

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting14th January 2010

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Renaissance Partnership Review - Update

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided details on the outcome of the review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board and the proposals for the future working of the Board. A partnership diagram was attached to the report.

The purpose of the review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board was to strengthen and rationalise partnership arrangements including engagement and culture; further improve the partnership approach to delivering better outcomes for local communities and support the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

A report was presented to Stockton Renaissance at its April 2009 meeting proposing that the review would 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;
- Better business sector engagement in Stockton Renaissance;
- Better children and young people engagement in Stockton Renaissance;
- and
- Support a positive judgement from Comprehensive Area Assessment;

The review focussed on a combination of methods including researching good practice, identifying toolkits and government guidance, reviewing outcomes from analytical activity to date and piloting a themed priority task based approach to cross cutting issues. This was followed up by a series of workshops/discussion groups with stakeholders.

Overall the review of the Renaissance Partnership Board had indicated

that it was valued as a vehicle for partnership working in the borough and compared favourably with the meeting attendees' experience of other LSP's in the Tees Valley. This view was supported by the independent Comprehensive Area Assessment emerging initial findings which indicated that LSP priorities and arrangements were strong and flexible enough to respond to key issues.

Those areas that were highlighted for improvement throughout the review work were set out within the report and planned improvements to address the issues were attached to the report.

Incorporating the results from the discussions with the Renaissance Partnership Board members, other key stakeholders and the desk top analysis, it was proposed to:-

Governance

a.Reduce the number of meetings from monthly to bi monthly:-

- Hold 3 housekeeping meetings for standard LSP business items i.e. Local Area Agreement/Sustainable Community Strategy endorsement and review, Comprehensive Assessment Area reporting and dialogue and 3 pre-scheduled debate meetings, where expert speakers could be invited and relevant stakeholders. This would be more like an event format rather than a board meeting

- This would force a more streamlined focussed approach, cutting out those items which were for information rather than a decision/input/action. Having more focussed agendas and less meetings would justify more qualitative and lengthier debate and respond to the feedback about short meetings curtailing discussion

- A reduced number of meetings will mean less of a time commitment for partners which may be more attractive to the private sector, although we may have to hold 'special meetings' to be responsive to emerging priorities.

b.Actions arising from the themed debates and feed back on progress to be directed through appropriate thematic partnerships for action and reporting arrangements back to renaissance partnership board to be strengthened through development of a guidance note. A guidance note which illustrated the respective role of the Renaissance Partnership Board, the thematic partnerships and the area partnerships was attached to the report.

c.Add Renaissance Board, thematic and area partnerships agendas and

minutes to the agenda system.

Performance Reporting and Communication:-

d. Streamline and tailor performance reporting to our different audiences, using a revamped website to highlight a “you said we did approach”

e. Revamp the Renaissance Website

An improvement plan which detailed timescales for implementing the proposals was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.

2. The future way of working outlined in the report and the improvement plan be endorsed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The purpose of the review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board was to strengthen and rationalise partnership arrangements including engagement and culture; further improve the partnership approach to delivering better outcomes for local communities and support the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Lupton declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 6 - Review of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board as he was the Chairman of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

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

Not later than Midnight on Friday, 22nd January 2010

Proper Officer
18 January 2010