

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH APRIL 2009

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT – LEAD CABINET MEMBER COUNCILLOR R COOK

REGENERATION STRATEGY 2007-2012 – PERFORMANCE UPDATE

1. Summary

The Regeneration Strategy for Stockton 2007-2012 focuses on the regeneration priorities for the Borough and presents its key ambitions over the short, medium and longer term. The following report outlines the progress made towards achieving those ambitions, shows progress made towards the measures and targets, and highlights where we are changing our focus to reflect current needs and changing priorities.

2. Recommendations

1. That Members to note the content of the report and support progress made to date.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

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

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

The Regeneration Strategy for Stockton 2007-2012 focuses on the regeneration priorities for the Borough and presents its key ambitions over the short, medium and longer term. The following report outlines the progress made towards achieving those ambitions, shows progress made towards the measures and targets, and highlights where we are changing our focus to reflect current needs and changing priorities.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members note the content of the report and support progress made to date.

DETAIL

Economic Climate

1. The effects of the current economic climate are having a negative impact across the Borough, with decreasing sales on some housing regeneration sites, inevitable job losses across the Borough, and the slowing of business creation, investment and growth. There continues to be close monitoring of this situation, and monthly reports on the changing economic climate will continue to be provided to Cabinet, highlighting the plans and mitigations that have been put in place to minimise the impact. We are working in partnership, regionally and locally, to ensure that local businesses and residents are fully aware of the support available and that the services required are both accessible and appropriate to their individual needs.
2. The Council and its partners are 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. Updates of progress against the key ambitions and performance measures of the Regeneration Strategy are given in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively. There are robust project planning and monitoring arrangements in place through the Council's Project Management Framework and Service Improvement Plans.

Tees Valley City Region

3. On 6th March 2009, Tees Valley Unlimited submitted the proposals for the Tees Valley City Region Forerunner. The proposal demonstrates that TVU is a strong, mature and robust partnership. This is evidenced by the fact that the submission was made by TVU – the five Tees Valley local authorities, the regional bodies (One NorthEast, the Homes and Communities Agency, the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, Business and

Enterprise North East), private sector representative bodies (North East Chamber of Commerce and the CBI) and the individual private sector TVU Board members. The proposal also has the support of Government Office for the North East. The proposals are 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.

Economic Reviews

4. Over the past 12 months, the Council has responded to significant reviews of economic development and regeneration from both Borough and sub regional perspectives. These include the Sub-National Review (SNR), the Framework for Regeneration, the Tackling Worklessness Review and welfare reforms. Through these reviews, the Regeneration Strategy measures are being assessed to ensure that all future monitoring is appropriate and aligned with national indicators, and are fully reflective of the strategic regeneration priorities locally and the Borough's place in the sub regional, regional and national agendas.
5. As a result of the Sub-National Review, proposals are coming forward that will further strengthen the role of Local Authorities in regeneration and economic development. A significant part of this is a statutory Economic Assessment Duty placed on Local Authorities, requiring all top-tier Authorities to conduct and implements assessments from April 2010 on the characteristics and health of the economy in their local area. Stockton Council is maintaining a leading position on this to gain maximum benefit for the Borough.
6. It is widely acknowledged that Local Authorities are at the forefront of determining local economic conditions, as knowledge experts of their local area - through access to extensive research intelligence and communications with businesses, residents, key agencies, and partners. Stockton Council has already commenced the preparation of an assessment for the Borough, and is working in partnership with Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit and Tees Valley Unlimited to drive this work forward and to also prepare an assessment for the Tees Valley. Commencing in April 2009, consultation as part of the developing assessment framework for Stockton will take place with public, private and third sector organisations, to ensure that as broad a view as possible is represented and applied to the framework. The assessment will provide a strong evidence base for use when developing local economic strategies and target setting in the future.
7. Also introduced as part of the Review of Sub National Development, was the Integrated Regional Strategy, which aims to promote better integrated working in the regions by providing a set of broad objectives and priorities across sectors. From 2010, Integrated Regional Strategies will incorporate the current Regional Economic, Housing, Spatial and Transport Strategies. Through the early preparation of an economic assessment Stockton will be well placed to ensure the new Integrated Regional Strategy includes our local needs and priorities.

Framework for Regeneration

8. Despite current economic conditions, there are grounds for optimism regarding the developing strength of the Tees Valley through the Multi Area Agreement, the City Region Forerunner proposals, and the part that Stockton plays in that growth. The future direction and scope of regeneration priorities in Stockton will be broadened beyond those currently reflected in the Regeneration Strategy, to strengthen the enterprise and skills agendas. This will place the Borough in a strong position to respond positively and swiftly when the economic climate starts to recover.

9. The Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Development Plan Document is the strategic overarching planning policy document for the Borough, which provides strategic policy support for key regeneration schemes, such as the Stockton-Middlesbrough Initiative, Stockton Town Centre, the regeneration of Billingham and Thornaby, Yarm's specialist retail role, neighbourhood regeneration projects such as Mandale, Hardwick and Parkfield, and major transport initiatives and employment locations. The Regeneration DPD sets out specific site allocations for housing, employment, mixed use development and all transport related uses, by focusing the bulk of future residential development in the core area of the Borough on previously developed land, and giving planning policy support to key regeneration sites.
10. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) is the new framework for independent assessment of local public services in England which replaces the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in April 2009. Progress against the regeneration priorities for the Borough has made substantial positive impacts on outcomes for local people. Taking into account one of CAA's principal objectives (to be a catalyst for local improvement that achieves better local outcomes, more effective local partnership working, more responsive local services and better value for money for local people), going forward, CAA offers a supportive framework for regeneration work across the Borough.

Tackling Worklessness

11. The Council will continue to promote and support enterprise and skills, particularly amongst young people in the more disadvantaged areas and communities, by establishing Neighbourhood Enterprise Gateways, and by reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Through the Communities Fund, there will be intensive case management and co-ordination of personalised help for individuals to re-engage with the labour market or set up in business, using the services of mainstream and partner organisations to best support the individual - increasing flexibility, addressing shortfalls in provision and avoiding duplication of delivery.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

12. The aim of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme is to provide generations of young people with a high standard of education that will benefit them and the local area for years to come. First class secondary schools serving the Borough's communities will be an essential element of the Council's commitment to regenerate Stockton's towns and villages. BSF investment will enable the Council to provide excellent opportunities for all who live here and will help to create a sustainable and highly skilled workforce to feed a thriving economy.
13. The BSF programme includes plans for two new Academies, which will be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet. If approved after statutory consultation, these Academies will add another dimension to the quality and choice of schools available. Academies are all-ability, independent state schools established and managed by sponsors and funded by Government. These new schools will each have a strong ethos, modern facilities and will be driven by sponsors committed to ensuring all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. It is 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 will produce a highly skilled workforce and strong enterprise network throughout the Borough to support the growth of the businesses of tomorrow.

Primary Capital

14. The Primary Capital Programme will help to transform Primary Education across the Borough. Over a period of 14 years the Council will receive an additional £40 million to replace or remodel at least 50% of all primary schools. The Council will concentrate on

those schools that have buildings in poor condition or where the design is no longer suitable. It will also place an emphasis on schools in deprived areas. The Council will support the Programme with funding from other educational grants and, where possible, other internal funding and from external partners so that schools are seen at the centre of the communities they serve.

Momentum: Pathways to Healthcare - 21st Century Health Programme

15. To support our integrated approach to regeneration, in particular to address many of the social and economic aspects of this agenda is the need to focus around health, both current and state of the art provision, as well as the necessity to address future needs, preventative health measures and develop leading research. The development of new pathways that will enable care to be delivered outside of an acute hospital will be implemented alongside the development of primary and community facilities. The programme includes: 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

18. There are no specific risks associated with this report. It should be noted, however, that individual schemes and projects undertake quarterly risk assessments, are on the Council's corporate risk register if a high risk, and appropriate risk management strategies and contingencies are in place.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

19. The Regeneration Strategy impacts on all themes in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

20. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Regeneration Strategy has been re-assessed, and has determined that the key regeneration ambitions of the Council will have a positive impact on the Borough. Specific regeneration projects have, and will be, the subject of an individual EIA, e.g. Employability, which will ensure that the impact of delivering those projects will be assessed against specific geographic boundaries or groups as necessary.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

21. Regeneration projects contained within the Strategy have their own comprehensive consultation plans, e.g. Employability, Splash Extension, Billingham Forum. Cabinet, Ward Councillors, key stakeholders, businesses and residents are consulted as part of those consultation plans.
22. The Local Strategic Partnership will be receiving a Regeneration Strategy Performance Update report at its meeting in May 2009.

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Background Papers

Cabinet report – Regeneration Strategy for Stockton 2007-2012
Sustainable Community Strategy
Tees Valley Business Case and Investment Plan
Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement
Comprehensive Area Assessment Framework
Sub National Review
Pre Budget reports

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

All

Property

Land to be sold to developers on key development sites
Housing Regeneration sites