

Minutes
The Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership
Tuesday, 24th September, 2013, 14.00 at River Tees Watersports Centre North Shore Road Stockton on Tees

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Chair:

Dave Pickard (Vela Homes)

Members:

Carol James (Stonham/Homegroup); Paul Thomas (Central Partnership Board); Jim Scollen (Northern Partnership Board); Emma Gordon (Stockton and District Advice and Information Service); Michelle Street (Stockton Flats); Steve Simpson (National Landlords Association); Rob Thompson (Fabrick Housing Group); Barbara Watson (Coast and Country Housing); Ann Pursey (SBC Strategic Housing)

Advisors:

Julie Higgins (SBC Benefits); Dawn Welsh (SBC Community Engagement); Jane Edmends (SBC Strategic Housing and Regeneration); Bev Bearne (SBC Strategic Housing)

Apologies

Stewart Tagg (Fabrick Housing Group); Caroline Wood (SBC Housing Options); Andrea Ainsley (Places for People); Helen Westcott (Hanover); Catherine Andrews (Hanover); Sue Thompson (National Landlords Association); Tracy Bradburn (Home Housing); Chris Fixter (Jomast); Stephen Walton (Anchor); Carol Straughan (SBC Planning); Lesley Wardle (Places for People); Val Scollen (Northern Area Partnership)

Members:

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ITEM/ISSUE	ACTION
1. Welcome and apologies	
2. Minutes Update on item 11 from previous minutes - members were informed that Stockton are through the first round of lottery funding to support project around Ageing/Loneliness exclusion	
3. Matters Arising Nothing further arising.	
4. Review of Renaissance and thematic/area partnership structure Dawn Welsh spoke to the partnership about the review of Renaissance; she explained that there were significant changes in the set up of Local Strategic Partnership. 'Stockton Local Strategic Partnership' as it will be known in future will meet 2 or 3 times a year and will focus on the 'big' issues in the borough. HNP will remain as it is seen to be a valuable strategic discussion forum on housing related issues and particularly valuable in relation to welfare reform. Area Partnerships will remain and will be known as Central Locality Forums, board members will be elected into posts and will receive tailored training through Catalyst. In future the work programmes for the Locality Forums will take a 'task and finish' format. Contact: Laurayne Featherstone (Community Engagement Manager). E-mail: laurayne.featherstone@stockton.gov.uk Telephone; (01642) 526463	

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<p>5 A Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty across Stockton-on-Tees’</p> <p>Dawn discussed with the partnership 'A Brighter Borough for All - Tackling Family Poverty across Stockton' which she explained is a working document with lots of areas to be looked at and further developed. A few key points were looked at as to what is meant by Family Poverty - reference was made to explaining the definition of "what is a child". Members were told that the aim of Stockton Local Strategic Partnership is to work in partnership with locality forums using a task and finish approach to support the delivery of the key aims of this document, two key aspects 'Ensuring every child receives the best start in life' and 'Maximising family income'. Discussion continued about contents of the document and the effect on various groups.</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Laurayne Featherstone Community Engagement Manager Tel: 01642 526463 Email: laurayne.fetherstone@stockton.gov.uk</p>	
<p>6. Review of the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership (terms of reference, membership and work programme)</p> <p>Now it has been confirmed that the HNP is to continue, we need to look at Terms of Reference in more detail and asked to consider the role of 'place' within housing. Members were asked to feedback when they attend other thematic partnerships. TOR will be discussed at a future separate meeting to focus on agreeing revisions to Terms of Reference membership and work programme. Consideration to be given to setting up task and finish groups, these would cover issues such as welfare reform, CBL/housing provision, impact of movement from social housing to Private Housing Sector and the issues that this may bring about. Members of the partnership are to be emailed to ask for feedback in order to shape the terms of reference for future meeting.</p>	J Edmends

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<p>7. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair</p> <p>J Edmends proposed that the appointment be deferred until March 2014 when we will then have new Terms of Reference in place. Partnership members agreed to this and the extension of 'tenure' of the current chair and vice chair until this point.</p>	
<p>8. Refreshment Break</p>	
<p>9. Standard Item: Welfare Reform:</p> <p>Universal credit – new pilots will be phased in from October, looking at only a small number of cases, currently working to solve problems with changes that have already been implemented. From 2014/15 SBC will continue to pay housing Benefit in the normal way.</p> <p>Under occupancy – numbers have reduced which has been helped by agencies working with those people affected.</p> <p>Benefit cap – approx 58 cases dealing with, this is down to good work by CAB and welfare rights working with people prior to the introduction of cap.</p> <p>CAB – advised an increase in numbers of people accessing food banks and debt advice.</p> <p>D H Payments – review of cases show that decisions made are compliant with policy, two dedicated staff working on cases. Welfare Rights working with benefit staff to determine if client will be eligible for any other benefits</p> <p>Members are kept informed and Select Committee will look at how we can deal with some of the issues.</p>	

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<p>10. Renaissance Update: D Pickard advised that the previous meeting had considered the proposed changes to Renaissance/current strategic partnership arrangements.</p>	
<p>11. Information Only Items</p> <p>Borough Wide empty Homes Survey SBC is currently working with Coast and Country and Vela to bring homes back into use via a Homes and Community Agency funded scheme.</p> <p>A survey has been posted out to all vacant property owners (deadline for replies is in mid October); results will inform the Councils approach to tackling empty properties and will be reported back to members at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>16. Any Other Urgent Business</p> <p>Should you have any urgent business then please contact the Chair</p>	
<p>17. Date and time of future meetings</p> <p>Next standard meeting – Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at 2pm. River Tees Watersports Centre, North Shore Road, Stockton on Tees TS18 2NL.</p> <p>As mentioned earlier in the minutes, following the recent review of Renaissance and the thematic/area partnership structures, the HNP needs to review the terms of reference, membership and work programme. We will be contacting members shortly via e-mail/letter with some proposed changes and asking for feedback to a number of questions.</p> <p>In order to finalise the Terms of Reference we are seeking 6 members to volunteer to sit on a task and finish group who will agree the revisions and will recommend the revised document for approval at the next HNP</p>	

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<p>meeting on 3rd December. It is proposed that the task and finish group will meet 1 hour before the main meeting starts. If you would be willing to volunteer please let Beverley Bearne know by 1st November by e-mail on beverley.bearne@stockton.gov.uk or by telephone on (01642) 526074. If there are more volunteers than required members of the task and finish group will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.</p>	
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