

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**25 OCTOBER 2007**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**COUNCIL DECISION/CABINET DECISION/KEY DECISION**

**Corporate and Social Inclusion– Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Laing**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2008-2021, LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT  
PRIORITIES 2008-2011 AND REFRESHED COMPACT**

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to present the final draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008-2021, the emerging early Local Area Agreement 2008-2011(LAA) priorities following the second phase of consultation, and the revised final draft Compact.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet approves the final draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2021, subject to any required changes to be made following place shaper' government guidance, anticipated in the autumn of and final draft Compact.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The current Community Strategy runs until the end of March 2008 and needs to be re-focussed to respond to the emerging national, sub regional, regional and local context. The new Sustainable Community Strategy will run from 2008 until 2021.

The existing Stockton Renaissance Compact was agreed in 2004, in line with Government thinking. Previously Stockton Council and the Third Sector had a separate Compact to the one between Stockton Renaissance and the Community Empowerment Network. These have now been merged and a new Renaissance and the Third Sector Compact has been devised.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to

prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

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**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to present the final draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008-2021, and emerging early Local Area Agreement 2008-2011(LAA) priorities following the second phase of consultation, and the revised final draft Compact.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Cabinet approves the final draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2021, subject to any required changes to be made following place shaper' government guidance, anticipated in the autumn of and final draft Compact.

**DETAIL**

**Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21**

1. The current Community Strategy runs until the end of March 2008 and needs to be re-focussed to respond to the emerging national, sub regional, regional and local context. The new Sustainable Community Strategy will run from 2008 until 2021.

**Consultation and Engagement Strategy**

2. A comprehensive engagement process on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, agreed at the Renaissance meetings in May and September 2007, has now taken place along with consultation on its delivery plans, the Local Development Framework and the Local Area Agreement (LAA) priorities. All comments from both phases of consultation in the engagement process have been formally logged onto a database and have been used to inform the attached final draft SCS. Thematic summaries of the comments and what we did with them are attached at Appendix 1 for your information.
3. As part of the second phase consultation we consulted with Councillors through a number of mechanisms which included involvement through the Area Partnerships, Members Seminar, and an opportunity for individual briefings was provided, where requested.
4. The consultation sessions also concentrated again on which of the ambitions we should focus on, which will inform the priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategy's first 3-year delivery plan (the LAA). Some examples of emerging draft LAA priorities to date include more activities for children and young people, improved local transport networks and

affordable housing. A list of key priorities emerging to inform the future LAA is attached at Appendix 2.

5. The consultation and engagement process for the SCS 2008-21 has also been provided as a case study upon the request of the 'Association of North East Councils' as best practice to share with other local authorities in the region.
6. Further consultation on the LAA indicators will take place following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and publication of the final set of 200 national indicators in the autumn, from which Stockton will choose 35 to include in our LAA.
7. We have attached a copy of the final draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-21 at Appendix 3, for your consideration.
8. The next stages of developing the SCS strategy are as follows:
  - o Final draft of SCS to full Council – November 2007
  - o Publication and distribution of SCS –Early 2008
9. The 'place shaper' government guidance, (anticipated in the autumn of 2007) on LSPs, Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreement statutory elements, will also be considered and any required changes will be picked up. Due to the timescales involved Renaissance agreed at it's meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007 that any minor changes from this guidance will be authorised by the Chair and Vice Chair of Renaissance, Cabinet member for Corporate and Social inclusion and the Acting Assistant Chief Executive.

### **Compact between Stockton Renaissance and the Voluntary & Community Sector**

10. At the Renaissance meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2007 the board agreed the process for refreshing the existing Renaissance Compact, which was agreed in 2004, in line with Government thinking. Previously Stockton Council and the Third Sector had a separate Compact to the one between Stockton Renaissance and the Community Empowerment Network. These have now been merged and a new Renaissance and the Third Sector Compact has been devised. (see Appendix 4)
11. The Compact sets out the principles under which both the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Third Sector operate in their relationship with each other. It can cover a variety of factors including consultation, representation of the Third Sector, elections and mandates, managing conflict and dissemination of information.
12. This work was lead jointly by Stockton Residents & Community Groups Association and the Neighbourhood Renewal and LSP team. All the public services on the LSP were involved in the refresh, and it is planned that all LSP partners work towards the principals set out in the revised Compact.
13. We also held an event with the Area Partnerships and Community Empowerment Network called ' Together We Engage' to where we also took the opportunity to consult on the Compact. The draft Compact has also been consulted on and informed by the Youth Assembly and at a Community Network meeting.
14. The Compact will be jointly reviewed annually by the LSP and the mandated Third Sector umbrella organisations.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. Any financial implications will be addressed through the delivery plan for the strategy, which will be the Local Area Agreement 2008-11.

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

16. The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008-21 will replace the current Community Strategy which runs till the 31st March 2008.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

17. Part I of the Local Government Act 2000 places on principal local authorities a duty to prepare 'community strategies',

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

18. Any risks associated with the delivery of the SCS 2008-21 will be picked up by the appropriate public sector delivery organisation.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

19. An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken the strategy will have a positive impact on diversity.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

20. All ward councillors have been consulted through a series of consultation & engagement events.

**Name of Contact Officer: Helen Dean**  
**Post Title: Acting Assistant Chief Executive**  
**Telephone No. 01642 527003**  
**Email Address: [helen.dean@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:helen.dean@stockton.gov.uk)**

**Name of Contact Officer: Dawn Welsh**  
**Post Title: Neighbourhood Renewal & LSP Manager**  
**Telephone No. 01642 526011**  
**Email Address: [dawn.welsh@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.welsh@stockton.gov.uk)**

### Background Papers

Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'

### Property

Any linkages required to the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan will be considered by the appropriate public sector delivery organisation as appropriate.

