

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

20 JANUARY 2011

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Portfolio – Arts Leisure & Culture – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs Womphrey

STOCKON HERITAGE STRATEGY

1. Summary

This report presents the first Stockton Heritage Strategy, setting out the heritage of the area, showing how it has been preserved and interpreted, and proposing ways in which it can be further protected and celebrated. The Heritage Strategy brings together information from a range of sources and reflects the aspirations and interests of a number of organisations. It is expected that it will serve as a framework for those groups and any member of the public interested in finding out about and adding to our understanding of Stockton's heritage.

2. Recommendations

That the 2011 Stockton Heritage Strategy be approved for publication.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To establish a framework for the understanding, preservation and promotion of the heritage of the Stockton on Tees area.

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.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

20 JANUARY 2011

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Portfolio – Arts Leisure & Culture – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs Womphrey

STOCKTON HERITAGE STRATEGY

SUMMARY

This report presents the first Stockton Heritage Strategy, setting out the heritage of the area, showing how it has been preserved and interpreted, and proposing ways in which it can be further protected and celebrated. The Heritage Strategy brings together information from a range of sources and reflects the aspirations and interests of a number of organisations. It is expected that it will serve as a framework for those groups and any member of the public interested in finding out about and adding to our understanding of Stockton's heritage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the 2011 Stockton Heritage Strategy be approved for publication.

DETAIL

1. There are many local and regional strategies relating to heritage, and activities which celebrate our history, but they are not brought together in any one plan, and there are gaps.
2. Stockton Renaissance Culture Partnership defined 'Raising the profile of our heritage' as a priority objective for the period 2008 – 2012, seeking to develop our museums and heritage assets to tell the fascinating story of the borough's history and to help develop a sense of community pride. Stockton Borough Council Museum Service has increasingly focused its efforts on telling the Stockton story, utilising its collection to illustrate that story, and attracting investment into Preston Hall Museum toward the same purpose.
3. Stockton does have a rich and long history, including significant, Anglo-Saxon Roman, Viking, and Medieval settlements, a major role in the industrial revolution and nineteenth century industrial innovation, a notable part on our World War efforts, and numerous fascinating local events and accounts showing how Stockton and its people have changed the world.
4. There is a huge public appetite for history and heritage amongst the residents of the Borough. People are fascinated about the place they live in and its position in the sweep of social and technological progress. New technology has generated exciting new opportunities for us to connect and reveal aspects of our history, and to release a wealth of knowledge and information from local people. Individuals are tracing their ancestry and revealing connections that help them feel a sense of belonging and continuity. The online treasure chest 'Picture Stockton' is full of images and narratives contributed by the people of the area, adding texture and detail to the local story.

5. The production of the Heritage Strategy has involved a wide range of interested parties, including Tees Archaeology, Tees Valley Archives, Stockton Industrial Heritage Society and others. A vast amount of information has been gathered. The challenge of collating, checking, and integrating the information into a single readable document has been a major one.
5. Attached in **Appendix 1** is the first Stockton Heritage Strategy, which will be published online and maintained as a living and evolving document.
7. The subject is essentially thematic, but is concerned with specific geographic sites in some instances, and people in other instances, in some cases specific chronologies and historic periods are the defining criteria. It is envisaged that the online resource based on the Heritage Strategy will allow people to approach it and interrogate a subject from thematic, chronological or geographical terms, or to search for information about particular individuals. This web based collection of information, links, and opportunities for user generated content should be available to launch in the early summer 2011.
8. The Strategy document is divided into 4 main sections;
 - an introduction, a summary of the heritage of the area,
 - some illustrations of ways in which we have protected and revealed our heritage to date,
 - guidance on how we might further protect and celebrate our heritage in the future
 - a list of the famous or important individuals associated with Stockton, providing information about the person and their achievements.
9. A more detailed Action Plan will follow but as already stated, the intention is for the Heritage Strategy to encourage and guide anyone wishing to take part in celebrating and preserving our heritage. The Action Plan for the Council and the public funded agencies will be narrower and less diverse than the full potential range of actions delivered by the wider community and the many interested groups.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The initiatives set out in the Heritage Strategy are either ones already covered by resource allocations within the medium term financial plan, or covered by external sources of funding, or will only be progressed as resources are confirmed.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risks associated with the publishing of the Strategy are low. Existing management systems and routine controls are sufficient to manage the risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The Heritage Strategy supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and will make a contribution to almost every key objective. In particular the promotion and celebration of our heritage will contribute to economic regeneration and vibrant towns, to environment improvements and pride of place, to education, and to stronger communities with opportunities for people of every age.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Strategy aims to record all of the significant facets of our local history, objectively and without bias, based on expert assessment. The major initiatives described in the Strategy, such as the creation of the Heritage Park, or the redevelopment of Preston Hall & Park, have been subject to separate Equality Impact Assessments. Therefore no EIA is required for the Strategy itself.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

The Strategy has been produced through extensive consultation, including public meetings, stakeholder group discussions, and detailed elected member input over a period of more than a year. The Urban Environment Task Group, attended by relevant Cabinet members, has been overseeing the production of the strategy and has contributed directly to the contents and structure of the document.

In addition, specialist agencies such as Tees Archaeology and Tees Valley Archives have had a direct involvement ensuring involvement of a wider heritage constituency.

Paul Dobson

Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services

Name of Contact: Officer Reuben Kench

Post Title: Head of Culture and Leisure

Telephone No: 01642 527039

Email Address: reuben.kench@stockton.gov.uk