



**Minute/Decision Summary -unconfirmed**  
**Meeting- Stockton Renaissance**  
**Date – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
**Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre, Moat Street, Stockton-on-Tees**

<p>Compact issues such as good news stories, national debates, important dates such as the National Compact Week.</p> <p>It was noted that the Compact action plan proposed for some work to be done to review Stockton Boroughs third sector Governance arrangements. The action on involving the Voluntary and Community Sector in Stockton Borough's Governance Code of Practice Reviews is underway. SRCGA and the SBC's Community Development Team are working together to run a number of workshops for the Third Sector on a number of issues such as Business Planning, HR, Accounts etc all to promote good governance arrangements.</p> <p>Members noted that following a meeting with the Compact Champions, representatives from each of the public sector agencies and the voluntary and community sector umbrella agencies, no changes were required to the context of the document, however it was agreed that a version number would be included on the front page of the document, along with the refreshed date.</p> <p>Members noted that the Compact will continue to be jointly reviewed annually by the LSP and Third Sector umbrella organisations.</p>		<p>Renaissance endorse the refreshed Compact for 2008/09</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No</p>	
<p><b>4. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been completed. The JSNA is a statutory duty for the PCT and local authority to work together to compile needs assessment information to provide a concise summary of the main health and well-being needs of a community.</p>		<p>Noted</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Elizabeth Shassere, Director of Public Health</p>

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<p>Members were informed that the JSNA identifies relevant best practice, innovation and research to inform how needs will best be met. It also considers the long term (5-10 years) strategic priorities using a core dataset, plus locally relevant information. It also links to other strategies and plans.</p> <p>Members were informed that from the end of October 2008 onwards, the JSNA information will be available for use in NHS and Stockton Borough Council planning cycles.</p>		Noted	No	No	No	
<p><b>5. CORE STRATEGY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)</b></p> <p>Members were informed that the consultation for the Core Strategy, which will replace the Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan is ongoing. The consultation will run for 8 weeks from the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and will be available on the Stockton Borough Council website.</p> <p>It was noted that the ‘publication’ of the Core Strategy DPD is a new stage in the preparation of DPDs, introduced in The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.</p> <p>The published version of the Core Strategy is the plan that the Council believes will best meet the future requirements of the Borough, having taken account of the plans and strategies of partners and stakeholders, and having considered the responses received to consultations. This is the plan that the Council wishes to submit to the Secretary of State for examination. There will be an eight-week period within which representations can be made to the Council regarding the</p>		Noted	No	No	No	Rosemary Young, Spatial Plans Manager, SBC
		Noted	No	No	No	

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<p>Core Strategy. Ideally, any representations, both of support and objection, should relate to the ‘soundness’ of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Members were informed of the expected sequence of events following publication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of representations received. Only minor changes may be made to the Core Strategy prior to submission;</li> <li>• Submission of the Core Strategy, and supporting documents, to the Secretary of State (February 2009). All representations received as a result of the publication of the Core Strategy are also sent to the Secretary of State as part of the submission, to be considered at the examination;</li> <li>• Independent examination into the ‘soundness’ of the Core Strategy (14 weeks after submission);</li> <li>• Receipt of the Inspector’s report (29 weeks after submission);</li> <li>• Amendment of the Core Strategy in line with the Inspector’s requirements, and adoption (Autumn 2009).</li> </ul>		Noted	No	No	No	
<p><b>6. COMMUNITIES FUND</b></p> <p>Members were informed that the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) was created by Government to simplify and refocus local level funding to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise within some of the most disadvantaged communities. This new fund, part of the non ringfenced Area Based Grant (ABG) replaces Communities</p>						<p>Roland Todd,  Labour Market  Coordinator,  SBC</p>

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<p>and Local Government’s Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and concentrates the focus of neighbourhood renewal on these core areas of regeneration. It has been agreed by Stockton Council’s Cabinet that the WNF will be referred to as the ‘Communities Fund’.</p> <p>Members were informed that the balance of the Communities Fund in Stockton following the allocation for the transitional year for the existing 40 NRF projects and the allocation to the Area Partnerships is £10,209,333, which is available for activities to tackle worklessness and increase the levels of skills and enterprise in the Borough.</p> <p>In line with Government guidance for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to tackle worklessness and the low levels of skills and enterprise consideration has been given to allocate the Communities Fund to three distinct elements in recognition of the work that will be required to improve the status quo. This will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £7.2M of the fund will ‘follow the person’ and will be allocated to employability activities and increasing skill levels. This will be aligned to the five stages of the Regional Employability Framework, which are ‘engagement’, ‘action planning’, ‘employability services’, ‘job placement’ and ‘aftercare and retention’.</li> <li>• £2M will be targeted towards increasing levels of enterprise in the Borough in line with the themes identified through the previous Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) bid.</li> </ul>						
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£1M will be allocated to a Communities Contingency Fund for ongoing evaluation of the programme, good practice dissemination events and a further Skills Audit to better inform the needs of the community around factors that may still remain as a barrier to residents accessing jobs.</li> </ul> <p>Members were informed of the consultation, which has taken place with key stakeholders to secure support for the publication and procurement processes. The Stockton Employability Consortium, in line with some of the recommendations of the Select Scrutiny Review, has agreed the groups that should be supported and the principles and criteria for the development of the Communities Fund delivery plan. This includes representatives from Jobcentre Plus, Learning Skills Council, North East Employer Coalition, PCT, CESC (STEPS &amp; Drugs Action Team), Housing, Tristar Homes, Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector, including Catalyst and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration &amp; Economic Development. 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.</p> <p>Members were informed that delivery will commence in the first WNF financial year, which is likely to be February 2009 and will be for a period of up to three years from the awarding of the contract. This will result in some monies rolling into a fourth year.</p>						
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<p>A number of queries were raised by Members regarding the Communities Fund, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues around ensuring that activity is not duplicated.</li> <li>• Discussions arose regarding the providers and issues with and who they are accountable to. Members were informed that complaints/issues regarding providers will be addressed via Stockton Council procedures.</li> <li>• It was also raised that the lead providers should be local. It was noted that local providers are wanted and organisations that deliver on the ground are also wanted. Providers can register their interest by submitting a pre qualification questionnaire.</li> <li>• Programme needs to be shaped so that the voluntary and community sector are able to deliver projects hence recycling profit into deprived areas.</li> <li>• A number of concerns were raised regarding the Communities Contingency Fund and the skills audit, which will potentially be carried out at the end of the fund. However, it was noted that this will provide a strong indication of where Stockton needs to go and will support the work of the Regional Employability Framework (REF).</li> <li>• It was recognised that a proxy measure needed to be developed for VAT registrations in order to identify entrepreneurial activity at a community level. The current VAT registration process can often mask successful work, which is being done.</li> </ul> <p>It was requested that regular updates are provided to Stockton Renaissance on the Communities Fund.</p>		<p>Members accepted the recommendations for the Communities Fund process</p>				
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As agreed by Stockton Renaissance, consideration will be given in future years to focus group work to support the questionnaire work.						
<b>8.ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> None		Noted	No	No	No	Sarah Upex Area Partnership Board Coordinator

**Attendance:** Cllr Lupton (Chair), Chris Willis (Vice Chair), Jane Humphreys, Val Goodrum, Paul Thomas, Alex Bain, Geoff Harrison, Paul Burns, Cllr McCoy, Dave Brunskill, Cllr Laing, Cllr Mrs Fletcher, Jim Beall, Tony Campbell, Tina Williams, Dave Pickard, Cllr Gibson, Graeme Oram, Neil Schneider, Jonathan Lamb

**Advisors:** Dawn Welsh, Sarah Upex, Elizabeth Shassere, Julie Nixon, Hilton Heslop, Kelly Brown, Kellie Hopkins, Rosemary Young, Roland Todd

**Observers:** Phillipa Corner, Paul McGee, Kevin McAuley, Doff Pollard, Jan Doherty

**Apologies:** Cllr Cunningham, Julie Derbyshire, Neville Anderson, Chris Livingstone, Cllr Cook, Cllr Mrs Rigg, Ian Harrington, Helen Dean, Rev David Whiting, Richard Poundford, Cllr Mrs Womphrey, Ed Rowley