

AGENDA NO:

REPORT TO CABINET

**REPORT OF THE
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

11th SEPTEMBER 2008

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration and Transport – Cabinet Member – Councillor Bob Cook

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROGRAMME FOR STOCKTON-ON-TEES 2001-2008

1. Summary

Over £23 million of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) has been allocated through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) since 2001. This was used to target delivery against the Neighbourhood Renewal National Floor Targets, with projects being implemented across the most disadvantaged areas within the borough to improve services, reduce inequality, tackle unemployment, address health issues and to fight crime. This covering report presents a review of the programme of interventions to assess best practice and to provide an evaluation of the impact of the programme. The full report is attached at Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet notes the attached assessment report on the effectiveness of the NRF Programme 2001-2008.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

This report is presented to Cabinet members for information and to be noted.

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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CORPORATE MANAGEMNT
TEAM**

11th SEPTEMBER 2008

CABINET DECISION

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROGRAMME FOR STOCKTON-ON-TEES 2001-2008

SUMMARY

1. Over £23 million of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) has been allocated through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) since 2001. This was used to target delivery against the Neighbourhood Renewal National Floor Targets, with projects being implemented across the most disadvantaged areas within the borough to improve services, reduce inequality, tackle unemployment, address health issues and to fight crime. This covering report presents a review of the programme of interventions to assess best practice and to provide an evaluation of the impact of the programme. The full report is attached at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Cabinet notes the attached assessment report on the effectiveness of the NRF Programme 2001-2008.

DETAIL

3. "A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal- National Strategy Action Plan" (published in 2001) set out the Government's policies to tackle deprivation in England, underpinned by a new funding stream called the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF). In 2000 Stockton Borough's overall average ranking in the Index of Multiple Deprivation was 75th worst nationally, qualifying the Borough for an allocation of NRF in Rounds 1-4 (running through 2001-2008). This funding stream, which ended in March 2008, was ringfenced to targeted intervention in the areas in the borough that fell within the top 10% most deprived nationally according to the IMD. NRF was intended to narrow the gap between the more affluent areas and the most deprived in the borough. By the 2007 IMD Stockton's deprivation ranking had fallen to 98, with Stockton now ranked as the least deprived borough in the Tees Valley. Colour maps and a key attached at appendix 2 give an indication

of the areas in the borough that now fall within the top 10% most deprived nationally according to the IMD 2007 and the changes between IMD 2004 and 2007.

4. The attached report outlines the eligible geographical areas, examples of the targeted interventions, developed across each of the rounds of funding, to improve services and outcomes in those disadvantaged areas and a series of case studies outlining their impact.
5. One of the key benefits of the programme was the emphasis on improved partnership working across the public, private and third sector, which is discussed in more detail in the attached report. The third sector in particular played an important role in determining the programme through their engagement in the Local Strategic Partnership and actually delivered over 47% of the programme in the final round- 2006-08.
6. To engage local people in identifying and prioritising issues in their communities, Local Action Plans were developed in 2004 for seventeen of the borough's most deprived neighbourhoods. They provided an opportunity for residents and service providers to work together to tailor service provision to tackle particular problems. This empowerment of local people continued through the following round of NRF when a proportion of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding was ring-fenced in 2006/07 and in 2007/08 to address priorities within the eligible Area Partnership boundaries with reference to the Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets and community views.
7. The attached report is supplemented by a DVD which features local people and project deliverers talking first hand about the impact the NRF programme has had on their lives and their neighbourhoods. The DVD will be available for viewing on the Renaissance website from September through to the end of November 2008 and a copy will be available in the Members Library, the Community Empowerment Offices at Yarm Lane and from the Council's Partnership and Engagement team. A special thanks to all of the participants particularly the residents who gave up their own time to take part in the filming.

NRF Transitional Year

8. The late announcement of deprivation related funding as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2008-11 meant that there was 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 was little time to develop, agree and implement new arrangements for the non-ring fenced Communities Fund within the new Area Based Grant.
9. Through its budget setting process the Council agreed a transitional year, which allowed 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 had been evaluated as successful and no “mainstream” funding could be found for 2008/09, schemes were able to continue during 2008/09, funded from the Council’s Area Based Grant (ABG). The Thematic Partnerships led on the evaluation of the projects and recommendations on those that would benefit from a transitional year.

10. During 2008/09, alternative funding will need to 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 allocated to the Communities Fund.

The Way Forward

11. Thematic Lead Officers and Thematic Partnerships will be requested to evaluate the success of their packages and consider mainstreaming options for the successful interventions from their packages from October 2008.
12. Some of the interventions have already been mainstreamed by service providers, for example the Tenancy Support Officer and most of the health package. In the crime package the funding for the Enforcement Officers has been built into mainstream budgets from 2009/10. The other projects benefiting from the NRF transitional year will need to be re-evaluated by the relevant Thematic Partnership and either considered for mainstream support from the lead organisations budget/external fund or will need to end in March 2009.
13. The neighbourhood renewal agenda has now moved on nationally with the publication of the Sub National Review and the emphasis shifting to the importance of tackling worklessness in regenerating neighbourhoods. To build on the experience and successful partnership working established with NRF the Council has approved a new Communities Fund to tackle worklessness and promote employability and enterprise. The LSP will play a key role in developing and commissioning a programme of interventions to deliver against this agenda and recommending these to Cabinet for approval.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Exit arrangements including any potential alternative funding opportunities are being considered by the respective host organisations for the projects.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RISK ASSESSMENT

This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic Regeneration and Transport
- Safer Communities
- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Adults
- Environment and Housing

Supporting Themes: -

- Stronger Communities
- Older Adults
- Arts Leisure and Culture

The report has implications across all of the Sustainable Community Strategy themes as the NRF programme was sufficiently cross cutting to affect them all.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out on the successor Communities Fund programme.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

N/A

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Background Papers:

Narrowing the Gap report, 2008
Local Area Agreement 2008-2011
Neighbourhood Matters, A Neighbourhood Renewal Plan for Stockton Borough 2002-07.

Property:

No implications in relation to Council property.