

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting16th April 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Regeneration Strategy 2007-2012 – Performance Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report regarding the Regeneration Strategy for Stockton 2007-2012. The strategy focused on the regeneration priorities for the Borough and presented its key ambitions over the short, medium and longer term. The report outlined the progress made towards achieving those ambitions, showed progress made towards the measures and targets, and highlighted where focus had changed to reflect current needs and changing priorities.

The report concentrated on several areas of regeneration, which included: Economic Climate; Tees Valley City Region; Economic Reviews; Framework for Regeneration; Tackling Worklessness; Building Schools for the Future; Primary Capital; Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare.

Members noted that the effects of the current economic climate were having a negative impact across the Borough. The Council and its partners were leading the way in moving forward the regeneration of the Borough to address the goals as set out in the Regeneration Strategy, and provide support to local businesses and residents through the economic downturn. There were robust project planning and monitoring arrangements in place through the Council's Project Management Framework and Service Improvement Plans.

Members were informed that Tees Valley Unlimited had submitted the proposals for the Tees Valley City Region Forerunner on 6th March 2009, which had the support of Government Office for the North East. It focussed on removing barriers to growth through greater efficiency and effectiveness of funding mechanisms and commissioning, with developed and accountable governance arrangements. The flexibilities proposed would achieve significant improvements through increased employment, reductions in people receiving out of work benefits, and increasing the ability to capture and grow business investment.

The BSF programmes plans for two new Academies, were noted. If approved after statutory consultation, these Academies would add another dimension to the quality and choice of schools available. It was intended that one Academy will specialise in Digital Creativity, ICT and Media and the other in Health and Wellbeing, Sport and Science. These areas of expertise would produce a highly skilled workforce and strong enterprise network throughout the Borough to support the growth of the businesses of tomorrow. The transformation of primary schools via the Primary Capital Programme, whereby the Council would receive an additional £40 million over 14 years to replace or remodel at least 50% primary school buildings, was also noted. Further funding would be allocated for this programme from other educational grants, internal funding were possible, and external partners.

The proposals for regeneration within the Momentum programme included: a state of the art hospital facility replacing the two current locations in Stockton and Hartlepool; a range of integrated health centres in strategically accessible locations bringing together doctors practices alongside a range of devolved health provision into the community (previously only available in central hospitals); new academy with a health specialism sponsored by Durham University's medical faculty; University proposals for a Health Innovation Excellence Centre for research specialising in disability and social services; extra care facilities integrated into regeneration locations currently operating in Hardwick to be followed by an integrated approach in Billingham supported by £30m PFI credits and enhancing the town centre proposals.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The work being undertaken be supported.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The regeneration of the Borough remained a key priority for the Council, to ensure that it continued to adapt to changing economic and environmental circumstances.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cunningham declared a personal, non-prejudicial in interest in respect of this item as a result of his role on the Regional Development Agency.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 24th April 2009

Proper Officer
20 April 2009