

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting10th January 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Stockton Town Centre

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on progress of projects delivering the regeneration vision for Stockton Town Centre. The report contained details of infrastructure works to the High Street, initiatives to support retail and business growth, progress on enhancements to Stockton's market offer, economic development projects; and business support along with details of projects and interventions which had reached a point in their development where further financial approvals were required to support the next phase of delivery.

Cabinet were presented with two reports (December 2011 and June 2012,) which set out progress made on initial designs for the new High Street layout, public and stakeholder consultation along with subsequent alterations to design and a broad range of projects, aimed at improving the economic performance of the town centre, supporting new and existing business growth, improvements to the market offer and support for a growing programme of events.

The MTFP report to Cabinet in February 2012 approved the initial allocation of resources to support the delivery of identified works and projects across the first phases of works in the town centre.

With regard to the further phase of investment an opportunity existed to bring forward a number of planned projects and interventions that would support existing and new business growth, develop the evening and leisure economy and address issues with vacant properties.

Project proposals would give support to aspirations for introducing a higher level of housing into the town centre, utilising vacant space across the High Street. Dedicated space for creative business linked to existing business and leisure facilities would be provided along with additional start up and follow on space for new businesses in the town centre.

Proposals would also see greater flexibility to work with existing landlords

and property owners to address issues with properties across the High Street, improving their appearance and bringing vacant space back into use.

The projects identified were all linked to existing activities and would act as a further stage in the regeneration of the town centre. These projects required an additional level of resource to that allocated and requested and would therefore need to be considered in more detail alongside other budget pressures at a later date as part of the council's medium-term financial planning approach.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The progress made on projects and activities across the High Street and town centre funded within the final phase of financial approvals as set out in paragraphs 3-33 be noted.
2. The request for funding to support the next phase of £4,690,000 to progress projects set out in paragraphs 34-45 be noted and final approvals as part of the MTFP process be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Improving the economic performance of Stockton Town Centre is a key priority for the Council. Delivery of the projects and interventions identified within this report will play a key role in achieving improved economic performance and changed perceptions of Stockton town centre.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

none

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

none

6. Details of any Dispensations

none

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

Midnight on Friday, 18th January 2013

Proper Officer
14 January 2013