

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

1 DECEMBER 2011

REPORT OF REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration and Transport– Lead Cabinet Member – **Councillor Mike Smith**

EIT Review of Regeneration and Economic Development

1. Summary

This report presents the finding of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee following the EIT review of Regeneration and Economic Development.

The review examined a range of services provided including employability, enterprise, business engagement (including tourism), support for Tees Valley Unlimited, major projects, town centre development, and the strategic role of Tees Achieve. The review has aimed to identify the necessary efficiency savings whilst also identifying improvements that will allow the Service of focussing on its core role of supporting the Borough's economic development.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend:

1. that the future role of the Regeneration and Economic Development Service should primarily be that of strategic leadership in supporting the economic growth of the Borough, and defining the Borough's growth needs based on a sound understanding of its existing and future position;
2. that the Regeneration and Economic Development Major Projects Team be reduced to reflect the reduced number of known and potential project opportunities;
3. that specific activities within the current town centres management function, such as the operational elements of festivals, events and markets, be performed by other service areas within the Council, and that the Regeneration Service continues to provide input into the planning and identification of events to ensure that they bring economic benefits;
4. that a higher level, critical thinking and strategic economic intelligence function should be created within the Regeneration and Economic Development Service, building upon and enhancing the data analysis work undertaken at corporate and directorate level, to create an influential evidence base to steer delivery priorities;

5. that the Tourist Information Centre staff should be retained within Regeneration and Economic Development whilst consideration is given to maintaining a Stockton High Street presence and including tourist information functions at the Customer Contact Centre in Thornaby and other appropriate premises, and that the tourism economic and strategic agenda be incorporated into business engagement, with only strategic input into events planning.
6.
 - a) that a detailed evaluation be undertaken of the operational functions of the Stockton Business Centre;
 - b) that this evaluation is used to develop options for the future management of the Centre, in conjunction with the Council's review of facilities management;
 - c) and that prior to a decision on the future management arrangements, the existing Centre management functions become part of the Service's business engagement activities in the short term, and available efficiency savings be implemented;
7. that the Council's Land and Property Services take on the property management functions associated with the Shambles building;
8. that Stockton's input of resources into the Stockton Middlesbrough initiative be reduced in line with the deliverability of schemes;
9. that the Regeneration and Economic Development Service should encourage and raise awareness of enterprise, mainstream the work with children and young people and support for schools and colleges by delivering it as part of the core Service, and provide an element of enterprise coaching targeted on specific groups, such as lone parents;
10. that the Regeneration Service should provide strategic leadership (in partnership with Tees Valley Unlimited) on employment and skills, and better utilise the resources and knowledge within Tees Achieve in understanding and meeting the employment and skills needs of the local economy;
11. that the Regeneration Service should increase its capacity to enable closer working with TVU to ensure the delivery of the TVU Business Plan and Statement of Ambition, and to ensure the success of the Local Enterprise Partnership;
12. the business engagement service increases its capacity to focus support on new and existing businesses based on sectoral growth opportunities, and develop an effective business loans scheme to replace the existing business grants scheme.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee has undertaken the review with the aim of identifying options for future service provision that deliver efficiency savings and and improve regeneration and economic development services.

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

1 DECEMBER 2011

**REPORT OF REGENERATION AND
TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

EIT REVIEW OF REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the findings of the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee following the EIT review of Regeneration and Economic Development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend:

1. that the future role of the Regeneration and Economic Development Service should primarily be that of strategic leadership in supporting the economic growth of the Borough, and defining the Borough's growth needs based on a sound understanding of its existing and future position;
2. that the Regeneration and Economic Development Major Projects Team be reduced to reflect the reduced number of known and potential project opportunities;
3. that specific activities within the current town centres management function, such as the operational elements of festivals, events and markets, be performed by other service areas within the Council, and that the Regeneration Service continues to provide input into the planning and identification of events to ensure that they bring economic benefits;
4. that a higher level, critical thinking and strategic economic intelligence function should be created within the Regeneration and Economic Development Service, building upon and enhancing the data analysis work undertaken at corporate and directorate level, to create an influential evidence base to steer delivery priorities;
5. that the Tourist Information Centre staff should be retained within Regeneration and Economic Development whilst consideration is given to maintaining a Stockton High Street presence and including tourist information functions at the Customer Contact Centre in Thornaby and other appropriate premises, and that the tourism economic and strategic agenda be incorporated into business engagement, with only strategic input into events planning.
6.
 - a) that a detailed evaluation be undertaken of the operational functions of the Stockton Business Centre;
 - b) that this evaluation is used to develop options for the future management of the Centre, in conjunction with the Council's review of facilities management;
 - c) and that prior to a decision on the future management arrangements, the existing Centre management functions become part of the Service's business

engagement activities in the short term, and available efficiency savings be implemented;

7. that the Council's Land and Property Services take on the property management functions associated with the Shambles building;
8. that Stockton's input of resources into the Stockton Middlesbrough initiative be reduced in line with the deliverability of schemes;
9. that the Regeneration and Economic Development Service should encourage and raise awareness of enterprise, mainstream the work with children and young people and support for schools and colleges by delivering it as part of the core Service, and provide an element of enterprise coaching targeted on specific groups, such as lone parents;
10. that the Regeneration Service should provide strategic leadership (in partnership with Tees Valley Unlimited) on employment and skills, and better utilise the resources and knowledge within Tees Achieve in understanding and meeting the employment and skills needs of the local economy;
11. that the Regeneration Service should increase its capacity to enable closer working with TVU to ensure the delivery of the TVU Business Plan and Statement of Ambition, and to ensure the success of the Local Enterprise Partnership;
12. the business engagement service increases its capacity to focus support on new and existing businesses based on sectoral growth opportunities, and develop an effective business loans scheme to replace the existing business grants scheme.

DETAIL

1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the EIT Review of Regeneration and Economic Development undertaken by the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee between June and November 2011.
2. The review formed part of a three year programme of EIT (Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation) reviews covering all services provided by the Council. The programme aims to ensure that all services are reviewed in a systematic way to ensure that they are provided in the most efficient manner, provide value for money and identify opportunities for service improvements and transformation.
3. This review examined a number of service areas within the Regeneration and Economic Development including employability, enterprise, business engagement (including tourism), support for Tees Valley Unlimited, major projects, town centre development, and the strategic role of Tees Achieve. The overall aim of the review was to identify options for future strategy, policy & service provision that will deliver efficiency savings and sustain / improve high quality outcomes for the Borough's residents, businesses and visitors.
4. Following consideration by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing the officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The services under review have a net budget of £1,273m. Taken together the overall financial impact of the recommendations will be to achieve efficiency savings of approximately £210,000 from 2012-13.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no legal implications at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This EIT review of regeneration and economic development is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

8. The Regeneration and Economic Development Service mainly impacts upon the following themes of the Community Strategy:
 - Economic Regeneration and Transport
 - Children and Young People
 - Environment and Housing
 - Arts Leisure and Culture

There are no specific implications for community safety.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9. This report has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a positive impact (score of 80).

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. Staff within the Regeneration and Economic Development have been consulted on proposals to develop a new staff structure that will be needed in order implement the recommendations, and trade unions have been updated throughout the review.
11. The Committee considered the outcomes of previous consultations and review work in order to inform its conclusions. These included: the Stockton Town Centre Prospectus, Billingham Town Centre, the Enterprise Strategy, the interim Communities Fund Evaluation, Tees Valley Jobs and Skills Inspection, and ongoing work such as annual the Business Centre surveys and the work of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Partnership.
12. The Cabinet Member, and Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services, have been consulted on the findings and recommendations.

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Education related? No

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not ward specific

Property

The recommendations propose the transfer of the property management of the Shambles in Stockton High Street from the Regeneration Service to the Land and Property Section.

The recommendations propose further work to determine options for the future management of the Stockton Business Centre.