Visitor satisfaction** – 87.3% (+/- 3.5%)
- **Community Carnival** – 1,300 participants
- **Library Visits** - 1,200,000 exceeded target by 4%
- **Preston Hall Museum Visits** - 161,000 exceeded target by 7%

Adult Participation

- 25.2% are **members of a club** so that they can participate in sport or recreational activity (+/- 5.5%).
- 54% do at least **150 minutes of physical activity** a week (+/- 4.5%).

Key Achievements – Arts Development

- SIRD generated average additional expenditure - £868k per annum.
- Community Carnival scale and diversity – 65 groups.
- New Arts Development role – SIRD Artistic Director.
- 90% of visitors think SIRD is good for promoting Stockton as a place to visit and 85% think supporting SIRD is a good use of council resources.



Key Achievements – Arts Development

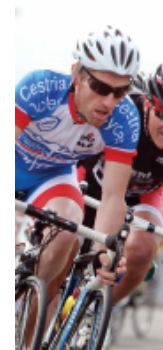
- Public art and design features for Stockton Town Centre reflecting SIRF as a ‘signature’ of the town.
- Illuminated Locomotion No 1
- West Row Arts Centre mural
- Arripare
- Stellar



Key Achievements

Leisure and Sports Development

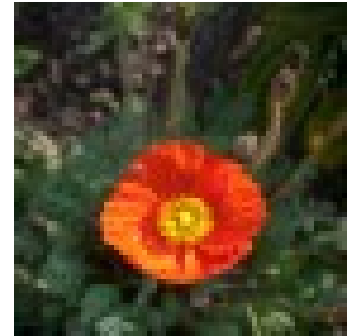
- **Stockton Cycling Festival 2013** – 10,000 participants – 25% increase from 2012.
- **Rat Race** - 1,122 participants – 1.4% increase from 2012.
- **Duathlon** – 876 participants – 49% increase from 2012.
- **Funky Feet** - 16 new schools since January 2014.
- **Women and girls exercise pilot** – 111 running and 30 cycling in 8 groups since January 2014.



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Key Achievements – Heritage and Preston Park Museum and Grounds

- Arts Council England Museums Accreditation.
- Heritage online resource developed.
- WW1 commemoration.
- Shortlisted for national museums customer service award.



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FINALIST
ArtFund
Museum
of the Year
2013

Key Achievements – Libraries

- Billingham Library and Customer Service Centre progressing.
- Thornaby and Roseworth branches integrated into Riverbank and Redhill Children's Centres.
- 21% reduction in opening hours, yet maintained visitor numbers.
- E-book and audio offer extended.
- WW1 public information and activity days.
- Author visits, World Book day and night, local history sessions, Books and Banter.

Key Achievements – Event Production and Business Support

- Administration and support to ISAG.
- Support to 16 community groups and external promoters events.
- Support to 17 specialist markets.
- Hosting Town That Danced and BBC Sports Personality of the Year.
- 8 Royal Visits/VIP Events.
- 192 complaints and 333 FOIs coordinated for DNS.

What has proved more difficult?

- Delivering SIRF with new roles and small team.
- Business engagement in events 'exploiting opportunities we create'.
- Large organisation constraints and ability to react quickly for commercial events, Funky Feet, etc.
- Level of service within Libraries.



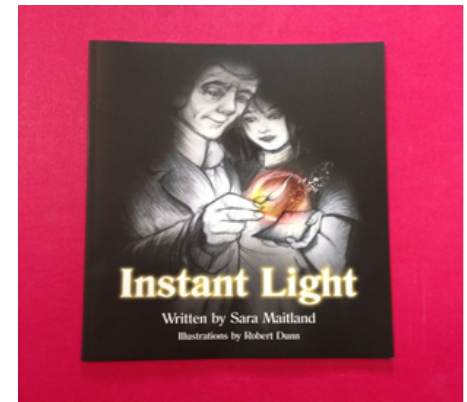
Emerging Issues – Delivering sustainable events

- Event programme that contributes to social and economic improvements.
- Programme of large scale festivals and events that are safe and well-managed.
- Support production and promotion of events by community groups and commercial partners.



Emerging Issues – Support the creation of excellent art and art experiences.

- Commission visual and performing art within Stockton town centre redevelopment and support the biennial Castlegate /MIMA photography prize.
- Continue to develop SIRF as a world class event .
- Support and monitor ARC and Tees Music Alliance as strategic local providers.
- Instant light on the streets of Stockton.



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Emerging Issues – Make more people aware of local history and heritage

- Increase visits to Preston Hall and generate more income from commercial activity.
- Continue the programme of collections development and rationalisation.
- Widen access to local history through the use of new technology, including the heritage website.
- Mark significant historic anniversaries, World War 1 Centenary and Stockton Darlington Railway bi-centenary (2025).

Emerging Issues – Implement plans for the library service

- New library and customer service centre in Billingham and improvements at Yarm and Norton.
- Maintain expert professional support and access to information including material on health, money, skills and innovation benefits.
- Encourage reading through targeted reader development programmes such as the Skills for life and ESOL programmes.
- Information training for librarians. National electronic resource e.g. government web sites DWP, Dept. of Health.



Emerging Issues

Sport and active leisure

- Provision of leisure facilities in the south of the borough.
- Support communities to secure enjoyment, learning, better health and achievement through sport and active leisure.
- Develop and implement the Stockton Inclusive Sports Action Plan and increase lifestyle sports initiatives that widen participation, including women's running and cycling groups.
- Implement a Continuous Professional Development Plan for teachers, coaches, volunteers and whole schools around physical education and sport.



Emerging Issues

Sport and active leisure

- Grow our events to encourage healthy ‘lifestyle-sports’ activity and showcase Stockton as an events destination.
- Support local voluntary infrastructure through the Healthy-Club initiative, helping clubs to deal with current challenges.
- Maximise use and efficiency of sports facilities e.g. Tees Active, schools and community organisations.
- Funky Feet and Instinctive Sport programmes commercial opportunities.



Direct Services

Service Area Responsibilities

Care For Your Area:

- Management and maintenance of urban parks, country parks, nature reserves and other green spaces
- Grounds maintenance, horticultural services, tree and woodland management



Direct Services

Service Area Responsibilities

Countryside & Greenspace:

- Coordinating delivery of Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Project development and delivery
- Delivering new and improved green infrastructure through the planning and development process



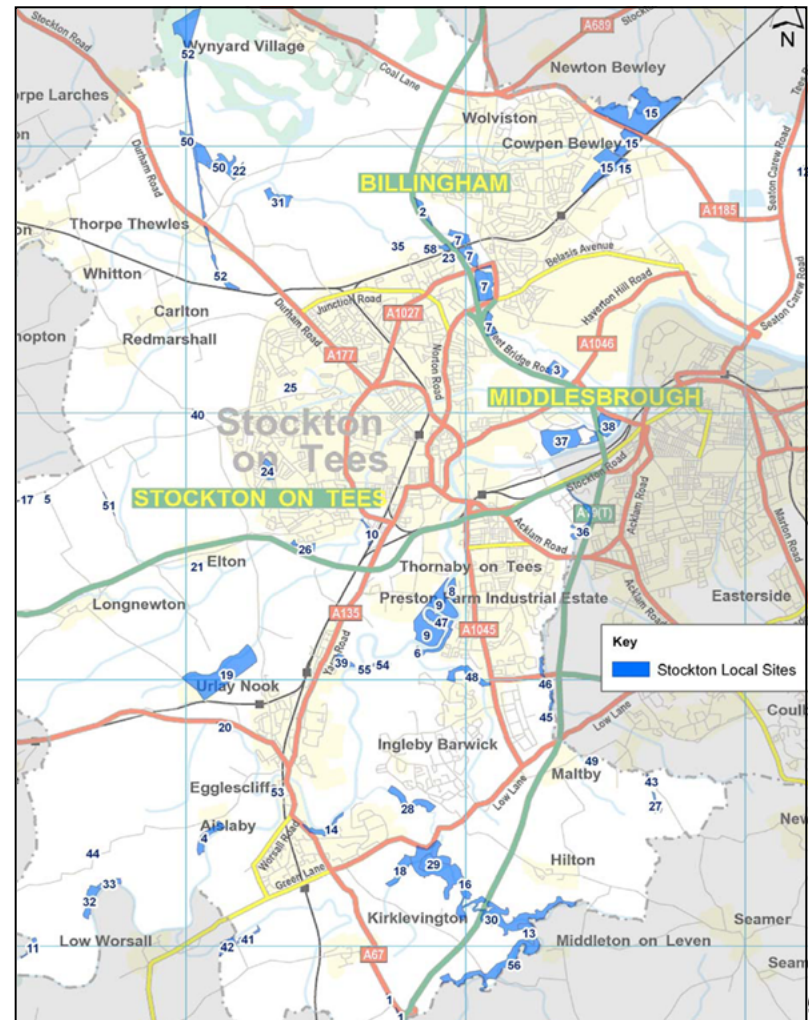
Performance – what has been achieved (1)

- 88% residents use parks and green spaces - the most widely used of any facilities provided by the Council (Residents Survey 2012)
- 87% satisfied with parks and green spaces (Viewpoint 2014) - or 75% (Residents Survey 2012)
- Gold award as Best City in 2013 Northumbria in Bloom awards
- Gold in Best City & Pride of Place award in 2013 Britain in Bloom



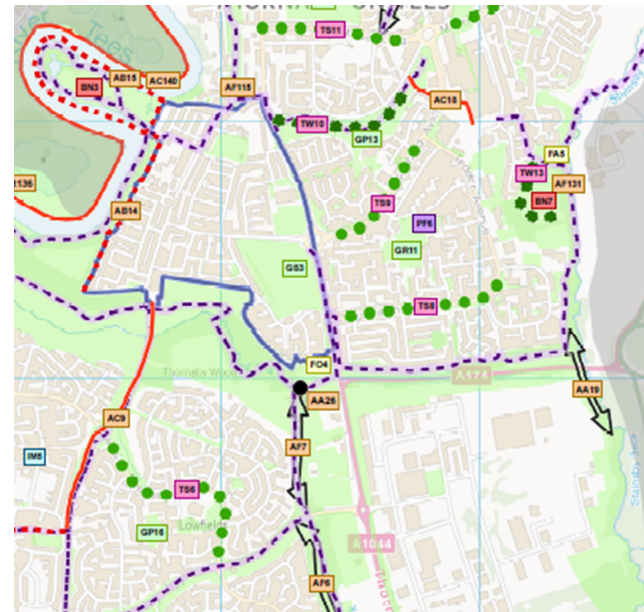
Performance – what has been achieved (1)

- Local Wildlife/Geological Sites – 33 out of 56 sites in positive management, i.e. 59% (provisional figure) - highest % achieved to date



Key Achievements: Strategic Planning

- Green Infrastructure Strategy fully integrated into emerging Regeneration & Environment Local Development Document
- Comprehensive, updated Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan in place
- Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan successfully being used as a basis to secure S106 contributions.



Key Achievements: Partnership Working (1)

- New Tees Valley Nature Partnership established. Achievements include:
 - Ecological network and opportunity mapping
 - Natural Environment Strategy for Tees Valley – draft presented to Board
 - Tees Valley Wild Green Places – project development
- River Tees Rediscovered – HLF Landscape Partnership stage 2 bid submitted (announcement 9 June)

Key Achievements: Partnership Working (2)

- Lustrum Beck – Green Infrastructure Action Plan developed with Environment Agency and Groundwork
- Other multi-agency partnerships established or sustained, e.g. River Users Group, Stockton River Corridors, North Tees Natural Network.
- Strong local partnership working - both on project delivery and on-going management, e.g. Town/ Parish Councils, Residents Associations, Parks Friends Groups, Friends of Tees Heritage



Key Achievements: Projects / Operational (1)

- 43 individual volunteers undertaking ranger-led volunteer work at our parks and countryside sites, from April 2013 to March 2014 - equating to 1,830 volunteer days
- Groups assisting with running facilities and helping to manage and maintain specific sites, e.g.
 - Charltons Pond - Billingham Angling Club
 - Friends of Ropner Park
- 5 open spaces title-transferred to the Council with appropriate commuted lump sum payments from developers
- Total project expenditure from 2007 to 2013: £3,007,740 with £2,275,122 (76%) secured through external grants / contributions....

Capital Expenditure 2007/8 to 2014/15

	Total Spend	SBC Funding*	External Funding
2007/08	66,000	-14,000	-52,000
2008/09	748,000	-31,000	-717,000
2009/10	1,222,000	-309,000	-913,000
2010/11	475,000	-87,000	-388,000
2011/12	616,000	-386,000	-230,000
2012/13	282,000	-94,000	-188,000
2013/14	577,673	-175,923	-401,750
2014/15 Forecast	978,933	-364,305	-614,628
Total	3,986,673	-1,096,923	-2,889,750

** SBC funding includes Capital Programme & Community Participation Budget*

Key Achievements: Projects / Operational (2)

- John Whitehead Park – Sport in the Park Project including skate park, multi-use games area, tennis courts, outdoor gym
- Billingham Town Council – developed and now managing café and ‘Community Hub’ at John Whitehead Park



Key Achievements: Projects / Operational (3)

- Ingleby Trail - access works completed around northern and eastern fringe of Ingleby
- Preston Park skate park: consultation and project development (opens summer 2014)



Key Achievements: Projects / Operational (4)

Numerous small-scale schemes delivered, e.g.

- Grangefield Park multi-use games area & community orchard
- Cowbridge Beck 'backwaters project'
- The Rookery, Yarm – access improvements
- Play area developments, e.g. Blue Hall & Harold Wilson recreation grounds
- 133 new and replacement trees
- 50 new allotment plots developed by CFYA to rear of Thornaby Pool



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What has proved more difficult

- Developing and delivering projects with a small team - with reducing revenue funding available to support on-going management and maintenance
- Most projects involve local consultation and are delivered in partnership with local groups and several partner organisations. The project management process can be complex and challenging – even for relatively small-scale projects.

Emerging Issues (1)

- Green Vision - opportunity to raise awareness and understanding of green infrastructure, including the role it can play in climate change adaptation and promoting health and well-being. Short and medium term targets to be set in line with objectives set out in Green Infrastructure Strategy



Emerging Issues (2)

- £1.1m reduction in CFYA budget for 2014-15 following EIT review:
 - £300,000 saving on grounds maintenance, achieved through reductions in ornamental displays: bedding, structures and staffing (60% beds will remain + bulb planting, tree planting, wildflower areas and sustainable planting)
 - Further reductions to Ranger Service – to 3 core staff. Focus on maintenance and supporting volunteer activity on main sites.



Emerging Issues (3)

- Explore alternative approaches for management / future development of parks and open spaces. Involving partners and community organisations + lease or asset transfer options:
 - Enhanced roles for Friends Groups
 - Role of other organisations? e.g. TVWT at Hardwick Dene
 - Study commissioned by Teesside Environmental Trust is exploring options for Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park
- New developments – transfer of open space to private management companies or other partners rather than SBC?



Emerging Issues (4)

- Revise and refine Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan - linked to wider Asset Review work and new housing developments
- Biodiversity off-setting
- Further revenue savings to be delivered in relation to other Green Infrastructure activity from 2015/16 onwards