

AGENDA NO:

REPORT TO CABINET

**REPORT OF THE
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT
TEAM**

24th APRIL 2008

COUNCIL DECISION

Corporate and Social Inclusion – Cabinet Member – Councillor Laing

THE ROLE OF STOCKTON RENAISSANCE POST NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND

1. Summary

This report looks at the impact on Local Strategic Partnerships of changes in the national and local context, exploring the role of Stockton Renaissance post Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and opportunities offered by the government's introduction of the Area Based Grant.

2. Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet recommends to Council the creation of a "Communities fund" from the Area Based Grant as outlined in paragraphs 11 to 18.
2. That Cabinet agrees in principle the governance arrangements for the Communities Fund as outlined in paragraph 24, subject to consultation with Stockton Renaissance
3. That Cabinet agrees the final transitional arrangements for the projects which were previously funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, subject to consultation with Stockton Renaissance
4. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Law and Democracy to make the necessary amendments to the Council's constitution and schemes of delegation
5. It is recommended that Cabinet approve £50,000 per year be pre-allocated and authority delegated to the Head of Regeneration & Economic Development for the recruitment and appointment of a "worklessness co-ordinator"

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

Local Strategic Partnerships since their establishment in 2001 have been used to channel some area based government funding into an area. Whilst the relevant local authority has been the legally and financially accountable

body for those areas that received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding they were required to have an LSP which effectively decided on how the funding programme was to be used and subsequently monitored its effectiveness. Stockton has been recognised on numerous occasions for its effectiveness and approach and it is important that we build on our past to ensure effective arrangements going forward.

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

This report looks at the impact on Local Strategic Partnerships of changes in the national and local context, exploring the role of Stockton Renaissance post Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and opportunities offered by the government's introduction of the Area Based Grant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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2. That Cabinet agrees in principle the governance arrangements for the Communities Fund as outlined in paragraph 24, subject to consultation with Stockton Renaissance
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DETAIL

1. Local Strategic Partnerships since their establishment in 2001 have been used to channel some area based government funding into an area. Whilst the relevant local authority has been the legally and financially accountable body for those areas that received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding they were required to have an LSP which effectively decided on how the funding programme was to be used and subsequently monitored its effectiveness. Stockton has been recognised on numerous occasions for its effectiveness and approach and it is important that we build on our past to ensure effective arrangements going forward.
2. The government's Comprehensive Spending Review introduced a new non-ring-fenced 'Area Based Grant' or ABG. The ABG contains a range of grants including a 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' which has been seen as the successor to neighbourhood renewal funding. The inclusion of this grant within the ABG makes it different to NRF in two important ways-
 - The grant is allocated to the Council and not the LSP.
 - It is non-fenced and therefore could be spent on a range of priority areas not just worklessness.
3. Though the Council therefore has flexibility in what it chooses to spend the WNF element of the ABG on there is a rational expectation that the fund will be spent on worklessness issues. The Council and Stockton Renaissance has also identified worklessness and employability as key priorities in its new sustainable community strategy and in the emerging Local Area Agreement. The council is therefore keen to use the fund to tackle these issues and to empower Stockton Renaissance in deciding how this element of the council's ABG is spent.
4. There are several issues which need to be resolved in order to move forward:
 - The role of the LSP post NRF, including the role of the thematic and area partnerships
 - Finalisation of transitional arrangements for NRF funded schemes
 - The allocation of funding from the ABG to a fund to tackle worklessness for 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 including any transitional arrangements for Deprived Area Funds (this fund is included in the ABG from 2009)
 - Governance arrangements for commissioning programmes to address the employability/worklessness agenda

The Local Strategic Partnership role post Neighbourhood Renewal Funding

5. When the LSP was established in 2001 it's primary functions included-

- Leading the development and monitoring of the Community Strategy in partnership with relevant organisations
 - Leading the development and monitoring of Local Public Service Agreements
 - Leading neighbourhood renewal in the Borough including approving neighbourhood renewal funded projects
6. Whilst the LSP clearly still has an important role in developing, monitoring and challenging the community strategy the national policy direction has evolved over the last few years with the advent of Local Area Agreements and the recent move to a non-ring-fenced Area Based Grant (ABG), which means that the Council can decide what to spend the money on regardless of the government's intentions when allocating the grant. This means that all or some of the element of the ABG known as the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF- which is seen as the successor to NRF) could be spent on entirely unrelated services or programmes. It also makes this decision within the Council's control with no formal requirement to consult others such as LSP members for example.
 7. However, tackling worklessness is a key issue for Stockton and supports the ambitions set out in the new Sustainable Community Strategy. The Council is therefore committed (for the next three years) to funding a programme to tackle worklessness and is keen to empower Stockton Renaissance to participate in deciding how money should be spent.
 8. We have a strong track record in involving partners including the VCS, particularly through the Community Empowerment Networks, in decision making in both the priority setting and commissioning of programmes. There is therefore likely to be a strong expectation from both other public sector partners on the LSP and the VCS that they will have a route of engagement/shaping/decision making in some of the more community orientated area based funding programmes. Both nationally and locally in the VCS there are concerns that whilst NRF had a broad holistic approach across the community strategy themes that the focus of WNF is much narrower. This gives the opportunity of a much more targeted approach but this will need to be balanced against a recognition that broader cross cutting issues impact upon this agenda e.g. health and financial inclusion- most wages are paid through banks and not having an bank account could be a barrier to employment. There is also the potential for cross boundary working with neighbouring authorities, including building upon some of the joint working opportunities developed for the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative bid.
 9. In addition the national agenda to involve communities in budget setting and commissioning is threaded through recent government guidance i.e. the recently published 'Unlocking the talent of our communities' and the consultation paper on the Statutory Guidance on Strong and Prosperous Communities. In recognition of this emphasis on working with and within local communities it is proposed to name the available allocation from the WNF element of the ABG a Communities Fund.

10. The Government's published Sub National Review of Economic Development and Regeneration made it clear that developing the economic base of deprived areas requires a holistic approach which brings together action at various governance levels - national, regional, sub regional and local. Local strategic partnerships can play a key role in this, bringing together a range of partners to help co-ordinate action on worklessness and enterprise growth including the agreement of relevant targets in LAAs. As the engagement of all partners in the LSP will be important in achieving the regeneration of communities it is proposed to build on the previous arrangements at Stockton by requesting Council to allocate the available funding from the ABG through 2008-2011 into a Communities Fund for the LSP to develop a programme of projects to support this agenda. The LSP would then be responsible for monitoring the projects and reporting performance to the Council through Cabinet. Allocating the funding over three years will allow the LSP the opportunity to offer longer term commissioning opportunities for the voluntary and community sector.
11. This will support work looking towards the Comprehensive Area Assessment which will focus on outcomes for local people across councils, health bodies, police forces and others responsible for local public services, which are increasingly expected to work in partnership to tackle the challenges facing their communities.
12. The changes in the way that the ABG money is allocated means that we will need to consider the implications for our governance arrangements, including any necessary changes to the Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegation and Stockton Renaissance's Terms of Reference. An amended draft terms of reference for Stockton Renaissance Partnership is attached at *Appendix 1*.

The role of the Area Partnerships

13. In Stockton a proportion of the NRF was ring-fenced in 2006/07 and 2007/08 specifically for the community led Area Partnerships to allocate, who were tasked to prioritise issues within their areas with reference to the relevant Local Action Plans, Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets and community views. The following funding allocations were then given to each of the Area Partnerships for allocation to commissioned projects-

1. Central Area Partnership Board	£87,444 p.a.
2. Eastern Area Partnership Board	£43,950 p.a.
3. Northern Area Partnership Board	£18,606 p.a.

14. These allocations were calculated according to the Super Output areas based on a total allocation of £150k per annum for the Area Partnerships. This was then split according to the population that the super output areas represent.

15. To further support and continue to build on the success of this area of work, which involves devolving budgets to local communities, consideration could be given to allowing the Area Partnerships to address their Employment and Worklessness local priorities by allocating a sum of money as previously to commission schemes in their neighbourhoods. It is therefore proposed that, based upon the *formula below, the area partnerships receive in total an indicative allocation of £150,000 in 2008/9 with a further allocation of £153,749 in 2009/10 and £157,592 in 2010/11 with the allocation being targeted at addressing their Employability priorities. This would allow the following allocations-

Partnership Board	2008/9*	2009/2010*	2010/11*
Central Area	£89,158	£91,387	£93,671
Eastern Area	£37,182	£38,112	£39,065
Northern Area	£23,660	£24,250	£24,856
Total	£150000	£153,749	£157,592

*Please note the allocations were worked out on the basis of £150k per annum divided by the total population of the eligible lower super output areas based on the IMD 2007 *out of work benefit claims of over 25%* across the three areas – then multiplied by the number of people in each of the Area Partnership areas. The allocation has then been increased by 2.5% for each year.

16. Whilst it is important to retain a focus on the most deprived super output areas the non ring-fenced nature of the Area Based Funding means that there can be a focus on the person rather than the place so there is the opportunity to also provide support for those unemployed people who were previously excluded by the ring-fenced NR geographical criteria i.e. Including those within the Western Area Partnership area. A sum of £18,000 is proposed for the Western Area Partnership in 2008/09, rising to £18450 on 2009/10 and £18,911 in 2010/11

17. After the NRF projects transitional year associated costs and area partnership allocations are deducted the following amounts would be available from the ABG to go into a Communities Fund to support employability-

	Communities Fund 2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
WNF allocation	£3,924,957	£4,698,048	£4,887,710
NRF transitional year	- 2,774,725*		
Total available	£1,150,232	£4,698,048	£4,887,710
Area Partnership allocations	£168,000	£172,199	£176,503
Total remaining	£982,232**	£4,525,849**	£4,711,207**

- *This figure may decrease slightly as thematic partnerships finalise the list of successful NRF transitional projects.
- **Discussions are underway with finance to assess the opportunities for flexible profiling/re-profiling of the spend against the fund.

18. It is proposed to allocate a small amount of the Communities Fund at this stage to create a new “worklessness co-ordinator” post within the Council to coordinate activity between all Partners and projects. This post will work at an operational level to enable effective cross-cutting project delivery that fully supports the achievement of Local Area Agreement targets. A budget of £50,000 per year in total would be required for a salary with on-costs and including a small amount of support funding.

The Thematic Partnerships

19. The thematic Partnerships have previously received an allocation of neighbourhood renewal funding to address the neighbourhood renewal floor targets within their theme.

20. Whilst there is an obvious role for the Economic Regeneration and Transportation Partnership (ERTP), and its sub group the Employability Consortium, in bringing partners together to lead on employability it is a cross cutting issue. Worklessness/employability has causal links and potential remedies across a number of themes particularly health so there is a role for all of the thematic partnerships in supporting delivery of this agenda.

21. It is proposed that the ERTP work with the Employability Consortium to develop a criteria for allocating the available Communities Fund, set out at para 17, which will support delivery of the Local Area Agreement employability related targets, cross local authority boundary initiatives such as the Multiple Area Agreement and build upon the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative joint work with Middlesbrough. This approach will maximise the opportunity for any associated reward grant. The criteria will also provide a framework and guidance for the area partnerships in the commissioning of interventions from their allocated funds.

22. A commissioning process would then be run against the criteria and thematic leads/thematic partnerships (timescales allowing) would be asked to comment on and support the proposed projects to highlight any opportunities for linkages and to avoid any possible duplication of service. Thematic partnerships would have a role in monitoring any subsequently approved cross cutting projects that fall within their theme. The ERTP would then recommend a programme of interventions to the LSP who would recommend it to Cabinet for approval. Monitoring reports would be submitted to the ERTP, LSP and Cabinet every six months.

23. The proposals would necessitate amendment to the council constitution and scheme of delegation to reflect the new arrangements. In terms of the officer delegation this is likely to include authority for the relevant Corporate Director/Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Director of Law and Democracy as appropriate to -

- enter into any contractual arrangements to support the delivery of the approved delivery plan/programme of projects authorise payment and monitor delivery against the above contracts in accordance with the delivery plan
- authorise changes to the delivery plan/programme for projects within determined limits
- implement projects which use the Communities Fund and other similar regeneration programmes delegated to Renaissance and its boards for decision.

Governance

24. The table set out below illustrates the proposed roles with regard to that element of the ABG that the Council decides to allocate to a Communities Fund:

<p>The LSP, Stockton Renaissance would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endorse priorities as part of the development of a worklessness programme ▪ Endorse the criteria for allocation of funding for employability ▪ Recommend to Cabinet the allocation of the Communities Fund to a delivery plan/programme of projects to improve employability. ▪ Receive 6 monthly programme and financial monitoring reports for information and challenge ▪ Agree an amended terms of reference for the LSP to reflect it's role post NRF ▪ Submit minutes of the LSP, Thematic Partnerships, the Area Partnerships and any neighbourhood management partnerships for which the Council is the financially and legally accountable body to Cabinet.
<p>The Economic Regeneration and Transport Partnership would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop criteria for the allocation of the Communities Fund (2008-2011) which would support employability, link with the LAA and support cross local authority boundary initiatives as appropriate. ▪ Oversee the commissioning process ▪ Recommend a delivery plan/programme of projects to the LSP to improve employability ▪ Regularly monitor progress to enable robust reporting to Stockton Renaissance and the Council's Cabinet ▪ Lead a borough wide, multi-sectoral approach to tackling worklessness in conjunction with the Stockton Employability Consortium.
<p>The Thematic Partnerships would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and recommend to the ERTTP a prioritised package of interventions to support employability ▪ Provide feedback to ERTTP on any proposed cross cutting interventions that effect their theme ▪ Monitor any of their package which was successfully funded ▪ Carry out evaluations of the relevant projects and report that information

into the E RTP.

The relevant Area Partnerships would

- Agree a criteria, based upon the one developed by E RTP, for local interventions to support employability
- Commission a programme of interventions against that criteria funded by their area partnership allocation for endorsement through the LSP.
- Monitor their programme of interventions
- Provide programme monitoring reports to the E RTP and through that process to the LSP and Cabinet
- Evaluate the programme of interventions and report that information into the E RTP and through that process to the LSP and Cabinet

The Council's Cabinet would

- Recommend to Council an allocation of the Area Based Grant for 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11 to a Communities Fund to support a partnership approach to tackling employability.
- Recommend to Council that Stockton Renaissance be tasked with developing a criteria and a supporting programme of interventions to support a partnership approach to tackling employability.
- Agree the allocation of the Communities Fund to a delivery plan/programme of projects to improve employability, delegating amendment of the programme arising from slippage to the Assistant Chief Executive
- Endorse an amended terms of reference for the LSP to reflect it's role post NRF.
- Receive a 6th monthly programme and financial monitoring report for information and challenge
- Receive the Minutes of Renaissance, the Thematic Partnerships, the Area Partnerships and any neighbourhood management partnerships for which the Council is the financially and legally accountable body for endorsement.
- Authority to approve cost increases/minor variations/re-profiling on programme outputs on approved projects within the Communities Fund programme of projects and interventions agreed by Cabinet up to £15,000 or 5% of the approved project value whichever is the greater be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive.
- Authorise the Assistant Chief Executive to reallocate by a commissioning process, against the agreed criteria, programme slippage on the Communities Fund up to a value of £50k in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, the Director of Law and Democracy and the Director of Resources.
- Authority to intervene where a deliverer has failed to deliver or is in other breached of the contract/agreement and to commission an alternative deliverer be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and the Director of Law and Democracy.

The Council would

- Decide on the allocation of Area Based Grant to a Communities Fund to support employability and endorse the role of the LSP in developing the

<p>criteria and programme of interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amend the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation to reflect the new governance arrangements ▪ Receive the Minutes of Renaissance, the Thematic Partnerships, the Area Partnerships and any neighbourhood management partnerships for which the Council is the financially and legally accountable body for endorsement.
<p>The Cabinet member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The relevant Cabinet member would sign off delegated decision sheets in respect of contracts associated with delivery of the programme.
<p>Officer Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Assistant Chief Executive would agree amendments caused by slippage to the Communities Fund programme of projects and interventions agreed by Cabinet ▪ The relevant Corporate Director/Assistant Chief Executive would approve/sign off the entering into any contractual arrangements to support the delivery of the approved delivery plan/programme of projects in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Director of Law and Democracy as appropriate. ▪ Authorise payment and monitor delivery against the above contracts in accordance with the delivery plan ▪ The Assistant Chief Executive to approve cost increases/minor variations/re-profiling on programme outputs on approved projects within the Communities Fund programme of projects and interventions agreed by Cabinet up to £15,000 or 5% of the approved project value whichever is the greater. ▪ The Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to reallocate by a commissioning process, against the agreed criteria, programme slippage on the Communities Fund up to a value of £50k in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, the Director of Law and Democracy and the Director of Resources. ▪ The Assistant Chief Executive be authorised to intervene where a deliverer has failed to deliver or is in other breached of the contract/agreement and to commission an alternative deliverer as appropriate in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and the Director of Law and Democracy.

Transitional arrangements for NRF funded schemes

25. The late announcement of deprivation related funding as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review has meant that there has been little time to develop exit strategies for the 68 crime, children and young people, housing, health and employability schemes delivered through NRF within the borough, approximately half of which is delivered by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). Similarly there has been little time to develop, agree and implement new arrangements for the non-ring-fenced Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) within the new Area Based Grant.

26. Through its budget setting process the Council has agreed a transitional year, which allows the change from NRF schemes to a worklessness programme to be managed without having a significant detrimental effect on those involved, particularly the VCS. Where schemes have been evaluated as successful and no “mainstream” funding can be found for 2008/09, schemes will be able to continue during 2008/09, funded from the Council’s Area Based Grant (ABG). Some of the thematic partnerships are still going through the final stages of agreeing those projects which will continue, however it is anticipated that the cost of the projects will be £2,774,725 or below. Over 71% of the health package projects were going to the Primary Care Trust in late March with a recommendation that they be funded by the PCT from 2008/9 which will mean that 85% (which includes a couple of projects that will be part of the NRF transitional arrangements) of the health package in total will continue.
27. During 2008/09, alternative funding will be sought by the delivering organisations to mainstream / extend the transitional projects where they are deemed to continue to provide value to the borough. Where schemes relate to worklessness they may be able to attract further funding from the element of the Area Based Grant that the council will allocate to the ‘Communities Fund’. Where alternative funding for projects is not secured, projects will finish at the end of March 2009.

Deprived Areas Fund

28. In 2007/8 Job Centre Plus (JCP) received £565,480 from the Department of Work and Pensions, which was used to commission projects to support employability in the Borough. DCLG guidance on WNF indicated that for 2008/9 DAF would go to JCP again after which for 2009/10 and 20/11 it had been combined within the relevant local authority WNF allocation. However there has been some confusion between the DWP and the DCLG as DWP claims that the DAF is within our WNF allocation for 2008/9 as well as for the following 2 years. This issue is still to be resolved however it does leave 19 of the voluntary and community sector delivered DAF projects potentially having ceased to operate from last month (confirmation is awaited from Job Centre Plus). Part of the criteria for DAF funding was that the projects built upon existing projects rather than employing new posts so there are fewer implications for the VCS in terms of staffing. It is suggested that the DAF projects be evaluated by Job Centre Plus and the ERTF and successful projects that could support delivery of the worklessness/employability LAA targets be considered for a transitional year of funding through the Communities Fund.

Summary

29. The proposed approach will build upon the previous successful partnership arrangements in the Borough and strengthen both the LSP and community role in working together to deliver the employability agenda.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The report has financial implications in 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11 and would require a financial revenue commitment from the Council's Area Based Grant into a Communities fund, as follows: -

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WNF allocation	£3,924,957	£4,698,048	£4,887,710
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Total available	£1,150,232	£4,698,048	£4,887,710
Area Partnership allocations	£168,000	£172,199	£176,503
Total remaining	£982,232**	£4,525,849**	£4,711,207**

**The possibility of using the fund flexibly to be able to profile/re-profile the spend to, for example, front end or back end spend are being explored with finance.

This year's Medium Term Financial Plan identifies the Area Based Grant monies but the use of some of that for a Communities Fund is not included.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Amendment to the Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegation would be required.

RISK ASSESSMENT

This matter is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities coupled with the amendments to the constitution and scheme of delegation would be sufficient to control and reduce risk."

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The LSP contributes to the delivery of all 8 of the Sustainable Community Strategy themes

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Communities Fund programme will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

All wards - Consultation will be undertaken as appropriate.

Contact Officers:

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Background Papers:

No background papers.

Property:

No implications in relation to Council property.

STOCKTON RENAISSANCE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

We the undersigned HEREBY AGREE to form a partnership to be known as STOCKTON RENAISSANCE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (SRLSP) to co-ordinate and deliver sustainable regeneration in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

1. OBJECTIVES

a) Primary Objectives

- i) To promote through a not for profit making partnership of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, the economic and social regeneration of Stockton-on-Tees.
- ii) To provide a single overarching local co-ordination framework within which other geographic and thematic partnerships can operate.
- iii) To improve the delivery of local public services by developing common aims and joint priorities. Building a common purpose and sharing commitment.
- iv) To take a strategic view of the problems and opportunities in Stockton-on-Tees and prepare plans for the future as appropriate.
- v) To consider local priorities and resource allocation to encourage the most effective use of resources.
- vi) To maximise resources by crating synergy and attracting new money from outside.
- vii) To lead in developing new regeneration initiatives and provide a framework to support and endorse funding bids.
- viii) To make representations to Government, the Regional Development Agency, and other bodies about regeneration issues and priorities within Stockton-on-Tees.
- ix) To interpret nation and regional priorities into a local context.
- x) To build regeneration using the capacities and energies of local people and organisations.
- xi) To enhance the sharing of local information and best practice.
- xii) Provide a broadly inclusive Renaissance forum for debate and discussion with all partner agencies including local residents.

b) Secondary Objectives

- i) To lead the preparation and monitoring of the Stockton-on-Tees Sustainable Community Strategy.
- ii) To act as a bidding body where appropriate.

- iii) To lead community based regeneration in Stockton-on-Tees.
- iv) To monitor future local regeneration activity to ensure that Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership is effective.
- v) To establish and liaise with geographic and thematic partnerships and groups in Stockton. To delegate tasks and receive proposals from these groups and other representative groups within Stockton-on-Tees.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership shall comprise a maximum number of 34 Members with the following composition:-

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Nominating Body</u>
a. Community Sector (4) Community Groups	Community Empowerment Network (Stockton Residents Association covering Eastern, Western, Central & Northern).
b. Voluntary Sector (2)	Community Empowerment Network
c. Local Authority (5)	Stockton on Tees Borough Council
d. Business Sector (2)	Business Forum & North East Chamber of Commerce
e. Members of Parliament (2)	
f. One North East (1)	One North East
g. Area Partnerships (4)	Renaissance Central Area Partnership Eastern Area Partnership The Billingham Partnership Western Area Partnership
h. Liveability (Environment & Housing) (2)	Liveability Partnership
I Community Safety & Well Being (2)	Safer Stockton Partnership
j. Health (2)	Health Improvement Partnership
k. Regeneration & Transport (2)	Economic Regeneration & Transport Partnership
l. Children & Young People (2)	Children & Young People Strategic Partnership
m. Stockton-on-Tees Trade Union Council (1)	Stockton-on-Tees Trade Union Council
n. Public Service Board Chair (1)	Public Service Board
o. Black & Minority Ethnic Groups Network (1)	Stockton Black & Minority Ethnic Groups Network
p. Arts and Culture (1)	Arts and Culture Partnership

Each member of Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership shall be an equal and active partner. They are appointed on a personal basis, and nominating bodies cannot substitute.

Board members will be representing their thematic partnership and are responsible for feeding back information to their partnership.

Nominations will be invited bi-yearly to serve a two year term of office on the Board from April to March.

Any Member may retire from office upon giving two months notice in writing to the Secretary to the Board. Upon any Member retiring from office Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership may replace the outgoing Member by seeking a nomination from the relevant Body, provided that any nomination made shall be subject to approval by the Board.

Each nominating body shall be entitled to make representations to Stockton Renaissance regarding the replacement of their nominee at any time and Stockton Renaissance shall duly consider any such representation made to it.

Any Member failing to attend 3 consecutive Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership Board meetings will be deemed to have retired. The Board may then invite the nominating body to propose a new Member, or invite the existing Member to continue if it feels there is a satisfactory reason for non attendance.

3. DELEGATION

Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership may delegate any of its functions to any sub-group, thematic or geographic partnership of Members; Chair and Vice-Chair; or other partners; or to staff, as it feels is appropriate for specific tasks or functions.

4. FUNCTIONS

When appropriate Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership can:-

- (a) Lead the development and monitoring of the Sustainable Community Strategy in partnership with relevant organisations.
- (b) Prepare and submit funding bids and delivery plans etc.
- (c) Lead the development and monitoring of Local Area Agreements.
- (d) Lead community based regeneration in the Borough, developing and implementing strategies where appropriate.

- (e) Co-ordinate, direct and define priorities and approve projects within regeneration bid programmes, particularly the Communities fund to achieve Local Area Agreement targets.
- (e) Ensure consultation and involvement of local people in these Programmes.
- (f) Monitoring progress of the Programmes.

5. **ADVISERS TO STOCKTON RENAISSANCE**

In order to obtain specialists, local knowledge and expertise Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership shall have power to co-opt non-voting members and to appoint advisers.

6. **STOCKTON RENAISSANCE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair who shall hold office for one year, commencing on the 1st April and ending on the 31st March in any year. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be eligible for re-appointment. Renaissance would normally be chaired by the Leader of the Council or Council representative.

7. **MEETINGS**

- (a) Meetings of Stockton Renaissance Local Strategic Partnership will be called by the Secretary on a **monthly** basis or as and when required. A minimum of fourteen days notice of meetings will be given, unless urgent deadlines need to be met.
- b) Regular reports from Stockton Renaissance LSP will be presented to the Stockton Borough Council's Cabinet.
- c) Stockton Renaissance can invite individuals to attend meetings to give advice and information.

8. **ADMISSION TO MEETINGS**

Meetings of Stockton Renaissance LSP shall be open to the public unless the business involves confidential information.

9. **DECISION MAKING**

Decisions shall be made by Stockton Renaissance LSP on the basis of a simple majority. Every member shall have one vote and in the case of equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

10. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The public is entitled to expect the highest standards of conduct from Stockton Renaissance members.

Board members should act impartially and should not use their position on Renaissance to further their private interests. Where there is potential for private interests to be affected by Renaissance business the interest should be declared and recorded in the Board minutes. Details should also be recorded in a Register of Interests, available from the Stockton Renaissance secretariat, which will be open to the public.

11. **QUORUM**

For Stockton Renaissance LSP Meetings there shall be a quorum of 8 members, except for changes to the Terms of Reference where the quorum will be 12.

12. **SECRETARY**

The Assistant Chief Executive of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, or his/her nominee, will act as Secretary to Stockton Renaissance LSP. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of Stockton Renaissance. The minutes shall be signed by the Chair at the next meeting and shall be circulated with the agenda for that meeting.

13. **DISSOLUTION**

The dissolution of Stockton Renaissance LSP shall be a decision of Stockton Renaissance. Upon dissolution, Stockton Renaissance shall decide on the satisfaction of any debts and liabilities in accordance with the principles of the Partnership as set out in the objectives under this agreement.

14. **PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Each Member is required to declare any personal or pecuniary interest (direct or indirect) within the meaning of Section 94 and 95 of the Local Government Act 1972 in any item under discussion and shall take no part in the discussions or voting on that item. However, members of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council shall not be treated as having any personal or pecuniary interest by virtue of the Borough Council having such as interest.

15. **DECLARATION**

We the undersigned agree to establish STOCKTON RENAISSANCE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP and to abide by the objectives, principles and practices as set out in this agreement.

- Community Sector.....
- Community Sector.....
- Community Sector
- Community Sector.....
- Voluntary Sector.....
- Voluntary Sector.....
- Local Authority
- Local Authority
- Local Authority
- Local Authority
- Local Authority
- Business Sector
- Business Sector
- MP
- MP
- One North East
- Eastern Area Partnership.....
- The Billingham Partnership.....
- Renaissance Central Area Partnership.....
- Western Area Partnership.....
- Liveability.....
- Liveability.....

- Community Safety & Well Being
- Community Safety & Well Being
- Health
- Health
- Regeneration & Transport.....
- Regeneration& Transport.....
- Children & Young People.....
- Children & Young People.....
- Stockton on Tees Trade Union Council.....
- Public Service Board chair.....
- BME Network.....
- Arts and Culture Partnership.....

Dated this the.....day of.....2007