

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting27th June 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

LSP Report

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered an update on the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership (SLSP), the partnership arrangements and infrastructure which support it. This included proposals which took account of changes in the partnership landscape associated with the current SLSP infrastructure and discussions with stakeholders.

The Stockton Local Strategic Partnership structure, the thematic partnerships and groups, communities of interest and advisory groups in the borough had been subject to several reviews over the years, the last one being in 2013. Since the last review a number of changes had taken place, particularly over the last 12-18 months, which necessitated a refresh of the current arrangements. These changes were as follows.:

- The changes and continued development of Tees Valley Unlimited and the newly constituted Tees Valley Combined Authority increasingly provide a partnership which provides an alternative for the need for a separate Economic and Regeneration thematic group and for the Annual Cultural Forum. The Economic and Regeneration briefings with Chairs and Vice chairs of the Locality Forums have not taken place for the last year. However the sector have been engaged with the authority via special briefings via the Chief Executive and CMT and also directly with Tees Valley Unlimited via the SEP consultations. The Annual Cultural Forum had only held one event since 2013 and the key delivery partners for Culture in Stockton (SBC, ARC, TMA and private entertainment companies and individuals) met regularly, outside of the SLSP structure, to decide a programme of events and activities for the Borough.

- Over the last couple of years the Housing and Neighbourhoods Partnership and the Fuel Poverty Partnership had increasingly found that their priorities and work areas had converged, which had been reflected in some duplication of membership across the two partnerships.

- Since the function of Voice was transferred to Catalyst in 2013

there had been some movement of communities of interest into this structure e.g. LGBT Group, Armed Forces Group and the Cultural Forum, with some Communities of interest remaining with the Council for administration purposes e.g. the Youth Assembly, Disability Advisory Group (DAG) and the Over 50's Assembly. Catalyst also now organised the Annual Environmental Forum.

- The members of the Campus Stockton Collaborative Partnership although meeting regularly and also with colleagues across Tees, had in practice participated in the LSP through other routes and not particularly through this mechanism.

The SLSP strategy – “A Brighter Borough for All Tackling Family Poverty” was refreshed earlier this year and endorsed by Cabinet in March 2016. The priorities of the strategy were now to:-

- a. Give every child the best start in life
- b. Maximise family income
- c. Maximise access to support for under 35's with no children, crisis or particular health need who were in poverty

The SLSP currently held an Annual Business Meeting and another themed event each year to drive delivery of the strategy. The themed event planned for 2016/17 was on the new strand of the support for the under 35's.

The four SLSP Locality Forums met regularly throughout the year to deliver local responses to the SLSP priorities. It was proposed that the focus of the SLSP remain on tackling poverty in the borough and that the core SLSP and locality arrangements remain unchanged. The SLSP was delivering significant achievements in tackling poverty in the borough. It was proposed that the support for the SLSP and the Locality Forums remain unchanged and be continued to be delivered from the Consultation, Communication and Engagement team within the HR, Legal and Communications directorate within the Council.

It was proposed that a number of changes to the thematic groups, advisory groups and partnerships be supported to reflect the changes in the landscape.

It was proposed that the Over 50's Assembly become part of the Ageing Better Partnership that Catalyst had established and that the partnership became a formally constituted group in its own right in order to access funding for specific projects and activities. The Ageing Better Partnership would continue to function as an SBC reference group for consultations regarding services for older people.

Research into the function of the Disability Advisory Group showed that it had primarily been used as an SBC reference group e.g. the Town Centre consultation on accessibility, car parking etc. It was therefore suggested that this remain supported and be co-ordinated by SBC.

The Youth Assembly was managed and administered by Democratic Services within SBC, and it was proposed that this should remain unchanged.

It was proposed that the Voice groups and the Annual Environmental Forum which were supported and co-ordinated by Catalyst should remain unchanged.

The Health and Well Being Board (HWBB) and Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) were statutory boards and it was proposed that they would remain unchanged in the structure.

As a result of the developments with the LEP/TVCA and the involvement in the VCSE sector via other routes it was proposed that the Economic and Regeneration briefings and the Annual Cultural Forum were discontinued.

With the focus of the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership and the Fuel Poverty Partnership converging, after discussions with the secretariat it was proposed to bring these two partnerships together to form a new Housing, Neighbourhoods and Affordable Warmth Partnership. The terms of reference and membership would be refreshed to reflect the new arrangements.

The Area Transport Groups (ATG) were seen as being positive by the majority of the stakeholders and it was proposed that they remain. However it was proposed that a review be carried out of how they operate before the next round of ATG consultations.

The Financial Inclusion Partnership, Infinity, was a key partnership in driving forward the anti-poverty agenda. Infinity was brought into the formal structure in 2014 and they were currently looking at refreshing their membership and action plans.

One of the priorities within the Family Poverty Framework was to give children the best start in life so it was previously agreed that Campus Stockton Collaborative should be in the SLSP structure. However it was proposed that the route of engagement for them be via the Children and Young Peoples Partnership within the HWBB.

A diagram of the new proposed SLSP structure was submitted.

RESOLVED that the proposed revised approach to the Stockton Local Strategic Partnership (SLSP) be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Stockton Local Strategic Partnership structure, the thematic groups, communities of and advisory groups in the borough had been subject to several reviews over the years, the last one being in 2013. The current arrangements were provided. Since the last review a number of changes had taken place, particularly over the last 12-18 months, which necessitated a refresh of the current arrangements.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item LSP Update as he was the Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership and a member of Tristar Board.

Councillor Ann McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item LSP Update as she was a member of Billingham Town Council.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight, 5th July 2016

Proper Officer
29 June 2016