

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**16 APRIL 2009**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Access and Communities – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Coleman**

#### **REVIEW OF THE STOCKTON RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

1. Summary

This report submits a proposal to Cabinet for a review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership to strengthen partnership arrangements including engagement and culture; further improve the partnership approach to delivering better outcomes for local communities and support the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

2. Recommendations

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Cabinet consider the approach for the review of the partnership.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Government White Paper 'Creating Stronger and Prosperous Communities: Communities in Control' and supporting legislation the Local Public Involvement in Health Act have introduced the 'duty to co-operate' on partners and 'duty to involve' people requirements. This coupled with the move from Comprehensive Performance Assessment towards an ongoing inspection dialogue (Comprehensive Area Assessment) which focuses on partnership working through an area assessment provides an opportunity to review the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board. The aim of the review is to strengthen partnership engagement arrangements and partnership culture; to further improve the partnership approach to delivering better outcomes for local communities and to support the new Comprehensive Area Assessment.

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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**CABINET DECISION**

**REVIEW OF THE STOCKTON RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to submit a proposal to Cabinet for a review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership to strengthen partnership arrangements including engagement and culture; further improve the partnership approach to delivering better outcomes for local communities and support the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Cabinet consider the approach for the review of the partnership.

**DETAIL**

1. The Government White Paper 'Creating Stronger and Prosperous Communities: Communities in Control' and supporting legislation the Local Public Involvement in Health Act have introduced the 'duty to co-operate' on partners and 'duty to involve' people requirements. This coupled with the move from Comprehensive Performance Assessment towards an ongoing inspection dialogue (Comprehensive Area Assessment) which focuses on partnership working through an area assessment provides an opportunity to review the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board. The aim of the review is to strengthen partnership engagement arrangements and partnership culture; to further improve the partnership approach to delivering better outcomes for local communities and to support the new Comprehensive Area Assessment.
2. It is proposed that the review will focus on;
  - Improved focus and alignment of plans across all sectors to achieve cross cutting Stockton Renaissance priorities;
  - Improved identification and alignment of resources to deliver shared priorities;
  - Support achievement of the cross cutting Local Area Agreement/Sustainable Community Strategy targets prioritised by Renaissance for 2009/10;
  - An increase in business sector engagement in Stockton Renaissance; and
  - An increase in children and young people engagement in Stockton Renaissance.
  - A positive judgement from Comprehensive Area Assessment;

## Methodology

3. The proposed methodology is a combination of reviewing existing good practice, identifying toolkits, reviewing outcomes from analytical activity to date and piloting a themed priority task based approach to cross cutting issues. This would be followed up by a series of workshops/discussion groups with stakeholders.
4. The desk based work will include the following-
  - Identifying local, regional and national partnership good practice models;
  - Review notes from the June 2008 'Creating a Shared Culture' training exercise conducted with Renaissance members;
  - Feed in views from the Youth Forum, including feedback from the pilot "young people's area partnership board" being run with the Central Area Partnership Board;
  - Identify various toolkits including, A Fruitful Partnership: Effective Partnership Working (Audit Commission), Developing Productive Partnerships (Audit Commission) and Birmingham City Council Partnership Governance Framework and Toolkit;
  - Working Better Together: Audit Commission;
  - Identify models and methods of best practice;
  - Identifying key dates and arrangements for key annual decision making cycles for the Partnership and performance reporting;
  - Government Guidance including White Papers i.e. The New Opportunities Fund White Paper and Creating Stronger and Prosperous Communities;
  - Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership activity- RIEP are considering looking at a toolkit to test and improve partnership culture and behaviours, and use of Local Improvement Advisors;
5. The feedback from the Stockton Renaissance Annual Event, the completed Partnership Healthchecks for Renaissance, which addressed governance and risk management issues and the problem solving/task workshop activity which took place at the February 2009 Renaissance Meeting, will also be taken into account.
6. Consultation will be undertaken through workshop groups/discussion groups with stakeholders, including thematic partnerships, area partnership boards, Community Empowerment Network (CEN) and public sector organisations;

### Piloting different ways of working

7. Part of the review will include piloting of a task based problem solving approach at meetings. This will build upon the experience from the 'trial run' pilot which took place at the February 2000 Renaissance meeting, which focussed on the 'Credit Crunch'. This had been the topic most requested for a Renaissance focussed discussion by delegates at the Annual Public Renaissance Event in January, 2009. The Credit Crunch discussion involved facilitated workshops looking at how we can lessen the impact of the economic climate on the borough and enhance opportunities in preparation for the upturn. This resulted in positive ideas for collecting local intelligence on business activity and supply chains and opportunities for joint working.
8. Initial feedback from this approach has been positive and further testing during the review will influence whether this approach should be adopted in the future. This approach is also

reflected in the refreshed partnership working arrangements adopted by the Economic Regeneration and Transport Partnership (ERTP), which resulted in an increase in business engagement. The ERTP will now take forward development of the ideas and activity generated in the Credit Crunch Renaissance workshops.

9. Along with the Credit Crunch, which was the most identified area, the following cross cutting priority areas were proposed for Stockton Renaissance to focus on:
  - Transport
  - Low level transitional funding (the Communities Fund has this kind of flexibility built into it as provision is tailored to the individual to enable them to get into training and employment)
  - Volunteering
  - Green Infrastructure/Green Agenda
  - Alcohol
  - Promotion of community cohesion
  - Domestic violence
  - Communications
  - Children and Young People
  - Regeneration Strategy
  - Housing Strategy
  - Momentum- New hospital and Primary Care Services
  - Housing Futures
10. Discussion will take place with the respective thematic partnerships to identify the work that is currently underway in these areas and to determine the priority discussion topics from the above, assessing timeliness, performance and other review activity to inform how it will best fit within the Renaissance work programme.

### **The way forward**

11. The review of Stockton Renaissance will also be used to inform the discussions around the future of the Community Empowerment Network, which is being considered as part of the Voluntary Sector Support Fund Review, which is due for completion Autumn 2009.
12. The outcome of the review and an improvement plan, will be reported to Renaissance and Cabinet in September 2009, which will cover any new governance or agenda management arrangements for Stockton Renaissance. A draft project plan is attached at Appendix 1.

### **13. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

### **14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications.

### **15. RISK ASSESSMENT**

This review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

### **16. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **17. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment

### **18. CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

All wards - Consultation will be undertaken as appropriate.

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#### Background Papers

Review of Area Partnerships Report

#### Property

No implications in relation to Council property.

## Appendix 1

### Project Plan

Date	Action
April 2009	Agree methodology for the LSP Review
April-May 2009	Desktop research and review of analytical activity to date
May 2009	Stakeholder workshops/discussion groups
July 2009	Update report to Renaissance and Cabinet, including draft proposals
September 2009	LSP Review outcome report, proposals for the future and improvement plan submitted to Renaissance Partnership Board and Cabinet