

**Minute/Decision Summary -unconfirmed**  
**Meeting- Stockton Renaissance**  
**Date – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010**  
**Castlegate Quay Watersports Centre, Moat Street, Stockton-on-Tees**

<b>ITEM/ISSUE</b>	<b>DOI</b>	<b>COMMENTS/ DECISION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Does it need Council approval/ Endorsement?</b>	<b>Are any other boards affected?</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
<p><b>1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p>		Noted	No	No	No	Sarah Upex, Area Partnership Board Coordinator, SBC
<p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (DOI)</b></p> <p>Members were advised to declare DOI at the start of the meeting before any items are discussed.</p>		Noted	No	No	No	Sarah Upex, Area Partnership Board Coordinator, SBC
<p><b>3. MINUTES OF THE STOCKTON RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010</b></p> <p>Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>		Noted	No	No	No	Sarah Upex, Area Partnership Board Coordinator, SBC
<p><b>4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2010/11 ONWARDS</b></p> <p>Members were presented with the initial assessment of the budget position following the announcement of the provisional settlement. Members were informed that the environment for agreeing the 2010/11 MTFP is considerably different to preceding years. The economic downturn and the forthcoming General Election are contributors to a period of substantial uncertainty in terms of financial planning. The Government's commitment to maintaining the previously announced grant settlement for 2010/11 at the Provisional Settlement stage, was a welcome relief in amongst all the</p>		Noted	No	No	No	Julie Danks, Stockton Borough Council

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<p>surrounding uncertainty. This at least contributes a degree of stability to the 2010/11 budget setting.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Council is considering a number of options in relation to a council tax increase for 2010/11 ranging from 1.5% to 3%. In order to facilitate a complete run through of the impact on the overall MTFP the 2% option has been utilised to illustrate the three year scenario. The decision on this aspect will be taken once the final grant settlement has been confirmed, and the budgetary control for the third quarter of 2009 has been finalised to give the latest assessment of how financial pressures are impacting on the Council.</p> <p>It was noted that the current state of the public sector debt means that the next Government will have to undertake some significant action to redress this imbalance. Although none of the national political parties will commit to the exact scale and source of this redress there is little doubt that local government will be facing a period of up to 10 years of reduced resources. Without any national parameters for guidance it is incumbent on each local authority to estimate the impact on its own resources for the medium term. The Board were informed that Stockton has included a 3.3% grant decrease and a council tax increase freeze for the two financial years from 2011 to 2013. It has also had to make some other assumptions on resource generation, the most difficult of these undoubtedly being the anticipated return on investment income for future years. Opinions on the future of interest rates probably differ more than the views of public sector expenditure cuts. These assumptions however at least</p>						
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<p>produce an estimated financial framework that the Council can use to initiate a programme to address the estimated budget shortfall.</p> <p>The Board were informed that the Council has already initiated a managed, planned, multi-layered approach to tackling this issue, at the heart of which is the Council's Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Programme. The combination of these multiple approaches to deliver efficiencies means that a balanced MTFP can be produced up until the end of 2012/13. It was noted that there is little doubt that between now and that time there will be a number of movements away from the predictions in the plan, given the degree of economic uncertainty, but this plan places Stockton in a very strong position to deal with any changes that do occur.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the contracts that Stockton Borough Council have with the voluntary and community sector and the issue of longer term contracts. However it was noted that this is difficult as the medium term settlement from Government makes planning more difficult.</p>						
<p><b>5. REGENERATION UPDATE</b>  Members were provided with a presentation highlighting what is happening in the Borough and how the Council are planning for the future:  <u>Regeneration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tristar and Housing Hartlepool – stock transfer with a potential of £140million worth of work on housing stock</li> <li>• Housing regeneration schemes - £8million investment from the Homes and Communities Agency to deliver</li> </ul>		Noted	No	No	No	Richard Poundford, Stockton Borough Council

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<p>the Swainby Road scheme and the next phase of the Parkfield development. There is £25million investment in total for housing improvements and renewal schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning permission has been approved for the Visqueen site</li> <li>• Northshore – masterplan has been approved for 50 homes for the first phase of the development</li> <li>• Planning permission has been sought for 540 homes on the Northern Gateway and the Council are working with Barratts and Able to do reclamation on the site</li> </ul> <p><u>Leisure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White Water Course – support from One North East and British Waterways. Work is starting soon and this course will be Olympic Standard. Once complete a national competition will be hosted to raise the image and bring world class athletes to compete. There is £3-4 million investment in this site</li> <li>• Billingham Forum – work currently underway and will be reopened January 2011 following a £15million investment</li> <li>• Preston Park - £5million to be invested to ensure it remains a successful attraction</li> <li>• The Globe Theatre - Stockton Borough Council are currently working with the owners (Jomast) to bring the building back into use as a music venue for up to 2,600 people and believe that it will attract an investment of approximately £3million</li> </ul> <p><u>Education</u></p>						
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Schools for the Future (BSF) – business plan has been approved. BSF is a major investment which will improve the environment in which people learn</li> <li>• My Place – this is a £5million investment and will improve the environment for the gateway into Stockton. Work is due to start in site August/September 2010.</li> <li>• A £3-4million project has been undertaken with schools to link into and create enterprises in schools</li> </ul> <p><u>Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new hospital would create half a billion pounds worth of investment and will provide a state of the art building/hospital with integrated health facilities</li> <li>• University medical facility – Queens Campus £5million investment to provide additional state of the art facilities to improve PCT training</li> </ul> <p><u>Town Centres</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thornaby Town Centre – it was noted that the company who run the town centre have gone into liquidation however it is 80-90% occupied and will continue to trade</li> <li>• Billingham Town Centre proposals are currently online on the Stockton Borough Council website for consultation</li> <li>• Stockton Town Centre – currently in discussions regarding changing the town centre with proposals which include an option for a bus/transport interchange, plans to change the public realm and</li> </ul>						
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<p>parking on the high street</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A689/A19 Junction - £5million to invest in a major road scheme</li> <li>• Major bus route investment across the Borough and discussions underway regarding the Tees Valley Metro proposals</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that in total, including investment of the new hospital, there is a potential of £1 billion investment in Stockton-on-Tees and opportunities for the next 3-5 years, which is very positive in a struggling economy. It was noted that on top of this there is private sector investment.</p> <p>It was noted that further opportunities are being explored including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Carbon Transition Plan - £60million has been allocated by Government for the impact of the closure of Corus</li> <li>• Potential of the nuclear power option at Hartlepool and the investment this would bring across the Tees Valley</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that we have to get the message across that Stockton is a good place to work and enjoy and the impression of the area needs to be improved and we need to talk up the area. It was noted that the Infinity Bridge is a big selling point for the area and the RSPB site in Stockton is their most successful site. It was noted that it is key to get this message out in recruitment packs to encourage people from outside of the area to come and work in Stockton. There was</p>						
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also a discussion regarding the types and amount of jobs that would potentially be provided with this investment and the impact that this could have on the economy.						
<p><b>6.ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  Graham Prest, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership was welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>Superintendent Dave Brunskill of Cleveland Police announced that this was his last meeting as he is retiring. The Chair thanked Dave for his support and contribution to the Partnership.</p>		Noted	No	No	No	Sarah Upex Area Partnership Board Coordinator

**Attendance:** Cllr Lupton (Chair), Dave Brunskill, Cllr Laing, Neil Schneider, Tony Campbell, Cllr Gibson, Alex Bain, Cllr Rigg, Cllr Mrs Fletcher, Paul Thomas, Graeme Oram, Val Scollen, Cllr McCoy, Jim Beall, Neville Anderson, Jane Humphreys, Cllr Cook,

**Advisors:** Ruth Hill, Richard Poundford, Dawn Welsh, Sarah Upex, Paul Dobson, Carole Langrick, Mike Lakinski, Julie Danks, Paul Saunders, Steven Hume

**Observers:** Jan Doherty, Cllr Womphrey, Lesley Cannon, Kevin McAuley, Graham Prest

**Apologies:** Chris Willis (Vice Chair), Ross Hume, Jonathan Lamb, Paul Burns, Steve Boyd, Lesley King, Dave Pickard, Alison Aguis, Paul Chapman, Dianne Patterson, Ian Harrington, Tina Williams, Julie Derbyshire, Geoff Harrison, Val Goodrum, Jeremy Garside,