

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook**  
**STOCKTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – A BRIGHTER BOROUGH FOR ALL (Framework for tackling household poverty)**

1. Summary

This report presents to Cabinet the refreshed framework for tackling household poverty. The original Brighter Borough for All framework was developed in 2013 as part of the review of the Local Strategic Partnership and in response to a statutory requirement for a Child Poverty Strategy. The framework focussed particularly on families which included children. As a result of implemented and proposed changes under the national welfare reform policy and work undertaken locally to understand impact and needs, the Brighter Borough for All framework has been updated to include the wider range of people potentially at risk of poverty.

The original key objectives of 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life' and 'Maximising Family Income' have been retained, with the latter being amended to 'Maximising household income.' An additional objective of 'Maximising access to support for groups such as the under 35 years with no children, crisis or particular health need who find themselves experiencing poverty'.

The Locality Forums and relevant thematic partnerships have been developing action plans and activity aimed at addressing the key objectives and the outcomes are fed back at the annual Stockton Strategic Partnership business event. The 2016 annual business event is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March.

The long-awaited national strategy update and performance measures from Central Government have not materialised although they have announced their intention of producing a Life Chances Strategy and indicated the sort of performance indicators they are considering using to measure success. This has been factored in to the refreshed framework

2. Recommendations

Cabinet agree:

- a) the refreshed Brighter Borough for All Framework

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

There is no longer a statutory requirement to have a local strategic partnership or a Sustainable Community Strategy. The report and recommendations take account of this and that there are some elements within the LSP infrastructure that remain statutorily required. The recommendations are also based on changes to the LSP infrastructure that take account of feedback from Members, officers and key stakeholders about the on going need for some elements of the infrastructure and proposals to build on what has worked well.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, 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 and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code).

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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**CABINET DECISION**

**STOCKTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – A BRIGHTER BOROUGH FOR ALL (Framework for tackling household poverty)**

**SUMMARY**

1. This report presents to Cabinet the refreshed framework for tackling household poverty. The original Brighter Borough for All framework was developed in 2013 as part of the review of the Local Strategic Partnership and in response to a statutory requirement for a Child Poverty Strategy. The original framework was built on an acknowledged position that Stockton-on-Tees has a long and strong tradition of working in partnership to tackle the causes and impact of poverty. The Sustainable Community Strategy, the statutory strategic plan of the former Stockton Renaissance was all about 'Promoting Achievement and Tackling Disadvantage.' The original framework focussed particularly on families which included children. As a result of implemented and proposed changes under the national welfare reform policy and work undertaken locally to understand impact and needs, the Brighter Borough for All framework has been updated and refreshed to include the wider range of people potentially at risk of poverty.
2. The original key objectives of 'Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life' and 'Maximising Family Income' have been retained. An additional objective of 'Maximising access to support for groups such as the under 35 years with no children, crisis or particular health need who find themselves experiencing poverty'.
3. The Locality Forums and relevant thematic partnerships have been developing action plans and activity aimed at addressing the key objectives and the outcomes are fed back at the annual Stockton Strategic Partnership business event. The 2016 annual business event is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March.
4. The long-awaited national strategy update and performance measures from Central Government have not materialised although they have announced their intention of producing a Life Chances Strategy in Spring 2016 that links economic and social reform and also indicated the sort of performance indicators they are considering using to measure success. This has been factored in to the refreshed framework.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Cabinet agree:
  - a) the refreshed Brighter Borough for All Framework

## DETAIL

1. Following a fundamental review of the local strategic partnership infrastructure in 2013 the Brighter Borough for All Framework for tackling family poverty was produced as the key strategic document for the local strategic partnership.
2. Embedded within it were 2 key objectives of 'Giving every child the best start in life' and 'Maximising family income'. The Locality Forums were provided with locality profiles based on these 2 key objectives and subsequently developed a range of action plans to address the issues. Their initial progress was reported at the annual business event in 2015. Since then further work has been undertaken with the locality forums on looking at how they can evidence impact and success and this will feature in the annual business event for 2016 which is scheduled to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
3. Nationally the poverty agenda and policy drivers have primarily been through the Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17 and the Welfare Reform changes and there have been some long and well documented discussions and debates on what the most appropriate definition of, and measures of poverty are.
4. Some time ago government announced its intention of issuing a new child poverty strategy linked to life chances and undertook some consultation on prospective measures. The revised strategy and performance measures have not yet materialised but are expected to form part of the Life Chances Strategy to be published in Spring 2016.
5. In December 2015 government announced a joint inquiry by the Commons Work and Pensions and Education Select Committees into their life chances strategy and the role that early or foundation years' intervention plays in shaping people's lives. It reiterated its intention to set out a range of indicators including family breakdown, debt and addiction in its new strategy. The inquiry is currently collecting evidence until the end of February and Government has indicated its intention of publishing a Life Chances Strategy in Spring 2016 with the key aims of fighting disadvantage and extending opportunity. Early signals are that the strategy is aimed at linking the economic and social reform agendas based on a belief and evidence that a significant contributor to poverty is paucity of opportunity and that for some children it isn't that they 'get left behind' but that they 'start behind'.
6. In the meantime the changes to welfare reform (which are reported regularly to Cabinet) and the economic climate continue to have an impact and the regular monitoring and reporting identified that the existing Brighter Borough for All Framework didn't provide for households where there aren't any children and particularly for single males under the age of 35 experiencing/at risk of experiencing poverty.
7. The tackling poverty framework has therefore been refreshed to include this as an additional objective for the locality forums and relevant thematic partnerships to consider.
8. In the absence of any nationally agreed indicators against which to measure progress and success the opportunity has been taken to look at what the government are suggesting the national measures might be, most of which appear to feature in the Social Justice Outcomes framework. Work has been undertaken to assess which of these indicators are appropriate to the key objectives in the refreshed 'Brighter Borough for All' , can be collected at an appropriate locality level and in a timely manner. These are the ones that are being proposed for monitoring progress alongside the case studies emanating from the locality forums.

## Next Steps

9. Following approval of the revised framework it is proposed that the refreshed objectives and measures are formally 'launched' at the 2016 annual business event on 1<sup>st</sup> March

2016. The Locality Forums will use the revised framework to shape their 2016-17 action plans and the locality profiles produced in 2013 will be updated to help inform prioritisation.

### **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

As this report is not making any changes to policy or service delivery it has not been deemed necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There aren't any legal implications arising from this report.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

This is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk

### **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

N/A

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Education related No

Background Papers. None