

**Minutes**  
**The Central Area Partnership Board**  
**25<sup>th</sup> February 2010**  
**Stockton Business Centre, Brunswick Street, Stockton-on-Tees**

**Chair:**

**Paul Thomas** (Tilery Residents Association)

**Members:**

Jim Beall (Vice Chair, SBC), Stan Slater (Stockton Physically Handicapped Group), Edna Brown (Over 50's Assembly), Cllr Cockerill (SBC), Marilyn Surtees (Elm Tree Community Centre), Roy Parker (Durham Road Residents Association), Jim Fenwick (Community Partnership), David Headland (Salvation Army), Tina Williams (Community Partnership), Gareth Rees (Thorpe Thewles Residents Association), Alex Bain (Parkfield Residents Association), Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch Group), Insp Young (Cleveland Police)

\* Members are representing their nominating body.

**Advisors:**

Sarah Upex (SBC), Julie Derbyshire (SRCGA), Laura McGuinness (PCT), Iain Robinson (SBC), James Glancey (SBC),

**Observers:**

Cllr Rix (SBC), James Almond (EC Marcis), Paul Frank (PCT), Mike Warters (ISA North)

**Apologies**

Cllr Mrs S Fletcher (SBC), Edna Chapman (St John's Living Well), Cllr A Cains (SBC), Judith Turner (Stillington & Whitton), David Whiting (Observer), Kelly Smith (SBC), Jill Anderson (SBC), Barbara Warren (Bishopsgarth Residents Association), Karen Merrick (SBC), Di Simms (SBC), Mary Cartwright (NECIL), James Hadman (SRCGA),

ITEM/ISSUE	ACTION
<p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Laura McGuinness, PCT representative for the Partnership was introduced to the Board.</p>	No
<p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Roy Parker declared an interest under agenda item 5 as a governor at Blakeston School.</p> <p>Cllr Rix declared a personal/non prejudicial interest as a member of the Teachers JCC Board.</p>	No
<p><b>3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010</b></p> <p>Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	Noted
<p><b>4. Town Centre Update</b></p> <p>Members were presented with an update on the Town Centre. The Board were informed that over the past couple of years, a</p>	Noted

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<p>number of acquisitions have taken place on the Southern Gateway, including Lyndsey House which will be demolished to create a link to the Town Centre. An agreement has also been reached to acquire the Glynn Webb building, which will be demolished to allow for the realignment of Riverside Road.</p> <p>Members were also informed of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing – 50 new homes are to be developed on the North Shore Home Zone. Currently out to consultation for the extension of the boundary to the Parkfield housing development and have received an additional £8million from the Homes and Communities Agency for this scheme</li> <li>• Globe Theatre – it is envisaged that this turn into a tour and music venue and have funding from Single Programme and Jomast working in partnership to make this into a venue with a capacity for 2000 people which will help to stimulate the evening economy</li> <li>• Youth Enterprise Business Centre – working with the private sector to acquire and renovate a building into smaller units to provide an opportunity for young people working out of Primrose Hill Business Centre to showcase and sell their products</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that quality is vital to the success of the Town Centre and a number of options to reconfigure the high street are being looked at, along with the possibility of public vehicles and parking on the high street. It was noted that traffic modelling is being looked at and the impact different models would have on the town centre. Members were informed that Stockton Borough Council are working with the owners of the Castlegate Centre and Wellington Square to look at sites for where a supermarket or an anchor store may be located to increase footfall.</p> <p>It was noted that £52,000 has been awarded from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), which is being used to support a number of projects and will compliment the work the Council is already doing to support local businesses and entrepreneurs make the most of opportunities in the Town Centre.</p> <p>The money will be used to improve the look and feel of the Town Centre by reviving empty spaces left vacant by shops hit by the financial downturn. The Council is also planning a series of projects and events with the funding to encourage shoppers and visitors into the town. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding more Town Centre events throughout the year - building on the success of recent events such as the Festafall film extravaganza, Take to the Tees and Stockton's International Riverside Festival;</li> </ul>	Noted

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting community groups to turn unused High Street units into shops to showcase their talents and skills;</li> <li>• Sprucing-up existing shops in the Town Centre - restoring traditional shop units and updating unsympathetic shop fronts;</li> <li>• Promoting the refurbished Shambles Market Hall units to local budding entrepreneurs;</li> <li>• Offering business support to Town Centre enterprises, encouraging existing and new businesses to set up in the High Street;</li> <li>• Using innovative designs and art-work to decorate the existing empty units;</li> <li>• Promoting Stockton as a safe, attractive and family-friendly destination for both day trips and nights out.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that number of shops have closed recently, including Ethel Austin and decisions on closures are often made outside of the area/region. It was recognised that the market is very important and is celebrating the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Charter. There will be lots of events throughout the year which will be branded with the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Shambles was refitted 2 years ago as a specialist food unit but was unsuccessful. A change of use has been granted and the Town Centre Manager is currently encouraging a number of businesses, especially start up businesses, to establish themselves in the Shambles. The Tourist Information Centre will also move into the Shambles by the end of March 2010.</p> <p>More is being done to improve the appearance of empty units by putting up pictures, however it was noted that it is often difficult to get the keys to access these units from the owners, as many live outside of the area.</p> <p>It was noted that Stockton Borough Council are working closely with retailers and have a Retail Forum. The Forum is currently working with Officers to develop a website and to improve their marketing and links with Stockton Borough Council and its festivals.</p> <p>It was discussed that Stockton Borough Council's Heritage Officer is working with owners to bring forward renovation works to improve the outside and inside of buildings. Stockton has lots of culture and history and it is important to maintain this.</p> <p>The following discussion points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That investment and different ways of working is needed to attract people into the town centre</li> <li>• It was fantastic to have the potential of the reopening of the Globe.</li> <li>• That the Globe will feed into the night time economy and will stimulate the opening of restaurants and act as a catalyst to the northern end of the town</li> <li>• That the cost of rents are dictated elsewhere and business rates are set by central government</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Noted</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that there should be a visitor centre for the Borough and it could showcase the information which was produced as part of the project, with the potential location for this being the Shambles</li> <li>• It was discussed that Stockton Town Centre needs to create a 'niche' market, similar to Yarm High Street, to attract people</li> <li>• It was noted that the growth of internet shopping may effect the town centre in the future and we need to be thinking about how to plan for this</li> <li>• As part of an empty shops initiative, shops are being offered to the voluntary sector to use in the short term to promote the work of their organisations</li> <li>• There was a discussion around Teesside Park and the fact that although the town centre has to compete with it, part of it is located in Stockton, therefore is bringing money into the local economy</li> <li>• It was noted that the owners of the Swallow Hotel are currently trying to attract an operator</li> <li>• There was a discussion around the market and the need for there to be a proper setting for it on the high street and for it to be less spread out</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that Stockton Town Centre updates have been scheduled on the forward plan for the Central Area Partnership Board.</p> <p><b>Iain Robinson &amp; James Glancey</b>  <b>Stockton Borough Council</b>  <b>Action</b>  No  <b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>  No  <b>Are any other boards affected?</b>  No  <b>Any Declarations Of Interest?</b>  None</p>	
<p><b>5. Proposed Stockton North Academy</b>  Members were informed that the sponsors and co-sponsors of the proposed Stockton North Academy are consulting with all the Area Partnership Boards to ensure that people across the borough are aware of the Academy. Members were provided with the background to the Academy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Academy is an independent school ran by a group of trustees which focuses on specialist areas</li> </ul>	No

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The specialist area for the proposed Stockton North Academy is science with health being the focus. NHS Stockton-on-Tees are the only NHS lead sponsor of an academy in the country. The academy will focus on issues of prevention and health education.</li> <li>• The academy will be at the heart of the community and the facility will be available for the wider public to use</li> <li>• The academy is also in partnership with Stockton Riverside College, Stockton Sixth Form College and Stockton Borough Council to ensure that the Academy is successful</li> <li>• The proposed Stockton North Academy will bring together Blakeston and The Norton Schools</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that the key aims for the Academy is to promote health and well being, reduce inequalities for children and young people, make the academy the schools of choice, improve academic attainment and encourage young people to stay in learning post 16.</p> <p>It was noted that the current students attending The Norton and Blakeston schools will be automatically transferred to the academy and get the same opportunities. All staff in the schools will be TUPE into the Academy Trust. It was noted that the sponsors are currently in the process of appointing a Principal Designate.</p> <p>Parents, staff, young people and the wider public have been involved in the design process as wide as possible. An event was held for staff, pupils and parents and targeted consultation has taken place with pupils in school, along with a number of consultation events across a number of venues.</p> <p>The following discussion points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that the current staffing model was not right and that staff were unsure if they would have a job at the new academy. It was noted that the sponsors are in discussions with Stockton Borough Council HR advisors</li> <li>• It was noted that the teachers unions have signed up to the consultation</li> <li>• There was a discussion regarding bus fares for children travelling to the academy from Primrose Hill. It was noted that this has not been raised during the consultation and no decision has been made regarding funding for transport arrangements for the schools</li> <li>• It was noted that for an interim period, young people may have to continue to go to both sites and transport arrangements will be looked at for this</li> <li>• It was felt that it was surprising that a Principal Designate (PD) has not already been appointed in order to have leadership and a leadership team in place. It was noted that it is hoped that the PD will be appointed by Easter so that they are in place</li> </ul>	No

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<p>by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 for the start of the school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The issue of funding per student was discussed. It was noted that an academy receives the same funding per pupil as any other school, however an academy receives a top up for central services</li> <li>• It was suggested that North End or St Ann's Hill could be the name for the academy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Paul Frank &amp; James Almond</b>  <b>Action</b>  No  <b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b>  No  <b>Are any other boards affected?</b>  No  <b>Any Declarations Of Interest?</b>  None</p>	
<p><b>6. Feedback from other partnerships</b>  <b>Stockton Renaissance Update</b> – Paul Thomas informed the Board that the Medium Term Financial Plan and Regeneration Strategy were presented to the February 2010 meeting of the Stockton Renaissance Partnership Board.  <b>Economic Regeneration &amp; Transport Partnership</b> – Tina Williams informed that the following were taken to the last meeting: tourism and inward investment and Communities Fund.  <b>Children's Trust Board</b> – Marilyn Surtees informed that the following were presented to the last meeting: Child Placement Report and the process for how grandparent carers are involved.</p>	
<p><b>7.Any Other Business</b>  Marilyn Surtees informed the Board that Elm Tree Community Centre had received a visit from Angela Smith, Minister for the Third Sector.</p>	No
<p><b>8.Date of Next Meeting</b>  The next meeting of the Central Area Partnership Board will be held on:   Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010, 4pm, Stockton Central Library  Central Area Board members are invited to forward any proposals for agenda items for future meetings to Sarah Upex.</p>	No