

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th December 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Comprehensive Area Assessment Results

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to the outcome of the 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment led by the Audit Commission, together with areas of focus identified for 2010.

CAA had been introduced in April 2009 as a new way of assessing local public services by examining how well the Council worked together with other public bodies to meet the needs of the people it served. It was a joint assessment process, led by the Audit Commission and included Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Probation, HM Inspectorate of Prisons.

The CAA framework encompassed two aspects; an Area Assessment focusing on local priorities and how well local public services are delivering improved outcomes for people; and an Organisation Assessment, which looked at the Use of Resources and Managing Performance. The summary and detailed reports of each assessment were submitted, which illustrated that:-

- Stockton on Tees BC (SBC) performed well under its organisational assessment, achieving maximum marks for Use of Resources, Managing Finance and Governing the Business, and was delivering improvements for local people;
- The Council had greatly improved the environment through its work on reducing CO2 emissions and through increased recycling, had created jobs and had brought about improvements through regeneration;
- The Council provides good leadership across the borough, and people can easily understand how the Council arranges its services and how it makes decisions;
- It has a strong value for money culture and a history of providing high quality services for low cost;
- The Area Assessment revealed that high quality improvements could be seen to have been made to Thornaby, Billingham, Yarm and Stockton Riverside, and that neighbourhood regeneration was progressing well;

- The area had made one of the largest cuts in carbon emissions in the country, was clean and more people were being attracted to live in the area;
- The crime rate for the area had fallen, was lower than in similar areas in England, and fewer young people were committing crimes;
- Children did well at school with GCSE results improving and now in line with national averages, and more young people than ever before were going on to higher education;
- Death rates from the 'big killer' diseases had fallen, and SBC was good at getting people to give up smoking and to take up physical activity.

In terms of areas of focus for 2010, it was noted that:-

- The Council and its partners faced a major challenge in delivering some of their targets for improvement in the current economic climate, and this was never more illustrated when faced with the potential loss of 1700 jobs at Corus;
- Life expectancy amongst males was not increasing however, the number of pregnant teenage young women had recently increased, and there were too many overweight children in the borough;
- The Council needed to achieve more to reduce inequalities around health, employment and skills, and improve its outcomes from children's services and social care services for adults, in particular the response to the personalisation of those services;
- People in Stockton on Tees produce more waste and recycle less, than in other places;
- More work was needed to uplift people's satisfaction with their area, and in particular to improve the perception that people from different backgrounds get on well together, or treat one another with respect.

RESOLVED that Cabinet note the outcomes of the 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment and the areas of focus identified for 2010.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure Members are aware of the outcomes from CAA.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

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

Not later than Midnight on Tuesday, 29th December 2009

Proper Officer
21 December 2009